



Roger Hillman

E-Mail hillman@exchangechambers.co.uk
Call 1983

Personal

I have lived most of my life on the Wirral and enjoy daily the views from the shores of the Dee estuary with the backdrop of the Clwyd hills. I went to Liverpool University and feel I have strong roots in the North West of England and North Wales. I am married with three grown up children who still regularly delight and amaze me. My interests are reading, walking, cycling (and particularly following the Tour de France), archaeology, Anglo-Saxon and Medieval history and supporting Liverpool Football club, along with following the ever changing developments in Formula 1 Grand prix. Using computers in an ongoing learning process has entertained me since the 1980's for both work and play.

Practice

After being called as a barrister in 1983, I spent ten years in typical all round common law practice. My work then changed to focus on a mix of personal injury and family practice, combined with appearing before Employment tribunals and advising professional disciplinary bodies. In 2007 I qualified with the ADR group as a Civil and Commercial Mediator and I have also been appointed a Deputy District Judge on the Northern Circuit. Throughout my professional life I have been based in Exchange Chambers. My personal injury practice comprises both Claimant and Defendant work (including representing local authorities), in a wide range of employee, illness and general accident claims. I have substantial experience of highways, school and sports centre claims. I am a member of PIBA.

The family law caseload I cover ranges from securing financial provision for spouses on divorce or death, dealing with property disputes between former cohabitants to both public and private law children's work in care, contact and residence disputes involving representing local authorities, children, parents or grand parents in cases that have focussed on concerns about allegations of neglect, sexual, physical and emotional abuse and the death of children in suspicious circumstances. I am an active member of the FLBA.

My employment practice includes representing both employers and employees in discrimination, unfair dismissal and redundancy claims as well as advising Police Misconduct Panels as counsel to the Misconduct Panel. I am a member of the ELA.

To give a flavour of what any of the above actually involve in real terms, I cite below some examples of cases that I have acted in:-

In Personal Injury Work

-Representing a Claimant who suffered a severe eye injury to an already damaged eye, resulting in the loss of his eye and the fitting of a prosthesis. Issues over the quantum appropriate for general damages and as to the level of future loss, given

disputes over the Claimant's ability to work in the future and the level of income he would be likely to secure.

-Representing a Defendant employer in Hand Arm Vibration Syndrome claims brought by former and existing employees. Issues over the existence of HAVS, the level of handicap resulting where HAVS established, the possible earnings achievable by the Claimant in the future, the degree of handicap on the labour market and the extent to which future costs of care/assistance claims were made out.

-Representing Highway Authorities as Defendants in Highway tripping claims, with issues over the veracity of the claims in the light of conflicting medical histories, whether trips were actionable as dangerous defects, the adequacy of inspection and maintenance regimes, exaggeration of the extent of resulting disability, disputes over future loss of income.

-Representing Local Education Authorities as Defendants in numerous claims brought by pupils at schools after suffering injuries during gymnastics exercises, trampolining, playing in organised football and rugby games and in various types of playground accidents, with issues about the adequacy of supervision, sporting equipment, design and construction of school premises and playgrounds, etc.

-Representing and advising Claimants involved in road traffic accidents as to liability and quantum, including the making of CPR Part 36 offers.

In Family Cases

-Representing an English mother of a young child who wished to relocate to a north African country where her employer was setting up a new management team at a factory that was being newly established. The father of the child did not accept that it was in the child's interests to live abroad and also disputed the contact proposals. Obtaining leave to take the child out of the jurisdiction and a contact order in acceptable terms to the mother.

-Representing the father of several children in public law care proceedings in the High Court, brought following the death in suspicious circumstances of his youngest child. Contesting issues of fact as to the circumstances of the child's death, including precedent setting arguments about the making of any finding of non natural death due to non accidental injuries (NAI), where the only evidence of NAI was the existence of bilateral retinal haemorrhages. There were additional issues of severe sexual abuse of several of the children and of neglect. The father was already a schedule one offender due to a previous assault upon a child and was also a transvestite.

-Representing the husband on the ancillary relief hearing in a divorce, with issues over the level of capital and income provision for the wife where there was a family bakery business in which the wife was a partner along with the husband. Further issues over valuation of the business, the reasonable needs of the wife and the respective contributions of the parties during the lengthy marriage.

-Representing the mother of two severely handicapped Downs syndrome children, in Divorce ancillary relief proceedings in order to secure sufficient capital provision to enable the purchase of adequate accommodation for the mother and children that could be adapted to meet their needs. Issues over the level of special needs of the children along with the conduct and negative contributions of the husband who had been declared bankrupt after being convicted of misrepresenting his professional qualifications to his employer and then abandoning the wife with no support after deciding to cohabit with a much younger woman.

-Representing the father of two children in a private residence dispute arising after the parents separated and the mother commenced a same sex relationship and started to cohabit with her new partner and the parties children.

In Employment Law

-Representing a Police Force in defending allegations of racial discrimination about how promotions were organised over a ten year period.

-Representing an employee of a medium sized manufacturing firm who had been unfairly selected for redundancy due to his age.

-Representing a Police Force who were alleged to have discriminated against a disabled person in the criteria and processes adopted in selection for promotion.

-Representing a large chain of Public houses who faced allegations of unfair dismissal by an employee who alleged constructive dismissal and said he had been making protected disclosures about poor working standards at the premises.

-Advising a nurse who had sought to complain about dangerous work practices on her ward and found herself subjected to victimisation and bullying by management.

-Representing an employee of a firm of solicitors who had been constructively dismissed by the partners who he believed wanted him to leave and so unreasonably reduced his status and responsibilities at the branch he worked in.