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Richard Mumford

Call: 2004

Richard is a specialist healthcare and personal injury barrister, providing timely and focused advocacy and advice to injured individuals and to clinical practitioners and organisations, amongst others. Richard's healthcare work is focused on claims relating to medical accidents of all descriptions but also encompasses regulatory proceedings and contractual claims relating to the provision of healthcare and related services.

In addition, Richard regularly deals with personal injury claims ranging from serious road traffic injury and industrial injuries to physical and sexual abuse. Richard also advises and represents clients in relation to costs arising from litigation.

Listen to Richard discuss five key medical law updates on our podcast, Law Pod UK, here.

"Impressive advocate with superb cross examination skills and ability to think well on his feet."

Legal 500 2025

"Richard is a strong advocate with great attention to detail."

Legal 500 2024

"He is a very bright, go-to senior junior for difficult cases."

Chambers & Partners 2024

"Richard's advice is always clearly articulated and timely, cutting through the extraneous or immaterial points to focus on the critical issues."

Chambers & Partners 2025

Clinical Negligence

Richard acts for both claimants and defendants across the full range of medically-related injury, up to and including very high value birth injury cases and paraplegia. He frequently acts in claims valued in the region of £2.5m to £5m and regularly appears against silks, both during negotiations and at trial.

Richard is recognised as a 'Leading Junior' for clinical negligence by both Chambers & Partners and the Legal 500. Recent editorial includes:

- *"He is very calm, he has a very pleasing manner, and he is a tough negotiator."* Chambers & Partners 2026
- *"Richard provides clear and well-considered advice on a range of matters. Richard is a trusted pair of hands who guides us in the right directions."* Chambers & Partners 2026
- *"His advocacy skills really stood out to me; he is incredibly technical, very commercial about the client's interest and confident in his knowledge."* Chambers & Partners 2026
- *"He is sensible, pragmatic and approachable, and always provides a prompt and helpful service."* Chambers & Partners 2026
- *"Richard's advice is always clearly articulated and timely, cutting through the extraneous or immaterial points to focus on the critical issues."* Chambers & Partners 2025
- *"Impressive advocate with superb cross examination skills and ability to think well on his feet."* Legal 500 2025
- *"Richard has a calm, measured and affable approach to claims."* Chambers & Partners 2025

Selected Cases

- **Parsons v Isle of Wight NHS Trust [2023] EWHC 3115 (KB)**, Ritchie J, 5 December 2023. Consent to thoracic epidural in context of bowel resection for cancer. *"Under skilful cross examination by Mr Mumford the contradictions in the Claimant's evidence were revealed"* (per Ritchie J, para 93)
- **Duce v Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust [2018] EWCA Civ 1307.** Consent to hysterectomy and risk of post-operative pain; appeal underscored need for factual causation in consent cases. Described in *McCulloch v Forth Valley Health Board* [2023] UKSC 26 as *"The most important case on a doctor's duty of care to inform since Montgomery"* (per Lord Hamblen, para 50)
- **AB v Royal Devon & Exeter NHS Foundation Trust [2016] EWHC 1024 (QB), Irwin J, 4 May 2016** Paraplegia following delayed diagnosis of spinal abscess. Application of defence of illegality in response to claim for additional care by reason of substance abuse. Consideration of recoverability of personal injury trust costs in claimant with capacity.
- **Hussain v King Edward VII Hospital [2012] EWHC 3441 (QB), Eady J (30 November 2012)** and **[2013] EWCA Civ 1863**, Court of Appeal (12 December 2013). Allegation of shoulder injury as result of mishandling (dismissed). Appeal considered application to admit fresh evidence which could/should have been obtained before trial.
- **Romy Smith (by her Mother and Litigation friend Sally Smith) v East and North Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust [2008] EWHC 2234 (QB)** High value birth injury quantum case in ambulant minor with complex care needs.

Personal Injury

Richard's work covers the full range of physical and psychiatric injury arising from e.g. work or sporting activity as well as deliberate physical and sexual abuse. He has a particular interest in Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA) cases, having acted in high value matters including obtaining in excess of £3.5m for a young adult severely brain damaged as a result of shaking as a baby and more than £3m in compensation for a victim of childhood sexual abuse. Richard also obtained two maximum tariff awards in relation to siblings who had suffered physical and sexual abuse whilst in foster care.

Richard has been instructed in relation to the administration of compensation schemes for victims of physical and sexual abuse, including in the context of local authority care.

He was instructed as part of a team of counsel acting on behalf of the Ministry of Defence in the Group Litigation arising out of the series of British nuclear tests carried out in Australia and the South Pacific in the 1950s, leading to a landmark decision of the Supreme Court on the defence of limitation in personal injury claims: *Ministry of Defence v AB and others* [2012] UKSC 9.

Professional Discipline & Regulation

Richard's regulatory practice is focused primarily on medical practitioners and associated professionals. He is particularly skilled at dealing with the logistical challenges posed by cases involving multiple counts, having successfully defended an Occupational Therapist in the Health Professions Council on 94 charges relating to conduct and competence as well as an optometrist before the General Optical Council on 87 counts of misconduct and deficient professional performance.

He also has experience of defending in the General Medical Council, the General Dental Council and the Nursing and Midwifery Council on multiple counts involving dishonesty.

Richard has appeared on Registration Appeals before both the General Medical Council and General Dental Council, concerning issues of mutual recognition of qualifications under EU law.

Inquests

Richard has substantial experience of coronial law, having acted on behalf of family members and other interested persons at numerous inquests. Richard also sits as an Assistant Coroner. His work as an advocate over the last 20 years has included:

- 80+ inquests involving examination of clinical treatment and decisions
- Infant death following delivery at the Princess Royal Hospital, Telford (one of several perinatal deaths at

Shrewsbury and Telford NHS Trust which led to the Ockenden Report on maternity services at the Trust)
- Several inquests (both jury and non-jury) involving psychiatric detention
- Prison and custody deaths

Richard is the author of four chapters of 'The Inquest Book' (eds. Cross and Garnham), a leading practitioner resource in this field.

Healthcare and Court of Protection

Richard frequently acts in a range of health and healthcare-related matters, such as:

- Representing a counsellor as an interested party to Crown Court proceedings involving questions of data protection and patient confidentiality.
- Appearing on behalf of a healthcare practitioner as an intervener to care proceedings under the Children Act 1989.
- Advising one of the major Medical Defence Organisations on policy issues of patient confidentiality during regulatory inspection.
- Advising and providing representation in relation to challenges to contractual terms imposed on GPs and dentists and termination of GMS/GDS contracts.
- Representing two (of fifteen) respondents in a £4.45m employment tribunal claim brought by a former hospital consultant involving allegations of aiding sex and race discrimination.

Costs

Richard regularly advises and represents clients on matters in relation to costs incurred in litigation, particularly in relation to personal injury and clinical negligence matters of which he has wide experience, as detailed above. Richard frequently appears before King's Bench Masters in relation to costs budgeting, as well as advising and providing representation in relation to detailed assessments of costs.

Appointments

- Assistant Coroner (Hertfordshire), 2024
- Deputy Chair, Appeal Panel England Infected Blood Support Scheme (EIBSS), 2024
- Panel Member, Lambeth Children's Homes Redress Scheme, 2020-2024

Awards

- Lord Denning Scholar & Sunley Scholar, Lincoln's Inn.
- Foundation Scholar & Ziegler Prize for Law, Pembroke College, Cambridge.

Memberships

- ARDL
- HRLA
- PNBA
- PIBA

Publications

- Co-author of the annually-updated chapter on Clinical Practitioners in the loose-leaf and online publication “Professional Negligence and Liability.”
- Author of four chapters in “The Inquest Book” Hart Publishing 2016
- Law Pod UK Ep.202: The Coroner’s Court in 2024
- Contributor to the 1COR Quarterly Medical Law Review (QMLR)