

Louis Browne KC

Call 1988 | Silk 2017



Clerks

 Neil Wright
 0151 242 8814

Appointments

- Junior Counsel to the Crown January 2000 – January 2017; held Security Clearance in that position.
- Recorder (2004 to date)

Memberships

- Personal Injury Bar Association
- Professional Negligence Bar Association
- Constitutional & Administrative Law Bar Association

Education

- First Class Honours Degree, Law
- Postgraduate Degree of Bachelor of Civil Law, Balliol College, Oxford

Personal Injury

Louis is ranked as a Leading Silk by Chambers and Partners and The Legal 500 in this field. He has vast experience of both advising and acting in very high value personal injury claims across the entire spectrum of work in this field. Before his appointment to Silk in 2017 he was Treasury Counsel. He remains on the Government's Silk panel.

In 2022 – 23 alone he advised/appeared in over 25 claims each with a value in excess of £1m. The value of some of these claims exceeded £25m.

Many of Louis' cases concern catastrophic injury claims involving brain damage, spinal injury and PTSD. He has particular recent experience of pain syndrome and related claims.

He has a track record of success for those clients he represents.

Louis acts for both claimants and defendants.

His recent claimant practice has included advising the family of a man with catastrophic brain damage in a claim valued in excess of £10m.

His defence clients include the Government (the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Justice), other public and local authorities, hospitals and insurers.

He has an excellent relationship with many major insurers.

He has a reputation for being accessible, easy to work with and for giving clear and straightforward advice.

Cases

Recent significant and/or reported cases include the following:

Acting for CICA in a case concerning whether outliving an estimated life expectation amounts to a change in medical condition.

Acting for a Hospital Trust in a case concerning the quantum of a wrongful birth claim. This involved twins born with CP who had twin to twin transfusion syndrome in the womb. This claim was valued in excess of £25m.

Acting for a claimant who suffered an above the knee amputation following an accident at work. The claim will be valued in excess of £3.5m. Liability is disputed between various defendants.

Acting for a defendant in a case in which the young claimant appeared, judged by indicative markers post accident, to have sustained a very serious brain injury. He was of low academic ability pre-accident. Despite the apparent severity of the brain injury, his level of independent functioning appears better than contended for, based on hospital discharge notes.

KK/LL v Lancashire County Council

Acting for the local authority in a sexual abuse claim for two young claimants. Damages are claimed in sums totalling over £18m. Causation and quantum were in dispute.

A v CICA

Acting for CICA in a claim for compensation of £9m brought by the victim of sexual abuse.

Louis has considerable experience of representing and advising local authorities and public bodies in claim for damages brought by victims of sexual abuse.

James Cobby v. MoD

Acting for the MoD in a claim for damages brought by a catastrophically injured young Royal Marine. He requires 24 hour care. The claim was advanced well in excess of £15m.

Hall v. Green

The Claimant claimed very substantial damages arising out of a road traffic accident. Acting for the Defendant in a hard fought case on causation and quantum where issues of credibility arise. The claimant was found to be fundamentally dishonest following a 9 day trial.

J v. Welsh Ambulance Services NHS Trust

A claim brought by a paramedic against his employer alleging that he was negligently exposed to psychological trauma witnessing a patient self-harm. The claim was denied by the defendant and for whom I acted. It was discontinued.

Nathan Jones v MoD

Represented the MoD on a claim advanced at very high value following a near miss on board a military plane. The Claimant, a serving pilot in the RAF, contends he sustained very serious spinal injuries which could result in medical discharge.

Terry Connolly v MoD

Acting for the MoD against a serving soldier who claimed to have sustained serious injury when the piston on a warrior tank trapped his left calf. The Claimant's pre-existing trauma caused him to develop peroneal nerve lesion which became problematic when undertaking exercise, therefore not caused by the index incident.

Goman and Harding v Secretary of State for Justice Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council

Instructed on behalf of the Secretary of State for Justice where issues concerning the duty of care owed by SSJ to the partner of a violent man supervised by the Probation Service on Licence were raised. SSJ were successful on all aspects.

Rai v. MoD (2016) – High Court.

Represented the MoD at the preliminary trial of the issue of whether the MoD could rely on the defence of *acte iure imperii* where a soldier had suffered a brain injury on a horse riding exercise in Canada. The claim also raised issues as to the law applicable to the tort claim.

Gartej v. JSD Haulage [2016] EWCA Civ 551

Represented the Defendant in the Court of Appeal on an appeal concerning the quantum of damages for past/future loss of earning capacity and mitigation of loss.

JR v. Secretary of State for Justice (2016)

Represented the Secretary of State in successfully arguing that he owed no duty of care at law to the former partner of a convicted murderer on life licence who had assaulted her.

Ifede v. MoD [2015] EWHC 3835 (QB)

Successfully represented the MoD on the trial of the preliminary issue of limitation.

Birch v. MoD (2015)

Following the trial of breach of duty in the High Court and on appeal to the Court of Appeal ([2013] EWCA Civ 876), settling this high value claim at JSM.

Billett v. MoD [2015] EWCA Civ 773

Successfully representing MoD on its appeal to the Court of Appeal. This was the first case of its kind to reach an appellate court dealing with the application of the Reduction Factors in the Ogden Tables to a disabled person.

Cunningham v. Sainsburys [2015] EWHC 1382 (QB)

Successfully represented the defendant at the trial of the issues of causation/quantum in a complex regional pain syndrome claim.

Recommendations

“Louis is a superb advocate He is intelligent, committed, passionate and patient.”

“Louis always thinks outside the box and has an excellent courtroom manner.”

“Louis’ attention to detail and understanding of the issues is second to none.”

Chambers and Partners 2024

‘Louis is unflappable, his attention to detail is meticulous, and his deep understanding of the issues involved in complex, high-value personal injury cases is always apparent. His advocacy skills are amongst the best, he always has a calm but steely approach that draws out the pertinent points from factual and expert witnesses at trial, and he demonstrates a real understanding of the bigger picture.’ **The Legal 500 2024**

‘Louis is very approachable and down to earth, making his vast knowledge very accessible.’ **The Legal 500 2024**

“He is measured in his approach and a pleasure to work with.”

Chambers and Partners 2023

“Louis Browne is exceptionally bright and methodical with a personable yet professional manner towards his clients. His submissions are always focused and evidence-backed and therefore extremely powerful.” **Chambers and Partners 2023**

“Highly intelligent, with the ability to digest and make sense of complex papers quickly. A good advocate.” **The Legal 500 2023**

“An excellent barrister who is very approachable, intelligent and hard-working.” **Chambers and Partners 2022**

“He’s a very smooth advocate and is strong on his feet.” “He’s tactical, has great skill with clients and is easy to work with.”
Chambers and Partners 2022

‘Highly intelligent, with the ability to digest and make sense of complex papers quickly. A good advocate.’ **The Legal 500 2022**

‘Louis is personable in conference, putting clients at ease, as a thorough in-depth knowledge of public law and his drafting of pleadings et cetera is first class.’ **The Legal 500 2022**

‘Louis Browne QC is a true gentleman. He is polite, even when pushed by an opponent. He is courteous at all times. Presence flows from him in any formal setting. His strength is to grasp the issue and his main goal is to settle that on the best possible terms. Quite simply a legal phenomenon.’ **The Legal 500 2022**

“He cares deeply about his cases and is an excellent advocate.”
Chambers and Partners 2021

“He cares deeply about his cases and is a pleasant advocate.”
Chambers and Partners 2021

“His strengths are: Excellent interpersonal skills. Patience. Very bright.” **The Legal 500 2021**

“Very hard working and immensely knowledgeable in his field. He is approachable and easy going with clients. Meticulous attention to detail is apparent in his advocacy and written submissions. A very capable barrister, who is well regarded by his clients and is highly recommended.” **The Legal 500 2021**

“Highly skilled barrister with excellent knowledge of his working area.” **The Legal 500 2021**

“Recommended for data breach claims.” **The Legal 500 2021**

“His attention to detail is second to none and he really understands complex medical evidence. He takes an excellent approach with factual professional witnesses which puts them at ease and allows him to quickly get to the heart of complex issues.” **Chambers and Partners 2020**

“His ability to digest complex expert evidence is exceptional” **The Legal 500 2020**

"A strong advocate with good client care skills." The Legal 500 2020

"A fearsome opponent." The Legal 500 2020

"His legal acumen is first rate." The Legal 500 2018/19

"A combination of great legal acumen, tenacity and pragmatism." The Legal 500 2018/19

"A fierce and equitable advocate." The Legal 500 2018/19

"Very experienced across the spectrum of public law matters."
The Legal 500 2017

"Highly experienced in personal injury matters." The Legal 500 2017

"A commanding advocate." The Legal 500 2017

"A strong negotiator with an excellent analytical ability." The Legal
500 2016

"Highly experienced in judicial reviews." The Legal 500 2016

"Mr Browne presented this difficult case with great clarity and skill."

"...showed consummate professionalism throughout the hearing."

"In accordance with the best traditions of government litigation and with a professionalism that brings credit to the Bar, Mr Browne drew our attention to the [academic] criticism that had been made of the decision upon which he relied."