

The Role of Barristers

Spinal injury claims inevitably involve securing the services of a number of key people. It is not unusual, for example, for a dozen or more expert witnesses to be involved in assisting the Judge on matters within their area of expertise – and more often than not the opponent will want to have their own experts to match the evidence you will commission. The solicitor's role is to orchestrate that and to bring the case together so that it can be presented in Court and ultimately if necessary in order that your case can then be advocated before the Judge at a trial.

The branch of the legal profession that undertakes that final act – the formal advocacy of your case is collectively known as the Bar. Members of that branch of the legal profession are referred to as barristers or Counsel.

In our experience it is essential to involve barristers in a spinal injuries claim at a relatively early stage and we have long standing relationships with a small and select group of barristers who we work with regularly on these cases.

Like solicitors, Barristers are prepared to work on a no win no fee basis. A barrister's input in the strategic planning of your case, tactics and selection of experts is vitally important. Their independent second opinion of the case as it develops must not be overlooked, and is particularly important when it is the barrister who will be arguing the case before a Judge if it needs to progress that far.

In most spinal injury cases we deal with Leading Counsel will be used alongside and in combination with Junior Counsel. Leading Counsel (also referred to as Queen's Counsel or QCs) tend to operate only in complex and high value claims. We place considerable importance on the strength of our relationships with the Leading Counsel we use in spinal injuries cases. It is particularly important that the teamwork approach is prized by Leading Counsel and Junior Counsel in order that your case can be progressed to the best possible outcome in the shortest practical and realistic time.

Historically barristers have only been able to take their instructions from solicitors. You are likely to have several meetings with both Junior and Leading Counsel as your case progresses and we are in regular contact with the barristers as matters develop in the case.

Where possible you should expect to see your barrister in your own home although occasionally where it might be more practical (if for example a number of experts need to be involved in a conference) arrangements might be made so that the conference takes place either at the barrister's chambers or another convenient location.

If you would like to find out more about **the role of barristers** please do [get in touch](#).

You might also like to read our factsheets on **Conditional Fee Agreements, The Other Side – Defendants, Insurers and Solicitors, Expert Witnesses, Issuing Proceedings and Directions, Split/Preliminary Issue Trials, Offers and Settlement** and **Trials**.

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