Barrister: Andrew Ritchie QC

Overview:
Barrister | Arbitrator | Mediator
Winner of the Legal 500 Personal Injury / Clinical Negligence Silk of the Year 2015.

Barristers Services:
Described as approachable, dependable, a classy team player, hard on the issues and hard working, Andrew has enormous experience in clinical negligence and personal injury law.

Andrew's clinical negligence practice has recently involved cases concerning cerebral palsy caused by hypoxia at birth, failure to diagnose, urology, Spinal cord haematoma, cardiology and neurosurgery.

In the personal injury field Andrew has vast experience in fatal accident claims (for example Gavria & John v BP 2019), occupational health litigation, employers liability litigation (for example Corv v IBC, the suicide case, HL) road traffic claims, Motor Insurers Bureau law (for instance Lewington v MIB [2017] EWHC, EWHC 2848 and Road Traffic Insurance law (for instance Ratif v MIB, CA.

Andrew edits volumes 2, 3 and 4 of the leading Personal Injury text Kemp & Kemp: Quantum Of Damages, and in recent years wrote 8 of the chapters in volume 1.

Many of Andrew's reported cases concern catastrophic injury claims involving brain damage, spinal injury and PTSD, for instance, he represented many victims of the Paddington rail disaster.

Andrew represented 24 families of those murdered in the terrorist attack on Sousse beach in Tunisia in the 6 week Inquest in the High Court in 2017 and ran their civil claims to settlement in 2019.

Andrew also represented the family of Carlos Estrada before the coroner at the 8 week Inquest into the terrorist attack at In Amenas, Algeria. For most of the 69 witnesses, Andrew led the questioning for the bereaved families.

The coroner's verdict included many findings of fact which highlighted the lack of security at the facility. Andrew is running the civil claims for 84 injured victims or bereaved families.

Granted temporary rights of audience of the Cayman Island bar Andrew has experience of personal injury litigation in the Cayman Islands.

Andrew also represents medical professionals before regulatory and disciplinary tribunals and also has considerable experience in professional negligence work arising from personal injury litigation.

Andrew is trained and approved by the Bar Council to accept instructions directly from clients.

Mediation and Arbitration Services:
Andrew is a qualified PIcArbs Arbitrator and a Mediator in the personal injury and clinical negligence field. Click here for the PIcArbs arbitration agreement and click here for Andrew's Mediation agreement.

What the directories say:
Andrew is recommended in Chambers and Partners guide to the legal profession for many years, now as a grade 1 Queen's Counsel. Fellow professionals have commented over the years as follows:

- **2018 - 2019 edition (Personal Injury Star Individual)**: an undoubted leader in the field. He is well regarded for his handling of brain and spinal injury cases, as well as fatal accident claims. He is somebody who can really drill down and extract the relevant detail in any matter. He is the cream of the crop, a no-nonsense QC who cuts right to the key issues. When you have a high-value clinical negligence claim, he can juggle complex liability and quantum concerns. He is also excellent with experts and good at reassuring with clients.

- **2018 - 2019 edition (Clinical Negligence)**: A standout silk with a fine reputation for handling the full panoply of clinical negligence cases. "Very good in court." Formidable in his intellectual ability.

- **2018 edition**: Fantastically astute and absolutely at the top of his field. An incredibly talented advocate. "Always prepared to argue difficult points. Sharp, direct and skilful."

- **2017 edition**: He is incredible, no waffle to him at all. He knows exactly what needs to be done, he's totally precise and concise. He is fantastic and commands the whole courtroom. He's a very skilful advocate, authoritative and fantastic with clients.

- **2014 edition**: A high-ranking silk, noted by many for his prowess in larger clinical negligence cases, especially those involving cerebral palsy and failure to diagnose disease. Expertise: "He is the cream of the crop, a no-nonsense QC who cuts right to the key issues. When you have a high-value clinical negligence claim, he can juggle complex liability and quantum concerns. He is also excellent with experts and good at reassuring with clients."

- **2013 edition**: A brilliant rising star who "fights to get the client's story heard." His "precise mind" is applied to a wide variety of cases, although observers say he is "particularly outstanding on RTA liability."

- **2012 edition**: Possessed of; "one of the sharpest minds around," the "astute and straight-talking..." can really drill down and extract the relevant detail in any matter." He has a "forensic yet innovative approach..." He is a renowned expert in the field.

- **2008 edition**: Awarded "PI junior of the year". Described as "an extremely knowledgeable advocate who gains recognition for his incredible grasp of detail and his ability to make something complex seem straightforward...he is a renowned expert in the field."

- **2007 edition**: "Tough yet friendly" and "one of the best on his feet..." …being "incredibly straight" and "really drill down and extract the relevant detail in any matter."

Recent News
Andrew Ritchie QC wins an award for the Croydon tram disaster
Andrew Ritchie QC and Shahram Sharghy represent the families of the victims of a terrorist attack
Andrew Ritchie QC nominated for The Lawyer Awards' Barrister of the Year 2018
Andrew Ritchie QC wins 5-year legal battle: Dumper truck injures young mother
The death of the "off road vehicle defence" has been announced
Andrew Ritchie QC wins a case against the MIB based on significant changes in the Road Traffic Act 1988 providing hope for members of the public
Andrew Ritchie QC and Shahram Sharghy represent the families of the victims of a terrorist attack
Andrew Ritchie QC wins an award for the Croydon tram disaster
Andrew Ritchie QC responds to Tunisia Inquests conclusion
Andrew Ritchie QC and Ed Lamb speaking at the Freight Topping Deputy Day Conference in May 2017
Tunisia beach massacre: Report questioned security at Sousse hotel before terror attack, inquest hears
Tunisia terrorist attack: Andrew Ritchie QC appointed by Irwin Mitchell to represent 20 families at the inquests starting today
Families hope for answers as inquests into Tunisia terrorist attack set to begin
Andrew Ritchie QC argues on security concerns heard ahead of Tunisia inquest
Andrew Ritchie QC settles a case for a man made victim of a road traffic accident
"someone you know where you stand with.”

Recommended in the Legal 500 UK Client’s Guide to the Legal Profession for many years. Fellow professionals commented as follows:

- **2019 edition:** “A fierce intellect with an impressive presence in court.”
- **2017 edition:** “A formidable intellect, who doesn't suffer fools gladly.”
- **2016 edition:** “Experienced in terrorism inquiries.”
- **2010 edition:** “Is ‘devastatingly clever’, ‘fearless and brilliant’.
- **2008 edition:** “...has outstanding technical knowledge allied to tough forensic skills” and a “personable and decisive approach”.
- **2007 edition:** “He is tenacious, meticulous and understated, ...simply he is extraordinarily good all round.”

**Client Comments:**

"It has been an absolute pleasure to work on this case, and to say that you have all gone above and beyond for the clients would be an understatement. I can honestly say that I've never worked with members of chambers who've put their hearts and souls into a case in the way which you all did." (Jennifer Lund, Partner at Irwin Mitchell).

I just wanted to email to say how grateful I am for everything you have done on my case. Not many that are or have been in my situation have had the opportunity have someone as amazing as you defend them. Thanks to you and the outcome we received they won't have to worry on that front now.

A client, Charli Lewington (September 2018)

Thank you for your assistance in my case in conjunction with the rest of the legal team from Barcan Kirby.

At last, there was closure in Jan 2018 after a very stressful three and a half years for me and you managed with their help in obtaining my compensation. I think I am finally getting my life back together and managing to move.

Once again could not have done it without you.

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A client, DT (September 2018)

"I wanted to say a sincere thank you for your brilliant performance as my advocate on Monday 4th December 2017. It was extraordinary to see such a skilful advocate succinctly and calmly representing the arguments. You are one of the few QC's that I can say have the ability to command an audience, be passionate, persuasive and deliver and I have used many as a Junior since I was called in 1991.”

A Barrister client who was acquitted by the Inns of Court Tribunal of all BSB charges (2017).

"I would like to take this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation for your invaluable work on my daughter S's case following her MVA in the UK in October 2009. Having just settled the case after four and a half long years, I have been most impressed by both your and Daryl's professionalism, patience, understanding, flexibility and humour despite the challenges faced with us residing ‘down under’.

I have particularly appreciated you ensuring each step in the legal process was explained, in 'layman's' terms to ensure my discussions with S resulted in informed decisions being made. As S's ‘litigation friend’, your and Daryl's approach gave me assurance and confidence during a very unfamiliar and challenging time – we could not have asked for a better representative. Throughout the entire process, I have felt supported and well informed and it was evident we were all working together towards a common goal - S's best interest and to secure and protect her financial future.

Thanks to you both, S is now in a position to move forward in life and enjoy a more positive future."

June 2014

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**ADR, Mediator, Arbitrator, Neutral Evaluator**

**ADR**

ADR is the present and the growing future for dispute resolution.

**Mediator:**

Andrew qualified as a mediator in 2019 and provides mediation services in personal injury and clinical negligence and workplace disputes.

Andrew's mediation agreement is available: [click here](#).

**Arbitrator:**

Andrew is a qualified PIIArbs Arbitrator and provides arbitrator services in personal injury and clinical negligence claims. For a copy of the arbitration agreement please [click here](#).

Please contact Andrew's clerks for the fees for each service.
Neutral Evaluator:
Andrew provides neutral evaluation services in personal injury and clinical negligence claims.
Andrews NE agreement is available: Click here.

MIB

MIB Claims:

MIB Uninsured Driver Claims

- **Lewington v MIB [2017]**: EWHC 2848, Andrew won the appeal against the MIB arbitrator's decision. This case effectively destroyed the “off road vehicle” defence run by insurers and the MIB for decades to avoid paying compensation to the innocent victims of road accidents just because the offending driver was in an off road vehicle.

- **Ademneskel v Bryan & MIB [2011]**: The claimant was a pedestrian knocked down by an uninsured driver on an off road style trail bike. The MIB defended on the basis that as a matter of interpretation of the Road Traffic Act 1988 no insurance was required for off road trail bike. Hence they were not liable to compensate. Complicated European Law aspects and interpretation of statute. Case of general public importance. Case settled after the Secretary of Sate was joined to the action and the expert evidence was served.

- **Carswell v Sec of State & MIB [2010]**: EWHC 3230 (QB): Representing a widow asserting that the Untraced Drivers Agreement 2003 was drafted in breach of European Law because it fails to provide adequately for the claimants legal costs.

- **X v MIB [2009]**: Representing brain injured child. Settled for £1.3 million plus PPOS of £32,000 rising to £70,000 for care and case management.

- **Phillips v Rafiq & Motor Insurers Bureau [2007]**: Times, February 21, 2007. Fatal accident claim, interpretation of the Uninsured Drivers Agreement 1999 - representing the successful widow of the deceased could claim damages from the MIB despite her husband knowing that the driver was uninsured.

MIB Untraced Drivers Appeals / Arbitrations

- **A v MIB [2012]**: Appeal to the arbitrator against an award of £1,900,000 made by the MIB in a hit and run case under the Untraced Drivers Agreement 1996. The arbitrator Frank Burton QC, increased the award to £2,600,000.

- **Andrews v MIB [2012]**: On Lawtel. Appeal to an arbitrator against the MIB refusal to make any award to a paraplegic man under the Untraced Drivers Agreement 2003. 3 day hearing. Award: the MIB were held liable and ordered to pay the costs in full, not as limited by the Untraced Drivers Agreement 2003.

Clin Neg & PI

Clinical Negligence Claims:

- **AH v (1) Dr Shah (2) Medway Community Healthcare (3) Medway NHS Foundation Trust [2018]**: Representing a 65-year-old retired IT consultant in a delayed diagnosis of cervical spine abscess. The Foundation admitted breach of duty and a settlement was reached. Read more here.

- **P v Medway [2015]**: Representing a man in his late 50s with bladder cancer who whilst receiving a replacement bladder suffered hemiplegia due to spinal haematoma caused by failed epidural injections for anaesthesia and inadequate onward surveillance post operatively. P ran an investment brokerage raising finance for hedge funds. Loss of opportunity to make future profits was in issue. Settled for £1.7 million plus PPOS for care.

- **W v Royal Surrey NHST [2013]**: Representing a child born with spastic cerebral palsy due to hypoxia, the injury being caused in part by the hospital’s failure to carry out a caesarean section. Liability settled at 70%.

- **B v St Barts and the Royal London [2013]**: Representing a nurse who suffered congenital malrotation of the gut and underwent an operation to resolve it which was carried out negligently leading to removal of the whole of her gut and reduced her life expectation. Settled for a large sum.

Cerebral Palsy Claims

- **Potter v South Tees Hospitals NHST [2012]**: Representing the claimant who suffered septicaemia due to negligent lack of prophylactic antibiotics during a kidney operation. Liability eventually conceded and damages settled at £1 million.

- **W v South Yorkshire HA [2012]**: Sheffield, acting for a child who suffered atheotid cerebral palsy due to negligence intubation during resuscitation after birth. Approved award: £2 million plus PPOS of £112,400 pa for life.

- **Morris v Gwent Healthcare NHS Trust [2007]**: Cardiff DR: Lawtel, Hypoxia at birth, cerebral palsy, settlement, Lump Sum value £3 million, periodical payments for lost earnings £15,000 pa to age 70, stepped periodical payments for care £70,000 pa for life (index linked to the ASHE).

- **Raichura v Leicestershire HA [2003]**: Lawtel, Leicestershire District Registry (HHJ Hall QC): The claimant, a 23-year-old man, received a “bottom-up settlement” or periodic payments settlement (with an old style lump sum value of £2,920,000) for the severe hypoxic-ischaemic brain damage sustained during his birth in November 1979. Cerebral palsy and tetraplegia, severe cognitive impairment, wholly dependent on others for his care and daily needs.

Failure To Diagnose Claims

- **C v UCL [2017]** Representing a panel beater who suffered minor spinal cord injury due to a missed diagnosis. Settled for a lump sum of £870,000.

- **H v Imperial College Hospital [2017]** Representing a 60 year old man with pre-existing Ankylosing Spondylitis who suffered a missed diagnosis of spinal haematomata and increased spinal chord symptoms as a result. Settled for £1.5 million lump sum.

- **A v Medway [2016]** representing a mid-60s retired mill manager who Medway Hospital failed to diagnose as having a cervical spine fracture after a fall, settled for £1.5 million plus PPOS of £215,000 pa.

- **P v Medway [2015]** representing a man in his late 50s with bladder cancer who whilst receiving a replacement bladder suffered hemiplegia due to spinal haematoma caused by failed epidural injections for anaesthesia and inadequate onward surveillance post operatively. P ran an investment brokerage raising
finance for hedge funds. Loss of opportunity to make future profits was in issue. Settled for £1.7 million plus PPOS for care.

- **Potter v South Tees Hospitals NHST [2012]**: Representing the claimant who suffered septicaemia due to negligent lack of prophylactic antibiotics during a kidney operation. Liability eventually conceded and damages settled at £1 million.

- **Lanham v Mid Essex NHST & others [2012]**: Representing a 42 years old man who suffered a stroke due to negligent failure to treat TIA's (transient ischaemic events). Settled for £1 million.

- **Welsh v Plymouth Hospitals NHST [2011]**: Failure to diagnose benign brain tumour leading to delayed brain operation and severe brain damage. Complicated expert evidence on breach and causation of tumour and on prospects of improved result with earlier surgery. Settled at £550,000.

- **Deneven v Leeds Hospitals [2010]**: Leeds DR, Representing child blinded by the hospital's failure to treat eye infection after birth. Approved award £1,000,000.

- **Bingham v Doncaster & Bassetlaw Hospitals [2010]**: Representing the Claimant who suffered clinical negligence when the hospital failed to diagnose a prolapsed disc in his neck which caused cauda equina syndrome and left hemi-plegia (paralysis). Multiple medical experts on spinal compression. Spinal surgery and the prospect of a better outcome from earlier surgery. Settled for £225,000.

### PI Claims:

#### Brain Damage Claims

- **X v Y [2012]**: Approved by Eady J. Representing a 16 year old man who suffered severe brain damage in a road traffic accident. Liability admitted, quantum settled at £2.2 million lump sum plus PPOS of £71,000 pa increasing by RPI.

- **Habtu v McKenzie & MIB [2012]**: The Claimant who Andrew represented was injured in a road traffic accident by an uninsured driver. He suffered severe brain injuries, hip fractures and needed constant care and support with a case manager. Case settled for £1 million plus periodical payments of £72,500 per annum for life.

- **Morby v Richards [2006]**: Birmingham District Registry. For the successful Claimant. £1,012,000 in damages for the Claimant who suffered a severe brain injury in a road traffic accident.


#### Mesothelioma Claims

- **Streets v Esso [2009]**: QBD: Lawtel, £315,000 Fatal Accidents Act award for widow of mesothelioma victim.

- **Purdue v Port Line [2008]**: Master Whitaker, living mesothelioma sufferer, summary judgment obtained against “bluewater” shipowners, on the basis that they had land based shipwrights. Date of knowledge 1955 of dangers from asbestos.

#### Amputation Injuries

- **Thornhill v Bagas [2018]** Andrew represented a 34 year old man who suffered a road traffic accident at traffic lights. After 7 operations his right leg was amputated below the knee. The Defendants denied liability and the Claimant secured judgment in full at a trial in June 2017 before HHJ Robinson in the High Court. The Quantum was settled at a JSV on 4.3.2019 for a lump sum of £3 million including two powered BION prosthetics with a water limb for life on a 5 year revolving renewal cycle.

- **B v Wigan [2017]**: Representing an male off licence owner in his 50s injured on a road traffic accident who suffered a below the knee amputation. Settled for £2 million.

- **Vaghji v MarkerStudy [2012]**: Representing a one legged man who worked as a bus driver who lost his other leg in a road traffic accident. Recovering £1,300,000 in damages.

- **Winters v Haq [2007]**: Leicester QBD: Acting for the successful Claimant, above the knee amputation in RTA, prosthetic leg, settlement of £700,000. Andrew Ritchie QC.

#### Multiple Injuries Claims

- **Morjaria v Samwell [2009]**: Mediated settlement. Representing successful Claimant, Damages £2 million, for a Cambridge student who was run over by a lorry. Loss of career in investment banking.

- **Corr v IBC [2008]**: UKHL 13: Representing the successful Claimant in her Fatal Accident Act claim arising from the suicide of her husband caused by the Defendant's negligence 6 years earlier. Employers liability, kind of harm, foreseeability and causation.


- **Smeek v Adaye [1999]**: March, QBD, HHJ Steele: Sitting as deputy, Kemp B2-011/1 & confirmed C.A 19.04.2000 Lawtel C7400040. For the Claimant, award £1.1 million, RTA, hip and leg injury, pension loss and future risk of retirement.

#### Product Liability Claims

- **Thomas v Merck Sharpe & Dohme, 1.12.2008, HHJ O'Brien**: Representing the Claimant who suffered ulcerative colitis whilst taking part in a drugs trial of Rofecoxib a Vioxx derivative. First successful judgment for Claimants on this drug.

#### Road Traffic Act Claims:

- **X v Y [2017]**: Representing a 3 times convicted heroine dealer who was injured in a road traffic accident and suffered paraplegia. Settled before action for £3.6 million lump sum.

- **YS v X [2017]**: EWHC Whipple J, approved settlement for a 33 year old woman injured in a road traffic accident which left her in a minimally conscious state. Damages agreed at a lump sum of £750,000 with PPOS for life of US$150,000 index linked to USA carers index.

- **Miller v GBE [2006]**: EWHC 1529: Statutory interpretation of the Road Traffic Act 1988 S.145 - the Claimant police officer was not an employee of the insured hence able to claim compensation from the insurer under S.151 for his serious injuries when a criminal ran him down in a police car.

#### Spinal Injury Claims

- **Clough v First Choice [2006]**: EWCA Civ 15, PIQR P22: For the Claimant, young man made paraplegic after swimming pool accident abroad.

- **Oldham v Robinson [2004]**: Settlement 9/8/2004, Lawtel. For the claimant, a 33-year-old man, who received £935,000 for the spinal injuries sustained in a road traffic accident in November 1998. Paraplegia and had no movement or feeling in his legs and no control over his bowel or bladder. Much
reduced life expectancy.

**Employers Liability Claims**

- **Wallis v Balfour Beatty [2003] EWCA Civ 72**: Employers liability, breach of Workplace Regulations, causation. For the Claimant.
- **Stiles v Thames Trains [2003] QBD**: Master Whittaker, settlement. For the Claimant. Recovering £750,000 for a victim of the Paddington Train Disaster who suffered severe burns and PTSD.
- **Various v Tesco [1997] QBD**: Settled. For Claimants, 40+ RSI cases against Tesco for checkout cashiers. Lead cases packaged for trial in High Court then all settled.

**Civil Procedure Issues**

- **Thornhill v Bagas [2017]**: HHJ Robinson sitting as a deputy High Court Judge, awarding judgment for the Claimant in a liability only trial, the judge awarded penalty interest on costs against the Defendant when the Claimant beat his own 99% part 36 offer on liability.
- **Samson v Ali [2012] EWHC 4146 (QB)**: Stadlen J. The first consideration and approval by the High Court of claimant's obtaining counter surveillance evidence undermining insurance company surveillance evidence which was suspected.
- **Samson v Ali [2012] EWHC 4146**: Representing the Claimant who was served with surveillance evidence from the Defendant's insurer which appeared to have been selectively edited, speeded up and biased. Judgment obtained at a contested preliminary hearing allowing the Claimant to answer the Video evidence with her own counter surveillance expert's evidence which undermined the Defendant's evidence.
- **Bajwa v British Airways Plc [1999] EWCA Civ 1519**: Costs: Calderbank Offers. The value of an offer for the purpose of costs under CPR 44 is the balance between the sum offered less the value of deducted benefits. The CA will only interfere with a judge's discretion to order costs if he is plainly wrong or has erred in principle.

**Inquests**

**Inquests:**

- **Croydon Tram Crash**
  Andrew is representing the families of some of those killed in the Croydon tram crash at the Inquest.

**Inquest into the terrorist attack at Sousse, Tunisia 2017**

Andrew Ritchie QC represented the families of 22 UK citizens murdered at the RIU Imperial Marhaba Hotel, Sousse, Tunisia during the 5-week inquest in the High Court in January / February 2017.

Press coverage includes:

- Daily Mail
- Express
- LBC
- Sky News
- The Guardian
- TTG
- Wimbledon Guardian

**Inquest into the terrorist attack at In Amenas, Algeria 2015**

Andrew Ritchie QC represented the family of Carlos Estrada before HM Assistant Coroner Nicholas Hillyard QC at the Inquest into the deaths at the BP gas facility at In Amenas in Algeria caused by a terrorist attack carried out by Al-Qaeda in the Islamic Magreb under the leadership of a man known as "Mokhtar Belmokhtar” and another known as "Lamine Bouchneb". Andrew led the questions posed by the relatives of the deceased.

The verdict delivered in January 2015 contained many findings of fact about inadequate risk assessment, inadequate security and the total lack of armed guards at the gates to the accommodation facility.

The case report summary from Lawtel is available [here](#).

The news item released on 18th February is available [here](#).

**Recommendations**

For more information please call our clerks on 020 7832 0500