



Simon Browne KC

Year of call: 1982 | Silk: 2011

Email: sbrowne@39essex.com

Phone: +44 (0)20 7832 1111

“Always brilliant, he’s polished and prepared and is someone who has a great manner with clients. His advice is spot on.”

Simon is consistently recognised by The Legal 500 and Chambers and Partners as a leading silk in the fields of commercial costs and litigation funding, catastrophic brain and spinal injury, and related areas of sports law, clinical negligence, insurance, and professional negligence and professional regulation.

In addition, Simon is at the forefront of the development of law and civil procedure in the Court of Appeal and High Court in cases such as:

- Part 36 regime in *F & C Alternative Investments* (2012) CA, *Walker Construction v Quayside Homes* (2014) CA, *Yentob v MGN* (2015) CA, *Seabrook v Adam* (2021) CA, and *FKJ v RVT* (2022) HC
- Relief from sanctions/abuse of process in *Mitchell v NGN* (2014) CA and *Cable v LV Insurance* (2020) CA
- Costs budgets, the drafting of e-bills of costs, and QOCS in *Henry v NGN* (2013) CA, *Bowman v Norfram and Ors.* (2018) HC, and *AKC v Barking and Havering Health Authority* (2022) CA

Simon is a qualified mediator and arbitrator. He is registered with the Bar Council to accept direct access instructions and at the higher level of conducting litigation.

Areas of expertise

Costs and Litigation Funding

Clinical Negligence

Personal Injury

Sport

Alternative Dispute Resolution

Personal Injury

Simon represents both claimants and defendants in catastrophic injury cases, mainly involving brain damage and spinal injuries. He is ranked in Band 1 for personal injuries in the legal directories. In 2021,

among his extensive practice, he settled four cases each pleaded at well worth over £10m.

Cases of note:

- **W v CR [2024] HC** – Claim in excess of £10 million for severely injured army officer and medical practitioner following road traffic accident where career progression, pension claim and care requirements and costs in issue.
- **Taylor v Raspin [2022] CA** – Court of Appeal case concerning the use of expert evidence in the High Court for road traffic accidents. In re-affirming its decision in *Liddell v Middleton* [1996] PIQR P35 CA the Court of Appeal repeated that the primary evidence in such cases was that of lay evidence and that expert evidence should be limited to matters only where the Court required expert assistance.
- **HW v JL (2022)** – Representing a tetraplegic teenage claimant whose case was settled for an eventually agreed capital sum of £21.5 million.
- **R v C (2022)** - Fully contested liability trial of a claimant motor cyclist, rendered paraplegic, travelling at speed in collision with the defendant car driver emerging onto the carriageway.
- **DEF v S&M (2021)** - Approval of a £12m settlement for a 24-year-old who sustained a severe brain injury in a road accident aged 9. She sustained polytrauma including visible white-matter damage on CT to her frontal and temporal lobes. While she made a relatively good recovery in terms of her cognitive function, she required significant lifetime care
- **ABC v Young (2021)** - High Court's approval of £1.85m settlement for girl sustaining severe head injuries when struck by wing mirror of a speeding minibus as she stepped off the kerb when the pedestrian light was red against the claimant.
- **D v C (2021)** - Motorcyclist rendered paraplegic because of an accident on the motorway when defendant driver slowed his car and caused a rear end collision. Liability and assessment of damages were in dispute.
- **W v L (2021)** - Unrestrained claimant passenger in rear of car driven by a drunk driver rendered tetraplegic. Issues on contributory negligence for failure to wear a seat belt and knowledge of driver under influence in addition to valuation of significant claim.
- **B v E (2020)** - Damages award of £12m for a mother rendered tetraplegic in a road traffic accident. The claimant requires lifelong round-the-clock care because of the injuries. The case involved complex issues on care, accommodation and life expectancy and required consideration of loss of earnings arising from the claimant's business.
- **R v F (2020)** - Claimant's claim for substantial disability following a road traffic accident in 2014. The claimant was already paraplegic as the result of a previous road traffic accident in 2008. The case raised interesting questions of acceleration in paraplegia cases, and how to approach quantitative rather than qualitative differences in care needs because of a defendant's negligence.
- **VWX v Connells Residential (2019)** - The claimant was left with enduring neuro-psychiatric and vestibular symptoms after a modest blow to the head. He was 39 at the time of the accident and the principal breadwinner for his family. He had a pre-accident history of psychological vulnerability. Causation was very much an issue prior to settlement of the claim.

Recommendations

- *"A standout individual who has considerable expertise in costs cases associated with heavy commercial and group litigation. He's always very practical; he thinks through the consequences and is five steps ahead of everyone else."* "He knows all the rules and regulations and knows exactly which buttons to press." Chambers and Partners
- *"Noted for expertise in catastrophic brain and spine injuries, which he regularly handles on behalf of*

major insurers and leading claimant solicitors. Over the course of his celebrated career, he has also developed a strong reputation for aviation accidents, clinical negligence cases and cross-border litigation. A pleasure to instruct."Chambers and Partners

- "He is polished: there is absolutely no padding in his advice; it is what you need to hear without any flannel. He is also very good at handling difficult clients. He is an excellent QC."Chambers and Partners
- "He's got a really good aura in court and can put even the most complicated points across clearly and in a succinct fashion. An excellent QC who has a very smooth manner with clients."Chambers and Partners
- "Simon Browne QC is an excellent leading counsel, and is always fully prepared be it for advising in consultation or presenting in court."The Legal 500

Memberships

- Personal Injuries Bar Association (PIBA)
- Association of Personal Injuries Lawyers (APIL)
- Law In Sport
- Registered for instruction in Sport Resolutions SCMP Legal Advice Service

Qualifications

Qualified Mediator and Arbitrator

Appointments

- Appointed by the Lord Chancellor to sit as a Barrister Assessor in the High Court on Appeals (2007 to date)
- Chairperson upon barrister disciplinary tribunals under Bar Tribunals and Adjudication Service (2013 to 2018)
- Appointed by the Master of the Rolls to sit as chairperson of the Costs Committee of the Civil Justice Council (2013 to date)
- Joint Tribunal of the Bar Council and the Law Society (2013 to 2019)

London

81 Chancery Lane,
London
WC2A 1DD
Tel: +44 (0)20 7832 1111
DX: London/Chancery Lane 298
Fax: +44 (0)20 7353 3978

MANCHESTER

82 King Street,
Manchester
M2 4WQ
Tel: +44 (0)16 1870 0333
Fax: +44 (0)20 7353 3978

SINGAPORE

Maxwell Chambers,
28 Maxwell Road,
WC2A 1DD
04-03 & 04-04, Maxwell Chamber
Suites
Singapore 069120
Tel: +65 6320 9272

KUALA LUMPUR

#02-9, Bangunan Sulaiman
Jalan Sultan Hishamuddin,
50000 Kuala Lumpur,
Malaysia
Tel: +60 32 271 1085

BARRISTERS • ARBITRATORS • MEDIATORS

clerks@39essex.com • DX: 298 London/Chancery Lane • 39essex.com