



Neil Block KC

Year of call: 1980 | Silk: 2002

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"He is an absolutely outstanding litigator who elicits a huge amount of trust and confidence from his clients." "One of the best silks around – he's very hard-working, bright, tough and determined." Chambers and Partners 2021

"He is a sublime barrister: very clever, sensible and concise." Chambers and Partners 2021

Neil Block KC has a reputation as a sensitive but brave advocate, a skilled negotiator and commercially aware practitioner. For many years, Neil has represented a range of clients involved in substantial and complex disputes which are resolved with or without resort to litigation and/or mediation or other form of alternative dispute resolution (ADR). Historically, his clients have usually been insurers, their insured, defence organisations, the government or other major institutions, and sports regulators, ruling bodies and clubs. He has considerable experience of multi-party litigation and jurisdictional disputes. He is currently representing HM Treasury, HMRC and the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) in the UK Covid-19 Public Inquiry.

Neil is one of the few current practitioners who can properly claim to be a specialist in a number of areas of practice ranging from commercial and insurance to sports law, product liability, personal injury and clinical negligence. His commercial and insurance practice is based in professional indemnity, material damage, fraud and product liability, and insurance coverage disputes.

Neil is consistently ranked highly in the legal directories for his work in insurance and reinsurance, professional negligence, clinical negligence, personal injury, product liability and travel. He continues to be ranked as one of Chambers and Partners' 'Star Individuals'. Chambers and Partners also named Neil in the Chambers 100, a list of the top 100 barristers practising at the Bar across all practice areas.

Neil is an accredited mediator and has conducted wide-ranging mediations. He is also a member of the Sports Resolution Legal Arbitrator and Mediation panels. He is a member of the LTA Judicial Panel. He is a member of two Premier League committees.

Neil was named Personal Injury Silk of the Year at the Chambers Bar Awards 2021. He was also awarded Personal Injury & Clinical Negligence Silk of the Year in The Legal 500 UK Awards 2019.

Areas of expertise

Sport
Group Litigation and Multi-party Claims
Clinical Negligence and Personal Injury
Insurance Coverage/Insurance and Reinsurance
Product Liability
Alternative Dispute Resolution
Inquiries and Investigations
Material Damage
Professional Negligence

Group Litigation and Multi-party Claims

Neil has extensive and probably unparalleled experience of acting in major group and multi-party actions involving product liability, abuse, personal injury, clinical negligence, insurance and environmental damage.

Cases of note:

- ***Various v NHS*** - Neil represented various hospital and trusts defending claims of clinical negligence and product liability in relation to insertion of metal-on-metal hip prostheses.
- ***Various Claimants v MOD [Ongoing]*** - Neil is representing the MOD defending a large number of claims by service personnel alleging psychiatric injury resulting from the prescription of Lariam, an anti-malarial medication.
- ***Various Claimants v NHS [Ongoing]*** - Neil is representing various NHS hospitals and trusts defending a large number of claims alleging injury resulting from implantation of vaginal mesh.
- ***Various Claimants v RFU [Ongoing]*** - Neil is representing the Rugby Football Union (RFU) defending a large number of claims by ex-professional and amateur rugby union players alleging brain injury resulting from concussive injury playing rugby.
- ***Various Claimants v Ian Paterson*** – Neil represented the (now notorious) breast surgeon accused of negligent surgical procedures.
- ***The Kenyan Emergency Group Litigation [High Court]*** - Neil led a large team of leading and junior counsel successfully defending claims by 40,000 Kenyans alleging personal injury and other losses pre-independence at the time of the Mau Mau uprising. This was the longest ever High Court trial.
- **The Manchester Arena bombing claims** – Neil represents Showsec defending claims by the victims of this terrorist atrocity.
- ***ICF v Winterthaus [High Court]*** -A major and complex commercial dispute about after the event insurance, solicitors' negligence, and consumer credit relating to about 8,500 insurance policies.
- **Environmental damage** - Claim against multi-national company in respect of alleged water contamination resulting from mining operations in Africa.
- **Historic abuse claims** - Neil has been instructed in claims arising out of alleged abuse by celebrities e.g. Jimmy Savile, various sports organisations e.g. Barry Bennell (football), schools, and religious institutions.

Recommendations

"A heavyweight silk for the highest value and most complex of cases. Extremely knowledgeable; excellent negotiator and strategist. He works as a true member of the team with insurers and solicitors." The Legal 500 2021: Personal Injury

*"He is never flustered and always understands all the key issues, presenting them succinctly and with reassurance and respect for his audience."*The Legal 500 2021: Travel Law

*"Instils calm in clients through a measured but confident approach."*The Legal 500 2021: Clinical Negligence

*"Provides excellent advice and his advocacy skills are impressive."*The Legal 500 2021: Insurance & Reinsurance

"He is a sublime barrister: very clever, sensible and concise. He is commercially minded and someone you ultimately trust to give you very good advice."

*"He is outstanding and a very smooth operator with an extremely authoritative voice. He is extremely calm when dealing with high-value and complex litigation."*Chambers and Partners 2021: Personal Injury

"He is an absolutely outstanding litigator who elicits a huge amount of trust and confidence from his clients." *"One of the best silks around – he's very hard-working, bright, tough and determined."*Chambers and Partners 2021: Clinical Negligence

*"An extremely polished performer."*Chambers and Partners 2021: Product Liability

*"Very persuasive in court and has excellent client care skills – he is able to put people at ease."*Chambers and Partners 2021: Travel: International Personal Injury

*"An absolutely outstanding tactician with good understanding of this area of law and a mastery of large-scale litigation."*Chambers and Partners 2019: Travel: International Personal Injury

"Neil is incredibly easy to work with, and has excellent client rapport." *"He's a very accomplished and engaging advocate, who almost has you doubting your own case when you're against him."*Chambers and Partners 2019: Product Liability

"A terrific advocate." *"He is vastly experienced in this sphere."*Chambers and Partners 2019: Clinical Negligence

"He's very bright and determined." *"He is very subtle and quietly impressive."*Chambers and Partners 2019: Personal Injury

*"An excellent tactician who is exceedingly sound on quantum"*Chambers and Partners 2018: Clinical Negligence

"Commercially aware and a robust advocate." *A hugely impressive and supportive leading counsel who is respected by his peers."* *"Unflappable, well respected and extremely talented."*Chambers and Partners 2018: Personal Injury

*"He is very much a team player, who is excellent with clients and particularly skilled in negotiations."*Chambers and Partners 2018: Product Liability

"He is straightforward, knowledgeable and smart." *"He is very experienced and brilliant with clients."*Chambers and Partners 2018: Travel: International Personal Injury

*"He is an arch pragmatist and understands the judicial mind intuitively."*The Legal 500 2017: Clinical Negligence

*"He is authoritative and his judgement is invariably very sound."*The Legal 500 2017: Personal Injury, Industrial Disease and Insurance Fraud

*"A versatile commercial barrister with a strong coverage expertise."*The Legal 500 2017: Insurance and Reinsurance

*"He is very experienced and extremely knowledgeable in his field."*The Legal 500 2017: Product Liability

*"Impressive."*The Legal 500: Professional Negligence

*"A forensic and analytical mind, and the number-one silk for the highest value cases."*The Legal 500 2017: Travel Law

"He has a wonderful ability to focus on the key issues and see the wood for the trees." *"He is excellent and calm and has experience coming out of his ears."* Chambers and Partners 2017

Memberships

- London Common Law Bar Association
- Professional Negligence Bar Association
- Personal Injury Bar Association

Qualifications

- BA (Hons)
- LLM (Exon)
- Trained Mediator

Appointments

- Master of the Bench, Gray's Inn (2008)
- Sports Resolution Mediator and Arbitrator Panel

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