



**RICHARD PRICE OBE, QC**  
**Commercial Litigator, Mediator and Arbitrator**  
**020 7797 8600 Fax 020 7797 8699**

Richard was called to the Bar in 1969, and appointed Queen's Counsel in 1996. He has over 30 years' experience as an advocate in commercial litigation, and specialises in:

- Business law
- Entertainment and media law
- Intellectual property
- Defamation
- Professional negligence
- Clinical negligence
- Election and public law
- Unincorporated associations

In his approach to litigation, he has been described by *"The Lawyer"* as *"a tenacious character, a steamroller in his arguments, and very, very practical"*.

Over the years he has developed excellent professional relationships with many of the UK's top solicitors and their clients, with whom he relates easily and well. With 30 years in law, there is very little that surprises him and yet he sees each new case as a challenge, particularly with the pace and complexity of change in law and commerce.

Richard approaches every case with energy, enthusiasm and determination, coupled with common sense and commercial reality. His aim is to achieve the cost-effective resolution of commercial disputes, whether through litigation, mediation or arbitration. Richard is pleased to meet prospective clients with no obligation and at no cost, as he believes it is important to ensure that the "fit" is right for both parties before a case is commenced.

He is a CEDR accredited mediator. As a mediator, he is friendly and effective. His approach can be facilitative or evaluative, depending on the wishes of the parties. His mediation services are available through Park Court Chambers, Leeds, and Littleton Dispute Resolution Services Ltd., in London. He is a member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators.

Richard was born and brought up in Yorkshire, and has a base in the Peak District of Derbyshire. His home and practice have been based in London and the South-East for 30 years. However, he also works in Leeds, Sheffield, Manchester, Birmingham and Bristol, and is happy to travel to meet solicitors and their clients.

He has chaired public conferences, and given informative, lively and stimulating lectures and seminars, on entertainment, copyright, election and business law.

He is a Bencher of Gray's Inn, Vice-Chairman of the Professional Conduct and Complaints Committee of the Bar Council, and Editor of Parker's Law and Conduct of Elections.

**Qualifications and affiliations**

LL.B. (Hons) – King’s College London (1969)  
Called to the Bar – Gray’s Inn (1969)  
Appointed Queen’s Counsel – 1996  
CEDR accredited mediator – 1997

Member of the South-Eastern Circuit, COMBAR, London Common Law and Commercial Bar Association, Professional Negligence Bar Association, Member of the Association of Northern Mediators, Member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, Member of the LCIA

**Professional posts**

2002            Master of the Bench of Gray’s Inn  
2002 -        Vice-Chairman of the Professional Conduct and Complaints Committee  
                  of the Bar Council  
1998-2002    Member of the Bar Council  
1999-2002    Member of the BarDirect Committee of the Bar Council  
1998-2002    Chairman of the Gray’s Inn Barristers Committee  
1998-2002    Member of the Gray’s Inn Management Committee

**Contact details**

**Leeds Chambers**

Park Court Chambers, 16 Park Place, Leeds, LS1 2SJ  
(Senior Clerk – Terry Creathorn)

Tel:            0113-243-3277  
Fax:            0113-242-1285  
DX:            26401 Leeds Park Square  
e-mail:        clerks@parkcourtchambers.co.uk  
                  rmp@priceqc.co.uk  
Mobile:        07771-558402

**London Chambers**

Littleton Chambers, 3, King’s Bench Walk North, Temple, London EC4Y 7HR  
(Chief Executive – David Douglas)  
Tel:    0207-797-8600  
Littleton Dispute Resolution Services Ltd. – same address

## **Areas of specialisation and experience**

### **Mediation, arbitration and other forms of ADR**

Richard brings to all forms of ADR over 30 years' experience in litigating commercial and other disputes. His commercially realistic and friendly, yet firm, approach to ADR has helped him to achieve considerable success in this field. His CEDR training fitted him well to become an active mediator with Park Court Chambers and Littleton Dispute Resolution Services.

He is also a member of the Intermediation panel of approved mediators, and a member of the Association of Northern Mediators, and has acted as a trainer mediator for the Bar Council ADR Sub-Committee in two all-day training seminars. He has lectured on mediation to solicitors in England and to lawyers in Europe. He has recently lectured on mediation to Hungarian lawyers in Budapest, at an all-day seminar sponsored by the British Embassy.

He has frequently sat as a Court-appointed examiner taking evidence on commission for use in foreign proceedings. He has extensive experience as chairman and member of various professional committees and panels, including the Bar Council Professional Conduct and Complaints Committee, of which he is a Vice-Chairman, and Bar Council Fitness to Practice Panels.

In the field of arbitration, he is a Member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, a member of the LCIA, and his experience includes:

- arbitrating disputes in the construction plant hire industry, and in the film industry
- advising in connection with AFMA arbitrations
- appearing as advocate at arbitrations
- appearing in High Court applications relating to arbitrations, including applications for stays of proceedings based on arbitration clauses, and for injunctive relief
- advising in relation to construction of arbitration clauses, and the suitability of disputes for arbitration

In the field of mediation, as well as acting as a mediator, he has appeared as counsel at various mediations, and advised as to the suitability of disputes for mediation. His recent mediation experience includes:

- solicitors' negligence claim for £3 million – settlement mediated
- 6 parties – 3 actions – construction dispute – claim for £1.25million – settlement mediated in 1 action – other 2 actions settled within 2 weeks of mediation

**Areas of specialisation and experience**

**Mediation, arbitration and other forms of ADR (...cont.)**

- clinical negligence claim (child blindness) – causation and quantum disputed – £1.25 million claim – case settled within 2 weeks of mediation
- commercial contract dispute – claim for £0.5 million – settlement mediated
- professional negligence claim against investigating accountants and auditors – claim for over £15 million – settlement mediated over 3 days
- commercial factoring dispute – competing claims to monies in Court – 4 parties – negotiations continued after unsuccessful mediation
- long running copyright litigation – artistic works - settlement mediated
- various clinical negligence mediations, involving MRSA infections, birth of disabled child, post-operative infections
- various construction contract disputes – settled at or shortly after mediation
- defamation claim – settlement mediated 3 days before trial
- tree roots subsidence claim, with professional negligence claim against engineer – settlement mediated

## **Areas of specialisation and experience**

### **Commercial**

He has extensive experience of all types of general commercial litigation and business law. He is an acknowledged expert in entertainment and media law, and is recognised as a leading silk in this field in Chambers Guide to the Legal Profession. He also specialises in intellectual property work (copyright, design right, passing off and trade marks, database right, and confidential information) in the entertainment industry and other commercial and employment areas.

He has particular experience of:

- commercial contract disputes
- construction of contracts and statutes
- film, video, music and broadcasting rights disputes
- broadcasting regulation
- entertainment industry intellectual property
- music industry manager/partner – artist disputes
- film financing disputes
- civil fraud
- duties of disclosure of banks to guarantors
- bank ATM litigation
- European commercial agency
- sale of goods
- conflict of laws and enforcement of judgments
- unincorporated associations

Recent cases include:

- a multi-million dollar commercial court professional negligence claim against solicitors relating to a loan agreement involving investment in US Treasury Bonds
- defending a major English bank against multi-million pound claim by directors of borrowing companies for rescission of guarantees and substantial damages
- defending a multi-million pound claim for damages for breaches of warranty and fraudulent misrepresentation arising out of company share sale agreement
- advising major companies in the broadcasting industry (e.g. BBC/Flextech Television Ltd, SDN Ltd.) on construction of commercial contracts granting satellite and cable television rights and construction of the Broadcasting Acts

## **Areas of specialisation and experience**

### **Professional negligence**

He has extensive experience of professional negligence litigation, mainly in the context of commercial disputes. He also specialises in clinical negligence. He has particular experience of:

- valuers' and surveyors' negligence (mainly work for major banks and building societies)
- solicitors' negligence arising out of commercial cases
- clinical negligence (for claimants and defendant authorities)
- group litigation (HIV/Haemophilia)
- accountants' negligence

Recent cases include:

- a \$6m. claim against solicitors for professional negligence arising out of loss of US Treasury Bonds
- a claim for professional negligence against solicitors arising out of the negligent handling of a partnership dispute
- defending a claim for professional negligence against solicitors arising out of an alleged defamation claim
- a claim for professional negligence against solicitors, arising out of allegedly negligent conduct of litigation, which resulted in the re-possession of Claimant's family home – allegations of undue influence by husband in relation to execution of a charge over the property

Further details of clinical negligence and personal injury experience are available on request.

## **Areas of specialisation and experience**

### **Clinical negligence and personal injury**

Richard gained extensive clinical negligence and personal injury experience in a general common law practice until 1987, at his original chambers (1 Garden Court). From 1987 onwards, he has dealt with serious clinical negligence and personal injury work acting for both claimants and defendants.

### **Recent cases include:**

- Steward v. Bonner (QBD, Northampton 1/03)  
acting for child who suffered severe head injury in cycling accident – brain damage – mute quadriplegia – severe problems on liability - case settled for £1 million
- acting for child who suffered a head injury at school, resulting in brain damage - delay in brain surgery – causative effect of culpable period of delay – claim in excess of £1million – claim settled
- Saeed v. Hussain (QBD 4/2000)  
acting for passenger in RTA – serious brain injury – problems on causation and quantum – case settled for £1m.
- acting for child who suffered head injury at school – serious problems as to extent of brain damage and long term prognosis – claim settled
- acting for claimant in clinical negligence claim against Health Authority – failing to administer necessary thiamine treatment to pregnant woman resulting in permanent brain damage (Wernicke's encephalopathy) – claim settled for £1.4m.
- acting for Health Authority – claim for alleged failure of health visitor to identify bleeding in baby, and against GP – delay in diagnosis of haemorrhagic disease of the newborn – vitamin K deficiency leading to brain damage – claim over £2 million – settled for modest payment with no admission of liability
- acting for Health Authority on various cerebral palsy cases resulting from alleged negligence during childbirth – claims over £1m.

**Areas of specialisation and experience**

**Clinical negligence and personal injury (....cont.)**

- HIV Haemophilia Litigation (1989-90)  
acting for the Government Blood Products Laboratory in group litigation by haemophiliacs who contracted HIV /Aids from contaminated blood products – case involved analysis of all scientific and clinical research into HIV/Aids, and the international state of knowledge as to the existence, identification and diagnosis of HIV, and its transmission through blood products
- acting in numerous fatal accident and personal injury claims arising out of the King's Cross fire disaster
- acting for TML in various fatal accident cases arising out of the construction of the Channel Tunnel

Richard's **mediation qualifications and experience** relevant to clinical negligence and personal injury work are as follows:

- Accredited CEDR mediator
- Mediator for Park Court Chambers and Littleton Dispute Resolution Services Ltd.
- Member of Intermediation panel of approved mediators, and member of the Intermediation specialist Healthcare Group
- Member of the Association of Northern Mediators
- Acted as mediator at various clinical negligence mediations, including:
  - claim by disabled child made totally blind by admitted negligence of hospital – difficulties with causation arising out of pre-existing disability – claim over £1m.
  - claims arising out of MRSA infection in hospital
  - claim arising out of post-operative infection
  - claim arising out of unwanted birth of disabled child

## **Areas of specialisation and experience**

### **Defamation**

Richard's experience of defamation work has often included advising and representing political figures, both as claimants and defendants. He has particular experience in the following areas:

- representing ministers, M.P.s, councillors, political candidates and officials in bringing and defending libel and slander actions
- acting for the Director-General of Conservative Central Office in libel jury trial (Judge v. The Guardian)
- libels published during election campaigns
- false statements as to candidates published during elections – offences under Section 106 of the Representation of the People Act 1983 – injunctions
- defending solicitors in a professional negligence claim arising out of alleged libel action against television broadcaster
- advising doctors at a leading London teaching hospital in relation to Internet libels and remedies under the Protection From Harassment Act
- advising generally in defamation matters, including malicious falsehood

## **Areas of specialisation and experience**

### **Election and public law**

Richard is one of the few leading experts in the country on election law. He has acted as standing counsel to the Conservative Party on election law since 1986, but has also advised returning officers and their staff on election law problems. He has acted for the Corporation of London on election law matters, and has advised as to the reform of the City franchise. He has been involved in various judicial review cases involving returning officers, election law, and the Court of Aldermen of the City of London.

He has particular experience of:

- election petitions
- applications for relief under the Representation of the People Act 1983
- construction of election law statutes and regulations
- the conduct of elections
- the regulation of election expenses
- the role of the returning officer and his staff
- the conduct of election campaigns
- the regulation of party funding

He has appeared in many leading cases involving election law in recent years, including the “Literal Democrat” European Election Petition (Sanders v. Chichester), the Winchester Election Petition (Malone v. Oaten), and various cases involving the Corporation of London (Absalom v. Gillett, R. v. City of London, ex. p. Matson).

Richard has recently been appointed Editor of Parker’s Law and Conduct of Elections, one of the leading text-books on election law. He has lectured on election law to local authorities, returning officers and election administrators.

His work in this field has also enabled him to develop an expertise in the law of unincorporated associations.

**Recent reported cases of interest:**

***Intelsec Systems Limited & ors. v. Grech-Cini & ors. (1999) 4 All ER 11***

*[Intellectual property – interim remedies – copyright, confidential information, passing off]*

***Microsoft Corporation v. Backslash Distribution Limited & ors. (19/11/98 and 11/2/99) Chancery Division (Park J.) (Lawtel C9200028, and (1999) TLR 186***

*[Intellectual property – computer software – committal for contempt - costs]*

***Lambert v. HTV Cymru (Wales) Ltd. (1998) FSR 874***

*[Commercial – entertainment - construction of film rights contract]*

***R. v. Mayor & Commonalty & Citizens of the City of London, ex p. Matson (1996) 8 Admin.LR 49*** *[Judicial review – election law]*

***Absalom v. Gillett (1995) 1 WLR 128*** *[Election law]*

***Bookmakers' Afternoon Greyhound Services v. Wilf Gilbert (Staffs) Ltd. (1994)***

***FSR 723*** *[Commercial contract/intellectual property – contract construction – agency, copyright, trusts of contractual promises, restitution]*

***McConville v. Barclays Bank and ors. (ATM Litigation) (1993) 2 Bank LR 211***

*[Commercial – banker/customer contracts – ATM machines – phantom withdrawals]*

***City Index Ltd. v. Leslie (1992) QB 98 (CA)*** *[Commercial – financial services – index betting]*

***Parker v. Yeo (1992) 90 LGR 645 (CA)*** *[Local government – election law – construction of statute]*

***BBC v. British Satellite Broadcasting Ltd. (1991) Ch. 141 (Scott J.)***

*[Commercial - Entertainment and media – copyright – “fair dealing” in broadcasts for reporting current events – construction of statute]*

***HIV Haemophilia Litigation (1989-1990)*** - *instructed on behalf of the Government Blood Products Laboratory (Ognall J.) [Clinical negligence]*

***Western Front Ltd. v. Vestron Inc. (1987) FSR 66*** *[Commercial - entertainment]*

## **Background**

### **Political, professional and voluntary experience**

Richard was heavily involved in local Conservative politics during the 1970s and 1980s, ultimately as Chairman of the Richmond and Barnes Conservative Association from 1983-1985. During that time he gained wide experience of chairing committees and public meetings, addressing private and public audiences, canvassing voters, and dealing with voluntary workers, and the media. He remains an active Trustee, and Vice-President, of the Richmond Park Conservative Association.

In 1986, as part of his practice at the Bar, he became, and remains, standing counsel on election law and associated matters to Conservative Central Office. His clients have included Norman Tebbit, Margaret Thatcher, Chris Patten, John Patten, Paul Judge, Jeremy Hanley, Nicolas Lyell, and various other ministers, MPs, councillors, and officers of the Conservative Party and local Associations. He was awarded the OBE in 1995 for political service.

During the 1990s, Richard became actively involved in the affairs of Gray's Inn and the Bar Council. From 1999 to 2002, he was Chairman of the Gray's Inn Barristers Committee, and a member of the Gray's Inn Management Committee, which administers the extensive estate, and £multi-million budget of the Inn. He was elected a Bencher of Gray's Inn in 2002, and sits on its governing body.

From 1999 to 2002, he was a member of the Bar Council, and a member of its BarDirect Committee, which dealt with licensing limited companies and other organisations to have direct access to barristers for legal advice and representation.

Since 2002, Richard has been a Vice-Chairman of the Professional Conduct and Complaints Committee of the Bar Council, which deals with complaints of professional misconduct and inadequate professional service against barristers. He has extensive experience of analysing, assessing the merits, and recommending the proper disposal, of a wide variety of complaints from lay clients, solicitors and other barristers, as part of the Bar's self-regulation process. He chairs Fitness to Practice, and other disciplinary panels. All these activities involve working and liaising with lay representatives from industry and other professions.