



CEDR Accreditation: 2003

CEDR Panel 2022

Languages: English, French, basic
German

Location: London, United
Kingdom

“Incredibly experienced and detailed - a very impressive QC.”
“She has a sharp mind, but takes a very caring approach towards her clients.”

Client Feedback

Patricia Hitchcock KC

Overview

Patricia retired from civil practice after 33 years at the Bar on 6th September 2021, to focus on judicial and mediation work. She trained as a mediator with the Centre for Dispute Resolution (CEDR) in 2003 and continues to accept instructions to act as a mediator, with particular expertise in clinical negligence, mental health and catastrophic injury cases. She is in the process of joining the NHSLA Panel. Patricia also sits as a Recorder (part-time judge) in the Crown Court (crime).

Background

- After university, Patricia worked in book publishing for nine years before being called to the Bar in 1988. The change of career followed her election to lead the NUJ chapter at Hutchinson Books during a company takeover, during which period she discovered an aptitude for advocacy when called upon to support others.
- On qualifying, she trained at Devereux Chambers and then at Cloisters, where she was taken on as a tenant. Her career at the Bar began with a wide-ranging common law practice encompassing employment, discrimination, housing, personal injury and criminal injuries compensation, with a primary focus on criminal defence work.

- Patricia 'took silk' – was appointed Queen's Counsel – in 2011 and was appointed to the judiciary as a Recorder in 2017. She continues to sit part-time as a Recorder in the Crown Court.
- Patricia was an early adopter of mediation, qualifying with CEDR in 2003, and has maintained an interest in mediation throughout her career. She has often appeared as an advocate at mediations, and is now consolidating her existing experience as a lead mediator.
- Patricia is regularly invited to speak at and/or chair medico-legal conferences and co-authors the Claims of Utmost Severity division of Butterworths Personal Injury Litigation Service and wrote the Experts chapter in Lewis & Buchan: Clinical Negligence (Bloomsbury Professional).

Expertise

- Clinical Negligence
- Personal Injury
- Mental Health

Dispute Experience

- Clinical Negligence
- Personal Injury
- Criminal Injuries Compensation
- Employment
- Discrimination,
- Housing

Patricia developed a reputation in professional discipline - becoming Standing Counsel to the British Psychological Society - and clinical negligence, which took over as the centre of her long and successful career as a barrister.

For more than 20 years she represented seriously injured claimants in multi-million pound claims in the High Court, specialising in life-changing brain and spinal injuries, especially to children and adolescents, and delayed diagnosis of cancer. This work involved analysing large quantities of complex medical records and academic research papers, working with some of the leading medical experts in the country, and on occasion cross-examining those representing the defence.

She also represented many high-profile applicants for state compensation for unjust imprisonment, in addition to over 100 Crown Court trials, including many at the Central Criminal Court ('Old Bailey').

Feedback

Recommended as a leading practitioner in both clinical negligence and personal injury by Chambers & Partners UK and Legal 500 for many years.

Chambers & Partners 2021

- *"She has a sharp mind, but takes a very caring approach towards her clients."*
- *"Incredibly experienced and detailed - a very impressive QC."*
- *"Excellent both on her feet and on paper."*
- *"She is very good with clients and assured in court."*

Legal 500 2021

- *"Amongst the most forensic counsel who is willing to explore all avenues for the client."*
- *"Handles both complex liability and quantum matters."*

Chambers & Partners 2020

- *"She is extremely clever and unflappable in court. She is always very well prepared, insightful and an absolute joy to work with."*
- *"She is vastly knowledgeable, thorough and extremely astute."*
- *"She is a very strong barrister."*
- *"She's helpful and responsive."*

Legal 500 2020:

- *"Her attention to detail is exceptional and she provides pragmatic advice."*
- *"She is equally great in complex liability and quantum issues."*
- *"Thorough, authoritative, clear, approachable and good with clients."*

Chambers & Partners 2019:

(Personal Injury)

- *"Praised for her reassuring client manner and impressive command of high-end catastrophic injury cases. Her expertise in complex RTAs is lauded, as is her grasp of complex medical information. Her caseload often includes claims with a criminal element. She has noted expertise in cases involving issues of liability and quantum."*
- *"Her client care skills are fantastic."*
- *"She has a great knowledge of the law and is very thorough. She goes through things with a fine-tooth comb."*

(Clinical Negligence)

- *"Particularly admired for her work on catastrophic spinal and brain injury cases, she is known for her extensive knowledge of her subject. She is also sought after to provide representations at inquests and in fatal accident claims. She has a strong understanding of mental health issues."*
- *"The speed of her brain is impressive. She gets to the nub of a problem very quickly and she is very approachable."*

Chambers & Partners 2018:

(Clinical Negligence)

- *"Particularly admired for her work on catastrophic spinal and brain injury cases, she is known for her extensive knowledge of her subject. She is also sought after to provide representation at inquests and in fatal accident claims."*
- *"The master tactician. Her ability to dissect complex evidence and get to the heart of the issue quickly is one of her major strengths."*
- *"Extremely clever and a very steady hand. A pleasure to work with."*
- *"She has tremendous empathy and warmth. Clients really love her."*
- *"She has great attention to detail and is very up to date with legal developments. Really helpful and works well as part of a team."*

Legal 500 2017:

- *"She fights very hard to get the best outcome for her clients."*

Chambers & Partners 2017:

- *"She's just a fountain of all knowledge, and brilliant with clients"*
- *"She's empathetic and intuitive with clients, and she provides thorough advice quickly."*

Legal 500 2016:

- *"She is vastly experienced and provides logical and detailed advice."*

Chambers & Partners 2016:

- *"She's very good at brain-work, understands the issues and sticks to her guns. She's clear, good with clients, and down to earth"*
- *"She is one of the ground-breaking leaders in the quantum field. Excellent client manner."*

Chambers & Partners 2015:

- *"She has wide-ranging knowledge and gives very level-headed advice."*
- *"She is absolutely meticulous, very warm and very good with clients."*

Chambers & Partners 2014:

- *"Combines a rigorous approach and command of the detail with a fantastic client manner"*
- *"Adept handling of complex catastrophic and psychiatric injury claims and fatality claims."*

Other Information

Appointments and Memberships

- QC 2011
- Recorder 2017
- Council member of Justice
- Senior Associate of Royal Society of Medicine
- Reviewer for Advocate

Memberships:

- AvMA lawyers' and inquest groups Inquest
- Association of Personal Injury Lawyers
- Personal Injuries Bar Association
- MIND Legal Network
- Liberty
- Amnesty International

Publications and Training

- Butterworth's Personal Injury Litigation Service, Division VI: Limitation (with Lisa Sullivan, to 2014); Division XV: Claims of Utmost Severity (with Martyn McLeish, from 2014)
- Bloomsbury's Clinical Negligence Ed. Lewis & Buchan, (Experts chapter)
- Various articles on aspects of medical law – Publisher: Clinical Risk (AvMA Journal); Solicitors' Journal

Qualifications

- BA (Hons) English Language and Literature, Oxon 1978
- Dip Law, City University 1987

Languages:

- French
- German
- Some Spanish and Italian

She is married to sculptor Peter Brooke-Ball, has two children and two small but assertive granddaughters.

