Stuart McKechnie KC

Call: 1997 | Silk: 2018

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Stuart McKechnie KC is one of the leading catastrophic injury practitioners in the country and widely known for his speciality in maximising the value of claims.

In the legal directories over the last 2 years, he has been described as "the leading quantum PI silk in the country", "the king of quantum", "simply brilliant" and "absolutely at the top of the tree when it comes to very high value complex cases"

He works for many of the leading personal injury and clinical negligence solicitor firms in the country and all of his practice is in the High Court. He is a past winner of 'Personal Injury/Clinical Negligence Junior of the Year' at the Chambers & Partners Bar Awards and Personal Injury Barrister of the Year at the Personal Injury Awards. In 2025 Stuart was 1 of 3 KCs shortlisted for Personal Injury Silk of the Year at the 2025 Chambers Bar Awards.

Stuart is currently instructed on claims with a combined (conservative) valuation of over £170,000,000. In JDF (a Child) v Hampshire County Council, he settled what at the time was the highest Personal Injury award ever made/approved by a Court in the UK, the equivalent of £28 million capitalised. This case was covered across the national media. More recently, in IXM v Norfolk & Norwich University Hospitals NHS Trust he settled a long running birth brain injury claim for the capital equivalent of £33.2 million. This is believed to be one of the top 3 highest ever awards in a clinical negligence claim. In addition to his high value brain and spinal injury work, Stuart has a speciality in amputation claims (upper and lower limb) and is well known for maximising the value of these cases.

Stuart is one of only three Barrister members of the working party responsible for the Judicial College Guidelines for the Assessment of General Damages in Personal Injury Cases. He is the General Editor of the APIL Guide To Catastrophic Injury Claims (being the definitive practitioner guide to running high-value personal injury and clinical negligence actions).

Stuart is also a co-founder of Pathway Expert Chambers Limited, a medico-legal expert witness chambers specifically incorporated in 2025 to increase the number of available expert witnesses and reduce waiting times for all parties.

News Links

Stuart McKechnie KC was instructed in this amputation case by Nichola Fosler, of Stewarts. This video tells the story of Gary's compensation claim following his accident.

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Fighting for – and securing – a client's life-changing care

Areas of Expertise

Personal Injury

Stuart has extensive experience across the full spectrum of catastrophic injury claims, including severe traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injury, brachial plexus injury, amputations and poly-trauma. He acts only for Claimants. Stuart regularly appears in the High Court and spends much of his time in conference with experts, drafting complex Schedules of Loss and representing Claimants at Joint Settlement Meetings. His role as General Editor of the APIL Guide To Catastrophic Injury Claims places him at the forefront of work within this field, meaning he is frequently instructed on the very highest value cases.

Stuart is also a co-founder of Pathway Expert Chambers Limited, a medico-legal expert witness chambers specifically incorporated in 2025 to increase the number of available expert witnesses and reduce waiting times for all parties.

Notable Personal Injury cases

XB v. GB [2025]

£14 million lump sum settlement for a 28-year-old T1 complete paraplegic, with additional right sided upper limb weakness as a result of a post-traumatic syrinx. Allegations of contributory negligence made against the Claimant and accounted for in the settlement achieved. The Claimant's preference was for a lump sum settlement for all heads of claim.

CML v Rai [2024]

Unique case where the Claimant suffered devastating arm injuries and underwent trans-humeral amputation and osseo-integration (with TMR) to allow for the use of a combined bionic elbow and wrist / hand. The outcome was exceptional, with the Claimant being able to use her bionic prosthetics to carry out many activities of daily living and pre-accident hobbies. The case settled at a JSM for a sum equivalent to over £6 million gross on a full liability basis.

TR v MIB [2023]

8 figure settlement (including contributory negligence) for 19-year-old man rendered paraplegic in RTA. The case proceeded over several years with expert evidence in 13 different disciplines obtained. Stuart was integral to setting the case strategy and marshalling the expert evidence. The case settled at a JSM in November 2023 for a sum that, gross of contributory negligence, is thought to be a record for an adult male paraplegic. This settlement was £4 million higher than a written offer made by the Defendant 12 months earlier.

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XY v OX [2023]

Settlement on behalf of adult claimant rendered paraplegic in Northern Ireland. Stuart was chosen as leading counsel and was called to the Bar of Northern Ireland in order to act on this case over a period of several years. The case eventually settled at mediation shortly before a 3 week trial in Belfast. The outcome is subject to a strict confidentiality clause requested by the Defendant's legal team / insurer.

CXR v Haven (2022)

£3.8 million lump sum plus PPO £220,000 for 38 year old man who sustained catastrophic brain injuries in a RTA. Case settled several weeks after a JSM where the Defendant had made lump sum only offers. Post JSM the Defendant made further increased lump sum only offers to try to buy off the PPO including a £13.6 million global offer. These offers were all rejected and a combined lump sum and PPO settlement was subsequently agreed and approved.

JXE v KXA (2022)

Settlement of £9.75 million net of contributory negligence (agreed at 20%), interim payments and CRU without any Peters Promise re ongoing CCG funding of £163,000 pa. Case involved 32 year old man who suffered catastrophic brain damage in RTA. The parties worked collaboratively from the outset, with the Defendant paying professional care costs with a reverse indemnity in place for social care funding. Following transition to CCG funding, a lump sum settlement was agreed equivalent to £13.275 million gross but with the Claimant entitled to keep future CCG funding, which would potentially add another £6.5 million across his predicted lifetime.

B v. M (2021)

£6.35 million settlement (including costs) for 36-year-old above knee amputee who was run over in a RTA. One of the highest known settlements for an above knee amputee.

W v. X (2021)

£7.2 million settlement for father of 2 who sustained severe orthopaedic injuries (lower and upper limb) in a RTA. One of the highest known settlements for poly-trauma without amputation or spinal cord injury.

XYZ & XYL (2020-ongoing)

A unique case involving 2 young sisters (both children) rendered paraplegic in a road traffic accident. Combined, this will be one of the largest ever PI claims.

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JWF [A Protected Party] v YWC (2018)

Lump sum settlement of £1,850,000 plus PPOs for care, case management and therapeutic needs for retired GP who suffered a severe traumatic brain injury and multiple orthopaedic injuries in RTA. Settlement approved at High Court.

XXP v. Metodiev (2018)

£10,000,000 lump sum settlement for catastrophically brain damaged student. 95:5% split liability. Lump sum settlement required because there was no reasonable security for a PPO. Settlement approved at High Court.

M v X (2017)

£9 million settlement for motorcyclist who sustained severe traumatic brain injury (TBI) and spinal cord injury (ASIA grade C, at level T6), with secondary complications arising from post-traumatic syrinx. Significantly limited life expectancy.

Peters v. MOD (2017)

Claim against MOD on behalf of a civilian forensic scientist who was badly injured in an explosion whilst working in a MOD laboratory in Kandahar, Afghanistan in 2011. Case covered across national media. Details of settlement confidential.

JDF v Hampshire County Council (2017)

Claim on behalf of catastrophically brain damaged child injured in a RTA. Thought to be the highest ever RTA personal injury damages award made or approved by a Court, with a lump sum of £9,113,074 combined with PPO's for care and case management. The settlement had a capitalised equivalent value of £28 million. Stuart conducted the vast majority of the case as junior counsel without a leader but was led at the JSM by Frank Burton QC in his last case at the Bar before retirement.

Clinical Negligence & Healthcare

Notable Clinical Negligence & Healthcare cases

JXN v. Barts Health NHS Trust [2024]

Hypoxic brain damage at birth leading to mild Cerebral Palsy and global developmental delay. The case was complicated by the fact that the Claimant, who was 14 years of age at settlement, came from a Traveller family and had lived on a Traveller's site for his entire life. This gave rise to unique cultural and social considerations that went to the heart of valuing quantum and required a different approach to the provision of care and accommodation.

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After a failed JSM in March 2024, the case was settled shortly before a 10-day trial in April 2024 for a lump sum of £5,000,000 plus a PPO of £140,000 for Care & Case Management across the Claimant's lifetime (the Defendant having made an increased offer to settle). This settlement was approved at the High Court, with the Claimant's legal team praised for the sensitive way they had dealt with the complex cultural issues in the case.

Stuart led James Aldridge at Outer Temple Chambers.

NXA (A child) v Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust [2023]

A unique and highly complex case involving a child born with congenital toxoplasmosis (through no breach of duty) who went on to suffer from a hypoxic brain injury caused by prolonged hydrocephalus and raised intracranial pressure that was not identified and acted upon as a medical emergency at 10 months of age. Breach of duty was admitted but causation was in dispute, with the Defendant accepting causation of mild Cerebral Palsy but asserting that epilepsy, cognitive and behavioural difficulties and ophthalmic problems are all related to the underlying congenital condition. At a JSM in February 2023, the parties settled causation on the basis that the Claimant would recover 85% of the value of his claim. The case now proceeds on quantum.

IXM v Norfolk & Norwich University Hospitals NHS Trust (2022)

11.8 million lump sum plus PPOs of £315,000 rising to £345,000 across the Claimant's lifetime. Capitalised value of just under £33.2 million. This case was viewed by all of the experts involved as uniquely complex, with the Claimant's hugely experienced neuropsychological expert commenting "I do not recall such a challenging birth injury case in my clinical and legal work over 35 years". The settlement was approved at the High Court on 28th February 2022 where Mr Justice Ritchie commended the work done to achieve this outcome. Stuart led Helen Pooley in chambers. This is believed to be one of the top 3 highest ever awards in a clinical negligence claim.

ABC v Epsom & St Helier Hospital NHS Trust (2019)

£3.7 million lump sum plus PPOs (£42,500-£128,000) for 19 year old young lady who suffered a period of severe asphyxiation at birth causing hypoxic brain injury and the development of a mild form of dystonic cerebral palsy. Settlement approved at High Court.

EXP v Barker (2019)

Multi-million pound settlement for member of the judiciary who suffered a catastrophic aneurysm bleed requiring lifesaving surgery and resulting in devastating neurological and neuropsychiatric injuries. Stuart dealt with the quantum of the claim in silk having previously been led (as a junior) by Grahame Aldous QC at the successful trial on liability [2015] EWHC 1289 (QB) and the Defendant's unsuccessful appeal to the Court of Appeal [2017] EWCA Civ 63. This case is now a leading authority on the duties of expert witnesses and conflict of interest.

Powell v North Bristol NHS Trust (2015)

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Successful 5 day clinical negligence trial on behalf of Claimant. The Defendant's case was reliant on the expert evidence of a world renowned shoulder expert. Following detailed cross examination by Stuart at trial, the judge (HHJ Denyer QC) rejected this evidence as flawed and illogical.

T v Walsall Hospital NHS Trust (2015)

Catastrophic clinical negligence claim arising from negligent treatment of 7 year old boy at Walsall Manor Hospital leading to severe cerebral ischaemia. The Claimant lived with his family in the Channel Islands and the case therefore involved complex quantum issues involving care, loss of earnings, curatorship and indexation. The claim settled almost 9 years post incident for a combined lump sum and PPO package worth over £11.5 million. Stuart was led by John Foy QC.

Appointments

- Member of PIBA Exec Committee
- Member of 5-person working party responsible for the Judicial College Guidelines for the Assessment of General Damages in Personal Injury Cases.

Education

- Hewett Comprehensive School, Norwich
- LLB Law, Nottingham University
- Inns of Court School of Law

Memberships

- Personal Injury Bar Association (PIBA)
- Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL)

Notable Cases

- IXM v Norfolk & Norwich University Hospitals NHS Trust (2022): £11.8 million lump sum plus PPOs of £315,000 rising to £345,000 across the Claimant's lifetime. Capitalised value of just under £33.2 million. This case was viewed by all of the experts involved as uniquely complex.

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Awards

- Inner Temple Scholarship & Bursary
- Chambers Bar Awards 'Personal Injury & Clinical Negligence Junior of the Year 2017'
- Personal Injury Awards 'Barrister of the Year' 2011

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