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Patrick Limb KC

Year of Call: 1987
Year of Silk: 2006
Telephone: 0115 947 2581

Overview

Patrick specialises in all aspects of disease, personal injury and clinical negligence work.

With over 15 years in silk, he has substantial experience acting on behalf of Claimants and Defendants in claims of maximum severity, having a particular interest in brain and spinal injuries, as well as claims of intractable pain.

He was shortlisted at the Chambers and Partners UK Bar Awards for 2016 for "**Personal Injury / Clinical Negligence – Silk of the Year**". He was winner of "**Regional / Scottish Silk of the Year**" at the Legal 500 UK Bar Awards 2017.

With a successful track record in test litigation, group and multi-party actions, he has been named in Chambers & Partners' Spotlight Table nationally for disease practitioners since its inception.

His advisory and court work often involves challenging, novel issues (or safeguarding established orthodoxies). Such work has involved him in claims concerning complex damages awards and insurance coverage, both here and in other jurisdictions (Cayman Islands, Jersey, Gibraltar and Scotland).

He acts regularly and variously in cases engaging product liability, the police, regulatory bodies and sports law.

He is a highly experienced appellate advocate to Supreme Court level, having appeared in the final court on seven occasions.

Sure-footed on law and procedure, he provides strategic thinking, commercial nous and seeks to serve each client by leading as an effective team-player.

Away from the Bar, Patrick is Chair of the Nottingham UNESCO City of Literature Board and lists his interests as wildlife, trekking along and being half French.

Expertise

Disease

Patrick is a specialist disease practitioner with experience across the full spectrum of claims and is well known for his work in cases involving occupational cancers and related injuries. He has particular expertise in actionability of injury, causation and epidemiology, as well as the issues of insurance (and re-insurance) that are raised by occupational disease litigation.

He is a highly experienced appellate advocate both in the Court of Appeal and Supreme Court.

Group Litigation has included:

- Aerotoxicity Litigation against Virgin Atlantic and easyJet
- Claims against WRU for concussion in rugby and against WFA for concussion in football
- Claims against Cleveland Potash for deafness and vibration-induced injury
- Claims against Nottingham textile industry as regards deafness
- Claims against BT for deafness and osteoarthritis
- Claims against Coal Mining Contractors for exposure to coal dust and vibration
- Claims against T & N and Cape regarding shipyard workers exposure to asbestos.

Personal Injury

Patrick has thirty five years' experience of representing a very broad range of clients but now is primarily engaged in trauma cases of maximum severity – typically brain, neurologcial and spinal injury – and has a particular interest in claims arising from the sporting arena and animals (latterly cows and horses).

He has long experience of cases raising variously issues of capacity, care, complex pain or fraud.

He is well-regarded for psychiatric injury claims, starting with his junior work in the Hillsborough Disaster cases of Alcock and Frost. He has latterly also been instructed in child abuse group litigation, stress claims and cases with 'nooks and crannies' elements.

As well as being known as an excellent advocate, he is a realistic but tenacious negotiator in settlement meetings, helped by accreditation as a trained mediator and arbitrator.

Clinical Negligence

In silk, Patrick has acted for medical defence organisations and Claimants alike – his practice being more centred on the latter. He has particular experience in dealing with claims of cerebral palsy, eye injury and cauda equina.

He is disarming with opponents in negotiations, rigorous in analysis of experts' reports and personable with lay clients.

Patrick is a former President of the Nottinghamshire Medico-Legal Society (2015-2017).

He also provided representation on behalf of healthcare registrants before their disciplinary bodies.

Inquests

Patrick has a long-standing record of acting in coronial enquiries, particularly for organisations, corporate and non-corporate, latterly the Police and prisoner-handlers. He also accepts instructions on behalf of family in the context of cases likely to advance to clinical negligence claims.

Sports

Patrick has been instructed in cases that raise a gamut of issues around sport and the obligations of those taken to be administering sporting events:

- Safety at stadium events
- The nature and extent of obligations owed by supporting bodies, such as the FA, rugby unions and English Boxing
- Motor-sport claims.

Appointments

- Bar of Gilbraltar (2010)
- Accredited mediator
- PICarbs arbitrator
- President of the Nottinghamshire Medico-Legal Society
- Past president of the Nottinghamshire Medico-Legal Society

Professional Memberships

- Personal Injuries Bar Association
- Professional Negligence Bar Association
- British Association for Sport and Law
- Health & Safety Lawyers Association
- Nottinghamshire Medico-Legal Society
- Action Against Medical Accidents

Qualifications

- MA (Cantab) Law, Pembroke College, Cambridge

Notable Cases

Chell v Tarmac **[2022] EWCA Civ 7:** Vicarious liability for horseplay at work.

Mackenzie v Alcoa **[2019] EWCA Civ 2110*:*** Limits of drawing adverse inferences in absence of noise surveys.

Goldscheider v The Opera House Covent Garden [2019] EWCA Civ 771: Landmark 'acoustic shock' ruling.

Hayward v Zurich Insurance [2017] AC 142: Deceit; fraudulent misrepresentation; personal injury; setting aside; settlement.

Crawley v Barnsley MBC [2017] 1 WLR 2329: Failure to maintain; highway authorities' powers and duties.

IEGL v Zurich Insurance [2016] AC 509: Apportionment; asbestos; compensation; contributions; defence costs; employers' liability; employers' liability insurance; Guernsey; insurance policies.

Platt v BRB [2015] PIQR P7: Constructive knowledge; date of knowledge; hearing impairment; limitation periods.

Blythe v Ministry of Defence [2013] WLR (D) 457: Historic provisional damages orders on asbestos claims.

Willock v Corus [2013] PIQR P21: Ergonomics; personal injury; plant and machinery.

Harrison v Jagged Globe (Alpine) Limited [2012] EWCA 835: Vicarious liability; adventure sports.

Baker v Quantum Clothing Group [2011] UKSC 17; [2011] 1 WLR 1003: Employers' liability; codes of practice; meaning of 'safe'.

Wilkinson v York City Council [2011] EWCA Civ 207: Highway authorities' powers and duties.

Smith v Northamptonshire County Council [2009] UKHL: 27; [2009] ICR 734: Work equipment; statutory interpretation.

Recommendations

"Patrick is really hard-working and has incredible attention to detail. He is good on his feet, very reflective and thoughtful."

- Chambers UK 2026

"He has very strong intellect and is a master of detail. Patrick is always calm and measured in his approach."

- Chambers UK 2026

"Patrick is an extraordinary KC with remarkable ability to recall the most intricate details of a case. He is meticulous, persuasive and doesn't shy away from the most challenging cases."

- Chambers UK 2026

"Patrick has a brain the size of the planet and is very sensible, which is what you need if you have been in the game a long time. He always calls cases right."

- Chambers UK 2026

"Patrick is an intellectual giant. He is excellent at what he does and is a pleasure to work with."

- Chambers UK 2026

"He is an excellent silk in disease work and is approachable and assured in his manner. He communicates well at all levels and is an excellent advocate."

- Chambers UK 2026

"Patrick Limb KC has a true depth of experience and is an excellent advocate. He has a keen and useful ability to get quickly to the point and to identify and analyse the key issues."

- Chambers UK 2026

"He is extremely bright, sensible and commercial."

- Chambers UK 2026

"Patrick is very well respected. He has great attention to detail and an immediate grasp of complex areas."

- The Legal 500 2026

"He is a very effective advocate who is very personable."

- Chambers UK 2025

"Patrick is an absolutely brilliant KC. He is sharp, attentive, personable, strategic and achieves superb results."

- Chambers UK 2025

"He is intellectual and excellent at what he does. Calm and collected, he doesn't settle unnecessarily and doesn't fight unnecessarily."

- Chambers UK 2025

"Patrick is a top-drawer disease specialist. He is super experienced, knowledgeable and a brilliant advocate. He's well respected by the Bench."

- Chambers UK 2025

"An excellent barrister who is client-friendly in difficult circumstances."

- Chambers UK 2025

"My first-choice silk for disease cases. He is always the brightest man in the room. He is collegiate, calm and collected, and he doesn't settle or fight unnecessarily."

- Chambers UK 2025

"Patrick is an absolutely brilliant KC. He is sharp, attentive, personable, strategic and achieves superb results."

- Chambers UK 2025

"Patrick is a skilful negotiator and tactician. He never loses sight of the end goal and has great clarity of thought and vision."

- Chambers UK 2025

"Patrick is an excellent and versatile personal injury silk. He is a go-to silk for complex occupational disease litigation, particularly asbestos-related disease, but he also undertakes brain injury cases. He is formidably bright but also very humble and safe effacing. His advocacy style is meticulous and thorough."

- The Legal 500 2025

"Patrick is technically brilliant, always well prepared and a very effective advocate. His drafting is excellent and he has an easy-going manner in conference which puts clients and witnesses at ease whilst demonstrating his grasp of issues and offering sound strategic and commercial advice."

- The Legal 500 2024

"Patrick is an excellent advocate and is a realistic but tenacious negotiator in settlement meetings. Has genuine empathy for the client."

- Chambers and Partners 2023

"'Patrick is a calm, measured, immensely intelligent, and articulate barrister who puts clients and instructing solicitors at ease. Explanations are given in a straightforward and understandable way. His ability to think on his feet in court room

settings is second to none.'"

- The Legal 500 2023

"'He is enormously experienced and unflappable in court. He gives off an aura of unshakeable confidence and clients love him. He's very pragmatic and very effective. Very approachable and excellent with clients. He is very concise and measured in the way he puts points across, and has an immense range of detailed knowledge.'"

- Chambers and Partners 2022

"Patrick is an excellent advocate and is a realistic but tenacious negotiator in settlement meetings. Has genuine empathy for the client."

- The Legal 500 2022

"He is very experienced and a good cross-examiner. He's very nice and polite – a smiling assassin."

"A market-leading barrister in asbestos litigation."

"A very good, clever barrister."

- Chambers and Partners 2022

"His sharp analytical brain and strong performance in court make him a heavyweight in the disease arena."

- The Legal 500 2021

"He's very incisive, incredibly well organised, clear in what he wants to achieve at any meeting you have with him and has an extremely pleasant manner. On his feet he's very, very thorough and very meticulous. A very good advocate. He's diligent, thorough and gets good results."

- Chambers and Partners 2020

"Sees the bigger picture and is great with clients."

- The Legal 500 2020

"Highly regarded personal injury silk with vast experience in disease claims. He has particular expertise in matters involving occupational cancer and is praised by solicitors for his straightforward approach to issues. He is the pre-eminent silk for disease-related injury issues in the country. He has an unrivalled reputation for diseases and regulatory work. Patrick adopts a hands-on, no-fuss, collaborative approach with his instructing solicitors, providing support and guidance throughout with the sole aim of getting the very best outcome for the client."

- Chambers and Partners 2019

"'He has phenomenal attention to detail.'"

- The Legal 500 2019

"He is a specialist personal injury silk with impeccable standards and he delivers a no-nonsense approach. His manner is very user-friendly, and he gets to the point very clearly and in a way that is easily understood."

- Chambers and Partners 2018

"He always goes the extra mile."

- The Legal 500 2018

"He's very bright, very sharp and a safe pair of hands." "He has an amazing memory for detail, and he's very kind to the clients – he puts them at ease while still being straight with them."

- Chambers and Partners 2017

"In court he really sticks to his guns and ensures the client's case is fully heard."

- The Legal 500 2016

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