



ST JOHNS
BUILDINGS
BARRISTERS CHAMBERS



Michael Redfern QC

Year of Call: 1970

Year of Silk: 1993

Personal Profile

- i) Head of Chambers
- ii) Michael specialises in clinical negligence (cerebral palsy in particular), personal injury (catastrophic and brain injury in particular), employers liability and road traffic cases.
- iii) He has had considerable success in subtle brain injury cases where, at first glance, the claimant appears normal but on detailed neuropsychological assessment is in fact seriously damaged.
- iv) Michael undertakes a regular amount of pro-bono work.

Appointments

1. Chairman – Royal Liverpool Children’s Inquiry (Alder Hey) 2000
2. Chairman – Redfern Inquiry into human tissue analysis in UK nuclear facilities 2007 – 2010
3. Leader of the Northern Circuit – 1 January 2005 to 31 December 2007
4. Recorder

Areas of Expertise

1. Clinical Negligence
2. Personal Injury
3. Inquiries





What the Legal Directories say

""extensive experience and vast knowledge of his field" mean that his clients keep him extremely busy. He is renowned for his mastery of everything relating to brain and spinal injury and is currently chair of the Redfern Inquiry into human tissue analysis in UK nuclear facilities." Chambers and Partners [2009 edition]

"a great advocate who is full of the wisdom that is born of experience" Chambers and Partners [2010 edition]

"a real fighter who has an excellent appreciation of all the issues in a case." And "experienced and full of wisdom" Chambers and Partners [2011 edition]

Important Cases and Inquiries

1. 2007-2010

Chairman – Redfern Inquiry into human tissue analysis in UK nuclear facilities.

Report – 16 November 2010 (HC571-1 and available at www.official-documents.gov.uk)

2. 2008 (December)

Lewis v Secretary of State for Health and Another (2008) LS Law Med. 559

Confidential patient information. Case concerned the issue of whether a doctor's duty of confidentiality survives a patient's death and the Court's jurisdiction to authorise disclosure of confidential patient information in the public interest.

3. 2008

Aintree Hospitals NHS Trust v Angelique Sutcliffe (2008) LS Law Medical 230 CA

Spinal anaesthetic contaminated with cleaning agent (chlorhexidine) leading to spinal arachnoiditis with severe neurological and physical consequences.

4. 2004

Chelsea Kennedy v Liverpool Womens Hospitals NHS Trust (2004)

Cerebral palsy trial where Defendant's expert gynaecological evidence failed to satisfy requirements of Bolam or Bolitho defences.



5. **2000 – 2001**
Chairman – Royal Liverpool Children’s Inquiry (Alder Hey)

Report – 30 January 2001 (HC12-11)

6. **2000**
Stark v Post Office (2000) PIQR 105CA

Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1992 impose strict duty to ensure work equipment is suitable for purpose for which used and maintained in efficient state and good repair.

7. **1999**
Brown v Lewisham and North Southwark Health Authority (1999)
Lloyds Reports Medical 110 CA

Medical negligence, including causation, foreseeability, remoteness. Whether causation of injury should be analysed by reference to a breach of the duty owed.

8. **1998**
Wiszniewski v Central Manchester Health Authority (1998) Lloyds
Law Reports Medical 223 CA

Whether Doctor was negligent in failing to attend and examine patient, consider CTG trace before deciding what to do, or relying upon a midwife. Doctor’s failure to attend trial – whether this leads to an inference that if he had attended and examined the patient he would have ruptured membranes and proceeded to caesarean section and would have avoided cerebral palsy.

9. **1998**
Pickford v ICI plc (1998) 3All ER 462 HL

Employer’s liability – duty to take care. Employee developed symptoms of R.S.I allegedly caused by excessive typing. Judge failed to find condition organic in origin. Judge found employers not under duty to instruct employee to take rest breaks. Whether Court of Appeal entitled to reverse judge on burden of proof and findings of fact.



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10. **1996**
Stephens v Doncaster Health Authority (1996) Med. LR 357

Cerebral Palsy – Plaintiff suffering from quadriplegia and athetosis and in need of adult care for all his needs throughout life – issues as to appropriate multiplier damages and future care needs.

11. **1992**
Johnson c Coventry Churchill International Ltd (1992) 3AllER 14.

Conflict of laws – tort – actionability in England of wrong committed in West Germany. Whether English company employer at material time was in breach of duty to provide safe systems of work. Whether English law should be applied to issues between parties because of significant relationship with England.

12. **1989**
Robertson v Ridley (1989) 1. WLR 872 CA

Whether members of the committee of a private members' club owe duty of care to members of the club.

Professional Association Memberships

Northern Circuit Medico-Legal Association

Personal Injury Bar Association

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