



Louise Metcalf

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Call 1997

Louise Metcalf was born in Hartlepool in 1974. She studied History at St. Peter's College, Oxford University (2:1), and then Law at the College of Law in York (Pass with Commendation). She attended the Inns of Court School of Law in 1996 and was assessed 'Very Competent'. She received an Inner Temple Bursary in 1996.

She was called to the Bar in 1997 and undertook Pupillage at 1 Crown Office Row Chambers (Personal Injury and Clinical Negligence), before moving to Exchange Chambers in 1998.

Practice

Member of Personal Injuries Bar Association

Louise practises exclusively in Personal Injury and Clinical Negligence, predominantly Multi-Track claims valued at over £50,000. She has extensive experience of all fields of personal injury litigation including: -

- Fatal Accidents and Inquests
- Public Liability Claims including claims under the Highways Act
- Occupiers Liability Act and Defective Premises Act
- Employers' liability claims including claims for stress at work
- Accidents Abroad – including claims under the Package Holiday Regulations and Conflict of Laws
- CICA/CICB cases

She tries to retain a balanced practice, acting for both Claimants and Defendants.

Louise is regularly instructed in high value claims and has acted for Claimants in catastrophic injury cases. She is recognised for being sympathetic and approachable particularly when dealing with distressed and vulnerable clients. She is regularly instructed in difficult and complex cases requiring a sensible approach and close attention to detail. Her written work is of the highest quality.

Recent instructions have included: -

- A claim for a child who suffered a severe brain injury in a road traffic accident. The lawyers were instructed at an early stage and were accordingly able to put in place an effective and experienced team to implement the necessary rehabilitation from the outset. Case ongoing;
- A claim for lower limb injuries sustained in a road traffic accident. There were complicated medical issues and the Claimant faced allegations of exaggeration. Settled at JSM for £640,000.
- Clinical negligence claim for a negligent delay in the diagnosis of acute limb ischaemia, leading to a below-knee amputation.
- A claim arising from a serious road traffic accident in which the driver sustained multiple and severe injuries impacting upon his future work capacity. Settled at JSM for £350,000.
- A fatal accident claim on behalf of a bereaved child in which the Court accepted a departure from the conventional *Harris v Empress Motors* approach. The Judge at the approval hearing praised the Advice on Quantum as being helpful, clear and thorough.
- Numerous claims arising out of assaults in the workplace, including applications for pre-action disclosure of confidential documentation.
- A claim for chronic pain where the Joint Psychiatric evidence concluded that the Claimant was suffering from a somatoform disorder (a diagnosis that was rejected by the Claimant).
- Defending a claim against a Local Authority arising from alleged failure to maintain a rural footpath. The case raised interesting legal arguments and was for a substantial amount. It was ultimately discontinued shortly before trial.

Louise accepts instructions under a CFA in appropriate cases. She is willing to travel to meet clients and is happy to provide advice on the telephone or by videolink if required. She endeavours to work closely with her instructing solicitor in order to obtain the best possible result for her clients.

Louise has given seminars on: -

- Accidents abroad – Package Holidays, Conflict of Laws and Rome II;
- Witness statements;
- Effective Advocacy;
- Maximising Damages;
- Defending Credit Hire claims.

Personal

Louise spends most of her spare time with her young family. She also enjoys acting with her local Drama society (badly) and trying to learn Spanish (unsuccessfully).