

## William Edis QC

Call: 1985 QC: 2008



Recognised as a leading Silk in his field, William Edis QC has a wide practice covering healthcare law, clinical negligence, disciplinary and regulatory inquiries, inquests, employment, healthcare-related public law and personal injury. He regularly acts in cases of the highest value, importance and complexity. He has appeared before the Supreme Court, the House of Lords, the Court of Appeal and all courts and tribunals relevant to his practice areas.

He has acted as a mediator.

*"He is extremely effective. He takes on the most serious cases that we have to deal with. He is intellectually amazing, a fantastic cross-examiner and someone with an excellent manner."*

**Chambers & Partners 2022**

*"He takes a robust but pragmatic approach to cases. He is also a very skilled and persuasive advocate."*

**Legal 500 2022**

*"A superb negotiator." "He is calm and measured at all times."*

**Chambers & Partners 2022**

## Clinical Negligence

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William has specialised in clinical negligence for over 25 years. He represents both claimants and defendants and has great experience in all types of clinical negligence actions including cases against hospitals, general practitioners and associated healthcare professionals. He is acknowledged as having an excellent grasp of medical issues.

He has appeared in clinical negligence cases in the High Court, the Court of Appeal and the House of Lords (*Gregg v Scott*).

In PQR William negotiated a settlement for a brain-damaged claimant where the causation case was complicated by the unrelated presence of Septo-optic dysplasia and a chromosomal defect.

William has been involved in recent cases involving allegations of negligence within many fields, including:

- Genetic counselling and evaluation
- Fetal anomaly scanning
- Obstetric and neonatal medicine
- A missed ectopic pregnancy causing a rare neurological syndrome
- Missed meningitis
- Inadequate treatment of infections
- Serious spinal injuries
- Delayed primary care referral for cancer
- Missed septic arthritis
- Delayed treatment of a cardiac arrest
- Negligent amputations
- Alleged negligence in a laryngectomy for laryngeal cancer causing total paralysis of the tongue
- Quantum only dispute arising out of obstetric negligence where the claimant would in any event have been adversely affected by a genetic condition (Noonan's NF Syndrome)

William also has an interest in medical product liability claims, having acted in several group actions (including the Oral Contraceptive Pill, MMR and Depuy Hylamer prosthetic implants cases) and has advised in relation to various medical and surgical products, including the use of transvaginal mesh.

## Selected Cases

- **Coe v [2018]:** Whether the occurrence a complication that was nowhere recognised in the extensive available literature as being liable to occur even without negligence was a sufficient event to prove negligence.
- **Moore v Plymouth (2016):** William successfully defended a Trust against an allegation of femoral nerve damage during minimally-invasive knee replacement surgery.
- **Hall v Thomas and Everton Football Club [2014]:** allegedly negligent treatment of a professional footballer ending a career in football.
- **Dhillon v MUMS (2014):** He successfully represented the defendant in a case concerning an allegedly negligent fetal anomaly scan.
- **Gregg v Scott: [2005] AC 176 (HL):** acted for the defendant at first instance, in the Court of Appeal and House of Lords. Leading case on loss of a chance damages.

## Professional Discipline & Regulation

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William Edis QC has extensive experience in acting before professional disciplinary tribunals, most commonly

those of the General Medical Council, the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons and the General Dental Council. He has acted in cases of clinical incompetence, behavioural misconduct, sexual misconduct, fraud (including research fraud), behavioural misconduct and general issues of dishonesty. He has particular experience in performance and competence issues.

Recently, he has successfully helped a doctor be restored following administrative erasure even though complaints had been made during the period of non-registration, assisted veterinary surgeons in various disciplinary inquiries and represented Dr Michalak in her successful trip to the Supreme Court in relation to the jurisdiction of the Employment Tribunal where a registrant wishes to allege discriminatory treatment by a regulator that is unlawful under the Equality Act 2010.

He is the Chair of the Disciplinary Appeals Tribunal of the Institute and Faculty of Actuaries.

## Selected Cases

- **Michalak v General Medical Council & others [2017] UKSC 71**: forum for complaints of unlawful discrimination within regulatory proceedings.
- **Lovett v HCPC [2018] EWHC (Admin) 1024**
- **Muscat v HCP [2009] EWCA Civ 1090**: fresh evidence on appeal where that appeal takes the form of a rehearing.
- **Chakrabarty v Ipswich Hospitals NHS Trust and NCAS [2014] EWHC 2735 (QB)**: parallel proceedings before the MPTS and under MHPS
- **R (ota Michalak) v GMC [2011] EWHC 2307 (Admin)**: Consequences of a GMC panel becoming inquorate mid-hearing.

## Appointments

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- Recorder (2004 – present)
- Chair of the Disciplinary Appeal Tribunal of the Institute of Actuaries
- Former Deputy Chair of the National Health Service Tribunal

## Education

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- MA (Oxon)
- Dip Law, City University

## Memberships

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- ARDL
- LCCBA
- PIBA
- PNBA

## Publications

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- Contributor to the 1COR Quarterly Medical Law Review (QMLR)
- Chapter on settlement of personal injury claims involving protected parties in *The Law and Practice of Compromise* by Sir David Foskett (Sweet & Maxwell) 2019.
- Frequently invited as a speaker on various topics relating to his specialist areas.