

David Boyle

1996 Gray's Inn, boyle@deanscourt.co.uk



Education

Areas of Specialism

Profile

David Boyle is a barrister, writer, mentor, qualified mediator and erstwhile visiting professor with a long-standing interest in expert evidence and forensic thinking.

"An all-round technically excellent barrister who can think outside the box" – Chambers & Partners 2026

"A magnificent advocate." - Legal 500, 2025

"A highly personable, intellectual and creative barrister with a broad skillset and an engaging and persuasive advocacy style." - Legal 500, 2024

"He has an incredible ability to digest and absorb copious amounts of information and transmit them in a concise and simplified style." - Chambers & Partners, 2023

"He has a commanding courtroom presence and is meticulous in his preparation." - Chambers & Partners, 2023

"An exceptionally competent barrister." - Chambers & Partners, 2023

Acting for both claimants and defendants, David's core area of work centres on large loss personal injury, insurance and property claims, particularly those involving complex expert evidence and/or allegations of fundamental dishonesty.

David is also in demand across a wide spectrum of civil litigation including assault claims, actions against the police, clinical and other professional negligence actions, commercial disputes and international work, together with non-standard and problem cases which often fall outside traditional categories. He has received regular repeat instructions from government departments, local authorities, supermarkets, bookmakers, travel companies and other well-known national companies and organisations, advising on litigation policies as well as individual cases.

Always approachable, he has a particular appreciation of the need for clients to understand their litigation, no matter what the complexities, and has a reputation for both clarity and forensic rigour in both his written and oral advocacy. He is highly regarded for his pleadings and schedules, his trial and appellate advocacy, his client care, problem-solving, and strategic advice, together with his firm but pragmatic negotiating skills, whether at JSMs or mediations. His perceptive and analytical approach makes him the first port of call for unusual, complex and/or difficult cases.

His recent cases include:

Representing the Chief Constable of the Ministry of Defence Police in an ultimately uncontested application under the Police (Property) Act 1897, vis-à-vis some 8,000+ items of WW2-era aircraft parts. Issues of ownership, logistics, destruction of radioactive materials, decontamination of materials containing asbestos and/or other potential contaminants, and long-term resolution across multiple stakeholders.

Represented claimant who suffered chronic pain after caesarean section in 2009, only to discover in 2018 that a foreign body had been left inside her abdomen. Good recovery after rectification in 2020, but 11 years of loss, complicated by claimant having unresolved immigration issues at date of negligence. Admission of liability 2023, resolution 2025.

Represented an insurer in a serious head injury case where the accident had benefited the claimant by preventing them accessing illicit drugs, leading to a significant increase in life expectancy.

Resisted application to commit a CILEx Fellow for contempt of court pertaining to statements of truth provided which turned out to be false.

Defended claim in respect of a head injury sustained in a Bulgarian holiday resort requiring detailed cross-examination of a Bulgarian lawyer as to local standards.

Defended non-personal injury action by a negligent driver against his own insurance company on the grounds of fraud, leading to the claimant's expert engineer announcing his retirement during cross-examination.

Represented defendant insurer in claim where claimant lost capacity as a result of a road traffic accident where she caused or permitted

her uninsured, learner-driver, then-partner to drive her vehicle. Consideration of interplay between contributory negligence for allowing tortfeasor to drive, knowing he had consumed alcohol, knowing he was uninsured, not wearing seatbelt herself, and potentially distracting driver herself with section 151(8) recovery in context where settlement fell to be approved.

Represented family of 25-year-old Senegalese national who died after A&E staff misdiagnosed pulmonary embolism as exacerbation of asthma. Dependency claim involved sourcing expert evidence on Wolof culture, trilingual conferences, and a fraternal Regan v Williamson award.

David accepts claimant instructions on a CFA or privately paid basis. He does not accept Direct Access work.

Additional Information

David is regularly instructed in fatal accident claims, injuries of the utmost severity and other large loss claims. He has a particular expertise in accident reconstruction and cases of accidents abroad. He has specialised in civil fraud and fundamental dishonesty (both Personal Injury and policy related) litigation for over twenty-five years.

His professional indemnity work covers both clinical negligence and solicitors' negligence, the latter with particular regard to the conduct of Personal Injury claims.

He was Head of Mini-Pupillage at Deans Court from 2010 to 2016, has taken 3 pupils including Gareth Poole and Joe Price, and is currently Head of our Travel Law team.

In 2019, David was the first Personal Injury barrister ever appointed to the Bar Standards Board's Advisory Pool of Experts (APEX), advising the BSB as to the appropriate conduct of barristers practicing in civil law. In 2020, he qualified as a Civil and Commercial Mediator

David gives in-house and public seminars on all aspects of Personal Injury law and forensic thinking. He has been a guest lecturer at numerous universities including the University of Durham, Lancaster University, the Open University and the College of Law. His speaking engagements have extended as far as India and Canada, and he was published in the Dehradun Law Review before being appointed a Visiting Professor at the Dr B.R. Ambedkar National Law University, Sonapat in July 2022.

His other speaking engagements in the last 5 years have included The Grange Annual Conference (medico-legal psychiatry), The Liverpool Law Society Occupational Disease Conference, McCollum Consultants, The Motor Accident Solicitor Society (MASS) Annual Conference, the CILEX Lancashire branch, and a variety of bespoke in-house conferences and training sessions.

In 2014, he spoke at the Cambridge University Sixth Form Conference and was invited to debate at the Cambridge Union, alongside Dr Matt Dyson, Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, defeating a team consisting of both the Winner and losing Finalist from the European Debating Championship 2013.

At the last count, alongside his formal pupils, he has taken 6 surrogate pupils, 34 mentees and approximately 1,300 mini-pupils. No, he doesn't know where he gets the time, either.

David's first three books, "On Experts" (2016), "An Introduction To Personal Injury Law" (2017), and "The Mini-Pupillage Workbook" (2019) are available via www.lawbriefpublishing.com or Amazon.

He is currently working on his fourth (a second edition of ITPIL), fifth (An Introduction to Case Management) and sixth (A Clarity of Thinking) books simultaneously, which might explain why his publishers are still waiting.

What the Directories say

"David was useful in cross-examining experts. He is really good. He is very robust in advocacy, and very successful in handling claimants that aren't honest. We get really good results from him. He is approachable and client friendly. He has a calm and reassuring manner and the ability to ensure lay clients fully understand even the most complex of legal principles applying to their case."

Chambers and Partners 2026

"David is very good with clients and explaining complicated issues. He is an all-round technically excellent barrister who can think outside the box and prepare solid legal argument. He is our first choice of counsel for many cases."

Chambers and Partners 2026

Accessible and approachable, extremely thorough, knows a case inside and out, brilliant with clients, and works well with, and gets the best from, medical experts in all fields. He always delivers.'

Legal 500, 2026