

Leigh Day & Co Solicitors

Leigh Day & Co was founded in 1987 by Sarah Leigh OBE and Martyn Day and has established itself as a leading personal injury & human rights firm. The firm concentrates its energies almost exclusively in representing individuals, their families or carers and communities in accident and human rights claims.

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Complex Claims

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Priory House
25 St John's Lane
London
EC1M 4LB

Tel: 020 7650 1200
Fax: 020 7650 1294
DX 53326 Clerkenwell
Email: dsymms-fahey@leighday.co.uk
Website: www.leighday.co.uk

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Our goal when we set up our group actions team was to ensure we were equipped to take on multi-party claims whether they arise in this country or abroad, whether caused by faulty products, poor employment practices, environmental damage or whatever. The team has been in operation for nearly twenty years and I am pleased to say that after the very difficult early years the success rate in these claims has been constantly rising.

The founder and Senior Partner of the firm, Martyn Day



Martyn Day

Introduction

The innovative work that Leigh Day & Co has done for clients both in the UK, and abroad, has earned the firm a reputation for excellence and success. The team of lawyers and support staff is constantly pushing the legal boundaries as it represents individuals and groups of people in challenges against corporate and government bodies. Examples of the type of case that the firm handles can be found in this brochure.



Sapna Malik



Bozena Michaloswka

Historic Claims

One area of speciality that Leigh Day & Co has developed is in relation to the pursuit of historic wrongs.

Mau Mau

The firm is currently acting for the freedom fighters of Kenya who, it is alleged were tortured by the British during the final years of Imperial Rule of that country. The case is being pursued through the British Courts.

Contact us

To hear more about Leigh Day & Co or for advice about a potential claim, please contact us.

You can visit our website on www.leighday.co.uk

Call Debbie Symms-Fahey on Tel: 020 7650 1234,

Email: dsymms-fahey@leighday.co.uk



The Team

Group actions

A Group Litigation Order is the way the Court manages legal action where there are a large number of claims sharing common issues. This saves the Court time and money and avoids duplication of work. More importantly it also reduces the risk of inconsistent conclusions being reached by different judges. Leigh Day & Co is used to using this approach in its work as it has often represented large groups of people, sometimes thousands, with claims against companies or government organisations. Many of the cases in this brochure are run as group actions.



Martyn Day in Kenya working on group claims against the British Government

Japanese PoWs

Martyn Day represented many thousands of former PoWs and Civilian Internees of the Japanese in claims which resulted in the payment of £10,000 per claimant, for what they had been put through in the Second World War with such payments still being paid out today.

Polish Forced Labourers

Leigh Day also represented thousands of Polish people in claims against the German Government arising from their experiences during the Second World War. The claim was resolved with the claimants each receiving thousands of pounds in compensation.



Former Japanese PoWs turn their backs in protest against the Emperor Akihito State visit

Group actions

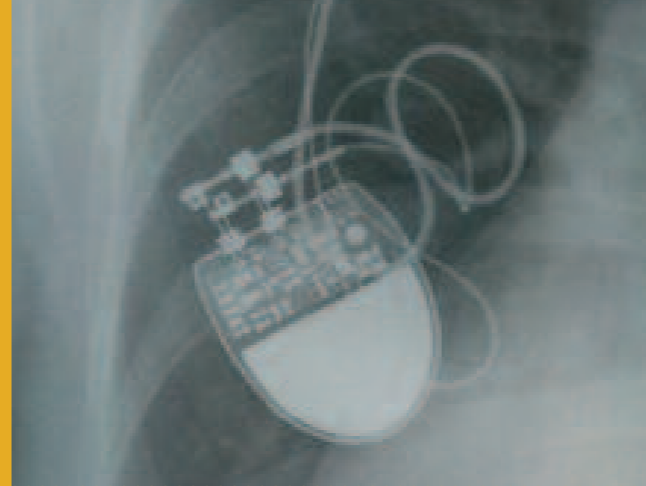
Historic claims

When the first client came to us who had suffered so much from having a Hylamer hip fitted it became clear that this was not an isolated problem. By putting together a group of those who had suffered injury it gave us greater power in terms of reaching a deal with the hip manufacturers.

Bozena Michalwoska



Gene Matthews



Pacemaker device

There are a surprising number of medical devices that go wrong, with many having to be withdrawn from the health marketplace. Often those impacted do not know of the problem until it goes wrong. We hope that by bringing claims it not only provides proper compensation for those affected but also encourages the manufacturers to get it right first time round.'

Bozena Michalwoska



Sarah Moore

Medical Devices

The failure of a medical device can have devastating consequences for the person using it. Medical problems can be exacerbated or even become fatal. The product liability team at Leigh Day & Co is experienced in the area of pursuing claims against the manufacturers of faulty medical devices on behalf of groups of patients. The firm's expertise is recognised by the fact that the Legal Services Commission has awarded it contracts to handle all such work in the DePuy hip claims.

DePuy hip claims

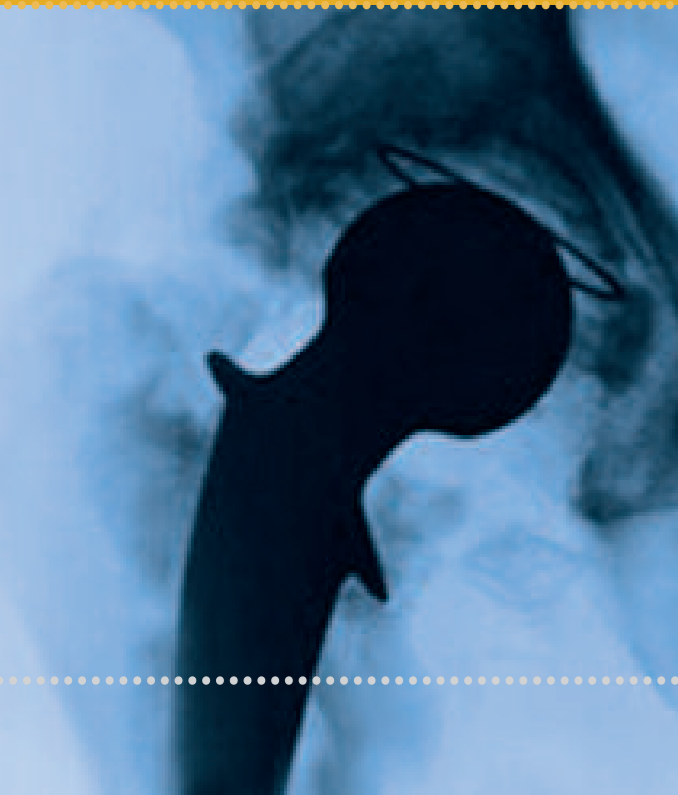
Partner Bozena Michalowska co-ordinated the group claim by hip replacement patients who suffered serious medical problems following the fitting of the Hylamer prosthetic hip made by DePuy. The firm was instructed by some 29 people who needed an early replacement of these hips and were able to successfully resolve their claims in the Summer of 2006.

Silzone heart valve claims

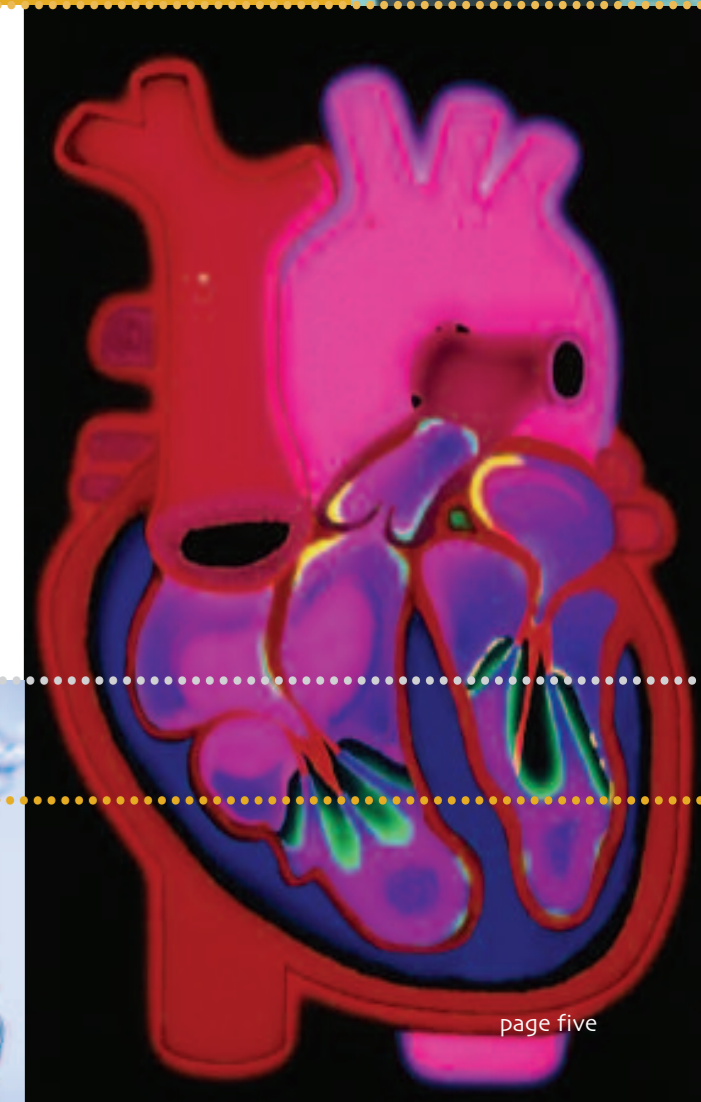
The firm is advising patients who have been fitted with heart valves manufactured by US company, St. Jude Medical Inc. British surgeons first reported problems with the heart valves back in 1998, and in 2000 they were withdrawn from use. Leigh Day & Co are the European solicitors co-ordinating and acting for patients who have had health problems after being fitted with the Silzone heart valve.

Guidant pacemaker claims

Heart failure and long-term health problems have been reported in some patients who have been fitted with pacemakers manufactured by Guidant. Leigh Day & Co represents a number of patients who have developed heart failure, had frequent episodes of rapid and chaotic beating of the heart and developed heart disease following the fitting of Guidant devices.



Xray of hip replacement



The BP Columbia case is one I will never forget and the meeting when we reported back on the proposed agreement is one of the most colourful mornings of my life. I have never had so many hugs and kisses in such a short time.

Martyn Day

Environmental claims

Environmental pollution affects individuals and communities in ways that are detrimental to health and income. As a leading human rights law firm the group action team is determined to win compensation for those affected by environmental pollution. British companies do not always observe the highest environmental standards expected of them when they operate outside the UK, Leigh Day & Co are able to challenge both companies and government bodies who fail to use their powers to protect the environment.



Bangladesh arsenic claims



Caroline Cryer

Wandering around the Buncefield site immediately following the explosion was like touring a World War 1 battlefield. What is so disappointing is that whilst lots of sympathy was expressed for those affected immediately after it happened, it has been a real up hill battle for them to be properly compensated.

Caroline Cryer



Buncefield aftermath - offices after the explosion



Colombian farmers after the settlement

BP Colombia claims

Leigh Day & Co represented a group of Colombian farmers, or campesinos, who claimed that their lives have been devastated by the construction of an oil pipeline over their lands. It was built by a consortium led by the British multi-national BP. The pipeline cut across many of the key water sources on their farms; caused serious soil erosion; starved the crops and fish ponds of water; and affected their ability to mine locally for gold. Martyn Day and the Leigh Day team travelled out to Colombia on a number of occasions in order to investigate claims made against BP in the UK. The final trip for mediation of the claims took place over a week in Bogota in June 2006.

Bangladesh arsenic claims

The presence of arsenic in ground water has dreadful health consequences for those who drink it. Arsenic poisoning causes skin lesions, respiratory problems and cancer. These symptoms are now being displayed by villagers in Bangladesh whose ground water was surveyed by the British Geological Survey on behalf of the National Environmental Research Council (NERC), a British organisation. A claim was brought against the NERC and the legal issues surrounding the case went up to the House of Lords who disappointingly decided against the Claimants.

Workplace injury

As befits a specialist personal injury law firm, Leigh Day & Co has a great deal of experience to draw upon when becoming involved in claims on behalf of groups of people affected by workplace accidents or injury. The firm has represented workers in the UK and abroad who have suffered injury when British companies have put profit before safety.



Buncefield

The explosion at the Buncefield fuel depot that shook the area of Hemel Hempsted in December 2005 resulted in the biggest peace-time fire since the end of the Second World War. Individuals and businesses have suffered from health and financial problems since the accident and Leigh Day & Co is now acting for workers at the site, local residents and local businesses all of whom suffered significantly as a result of the explosion.

Warrington

The firm is currently representing some workers who believe they have suffered from chemical exposure whilst working for a paint-manufacturing company in Warrington. Their symptoms include cognitive impairment, psychiatric problems and respiratory conditions.

Environmental claims

Workplace injury

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The fact that six men could come so close to death when undertaking a drug trial here in London is not only unbelievable but is also totally unacceptable. By bringing these claims we hope not just to ensure the trialists are properly compensated but also to try and ensure that the lessons are truly learnt from this tragedy.

Martyn Day



Gene Matthews with a client of the Northwick Park drug trials

Talking to our four Drug Trial clients has really brought it home to me how dangerous it can be entering drug trials where the drugs are at the cutting edge of science. These guys thought they were joining a very straightforward trial only to find they had become human guinea pigs.

Gene Matthews



Sadly, a number of our quite elderly clients have ended up with such high gambling debts that they have gone into bankruptcy. We are claiming those gambling losses from the drug manufacturer to try and put our clients lives back into some sort of order.

Sapna Malik



Drugs testing

Product liability

Leigh Day & Co has a long history of claims against big pharmaceutical companies. Drug companies spend millions on pounds in developing new products as they seek to make good returns for their shareholders. However, drugs do not always work in the way they should and patients who use them have sometimes developed severe side-effects. Leigh Day & Co is experienced in pursuing claims against pharmaceutical companies when things go wrong.

Northwick Park Drug Trials

Drug companies need to test new drugs on humans if they are to develop useful products. However, a recent drugs trial at Northwick Park Hospital in the UK left six young men seriously ill. Leigh Day & Co represent four of these men who are understandably anxious about their long-term health prospects. The firm has successfully represented other clients who have been involved in drug trials that have gone wrong.

Drug trial axed after patients poisoned

The Times, March 15, 2006



Vioxx®

The anti-arthritic drug Vioxx® was seen as a powerful weapon in the fight against this crippling disease when it was first launched on the market. However, many people in the UK who have taken Vioxx® have since developed heart problems and have had strokes. Merck withdrew the drug from sale and Leigh Day & Co now represent many patients in their search for compensation for their ruined health.

Mirapex®

Leigh Day & Co is pursuing claims on behalf of people who have taken Mirapex®, which is used in the treatment of Parkinson's Disease. Studies show that people who take Mirapex® can develop compulsive gambling disorders.



Vioxx® - the anti-arthritic drug

Product liability

Our foreign claimant work is close to my heart. I believe very strongly that British companies and Government bodies should act abroad just as they would at home. When they do not, we want to ensure that those affected can have proper access to justice in this country.

Martyn Day



Rape protest



Gathering rape victim's details



Generals inspection Southern Division. (Brian Elton 3rd from left)



Brian Elton (right) Transit camp Harwich

It is quite shocking what happened to some of our servicemen who were 'volunteered' to undertake these tests. The cavalier attitude of the MoD toward the health of many of our clients is simply unbelievable.

Sapna Malik



Young boy born as a result of gang rape

Claims against the Ministry of Defence

Some actions of the British army, both in the UK and abroad, have resulted in unnecessary injury, suffering or death for local people, and for the soldiers who serve with the army. Leigh Day & Co has carried out a number of successful actions against the Ministry of Defence.

Iraq

The firm is representing some 30 Iraqi citizens who allege that they have been injured/killed by British soldiers.

Kenya

A significant success was the settlement of substantial compensation for Masai and Samburu villagers in Kenya. Many villagers were injured by unexploded munitions that the British army left lying in their training areas, these areas were also grazed by animals belonging to local villagers. The firm is also representing a number of Kenyan women who claim to have been raped by British soldiers over the past twenty years. These claims are ongoing, whilst the Royal Military Police continue their investigations.



Masai tribesman in London for the mediation



Porton Down Veterans 2006



Porton Down

Leigh Day & Co are pursuing a group claim on behalf of hundreds of Porton Down veterans who were injured after being tested with various chemical substances as a part of the human guinea pig tests that the MoD conducted after the Second World War.



Soldier's Record Book of George Cotton

Brian Elton (middle) 1956 Guard Commander

