

Chris Gutteridge

Call 2006



Clerks' Details

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Memberships

- Personal Injury Bar Association
- Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL)

Education

- Law LLB (Class I, 2002-2005), University of Durham
- Bar Vocational Course (Very Competent, 2006)
- Nottingham Law School Inner Temple BVC Exhibition

Clinical Negligence

Overview

Chris has 15 years of experience in serious and catastrophic injury litigation. He now works exclusively for claimants who have sustained life changing injuries. His clinical negligence practice encompasses claims involving complex issues of law, fact and expert evidence relating to breach of duty and causation of injury.

Chris has a recent successes in representing claimants who have suffered injuries during the negligent management of labour (including cerebral palsy); injuries to the spinal cord during surgery; paralysis, amputation and avoidable progression of cancers caused by delays in diagnosis and treatment; and the disastrous consequences of negligently performed cosmetic surgery.

Chris has a wealth of experience as a trial advocate in the High Court and County Courts. He has represented claimants at trials of breach of duty and causation as a preliminary issue and on the assessment of damages, including cross-examination of medical experts, non-medical experts and medically qualified lay witnesses.

Chris is always happy to become involved in the early stages of a clinical negligence claim: providing preliminary advice to solicitor clients and meeting with lay clients. Chris can also help with the selection and instruction of expert witnesses.

Chris is recognised as an expert in drafting multi-million pound schedules of loss in the most complex cases of brain injury, spinal cord injury, amputation and fatal injuries. He negotiates settlements on behalf of claimants worth millions of pounds each year, including at joint settlement meetings and mediations.

Recommendations

Recommended in Chambers and Partners UK Bar Guide as an 'Up and Coming' Junior for personal injury work on the Northern Circuit:

"Chris is an excellent all-round barrister with brilliant advocacy skills who is very helpful and a joy to instruct."

"He is very hard working and tactically able, and works well with difficult clients."

"Chris is very knowledgeable, calm and always has a clear plan."

"He has expansive skill and experience."

Chambers and Partners 2024

"Chris is a fabulous junior who can bring matters to a speedy and effective resolution."

"Chris has a fantastic understanding of difficult claims. He is a good tactician."

"Chris is able to extrapolate the finer details of complex reports into a simple form."

Chambers and Partners 2023

"Unflappable, responsive and calm. He's also very approachable and very easy to understand for claimants."

"Has a fantastic understanding of difficult claims and provides concise and effective advice with practical solutions. He is very well received by claimants and lawyers and is an absolute pleasure to work with. He is friendly, approachable and a good tactician."

Chambers and Partners 2022

"He has the ability to get to the heart of a case very quickly, and makes his sensible and practical advice clear to his instructing solicitors and lay clients alike." "He is logical, extremely knowledgeable and a highly capable junior."

Chambers and Partners 2021

"A fantastic junior who is able to quickly and concisely understand the complexity of the claim and provide practical solutions."

Chambers and Partners 2020

"He is an excellent junior barrister with a good eye for detail; he has been trained by some of the top silks in the field. He is good with clients and quick to respond."

"He deals with complex issues well and manages client expectations in difficult matters."

Chambers and Partners 2019

“He has the makings of an excellent barrister. He has a very nice manner and is very good with clients.”

“Very enthusiastic and able to develop debate about all aspects of a case.”

Chambers and Partners 2018

“He is really good at understanding the issues in a case and getting to grips with them quickly. He is also excellent at relating to lay clients and putting them at their ease.”

“He is pragmatic and insightful, with excellent client-facing skills.”

Chambers and Partners 2017

“A personal injury specialist instructed in cases involving brain and spinal injuries. Sources value his proactivity, knowledge and responsiveness as particular strengths. He is their rising star. He is down to earth, no-nonsense, practical, sensible and very approachable.”

Chambers and Partners 2016

Recommended in the Legal 500 as a leading junior for personal injury and clinical negligence work on the Northern Circuit:

“Chris is much more accomplished than his years’ call suggests. He is a phenomenally able barrister, he has a very relaxed manner, clients love him, and he is an extremely tough advocate.”

“Chris is a highly intelligent and skilled barrister whose preparation is detailed and analysis of the law and the facts is thorough. He maintains a very personable manner with solicitors and clients alike, and is rightly in demand for high-value clinical negligence cases.”

The Legal 500 2024

“Chris is calm, collected, has a good grasp of the law and is always available. He is friendly and a delight to work with. He combines common sense with huge ability and his understated manner belies an outstanding determination to achieve the best outcome for those he represents.”

“A fabulous junior who quickly gets to the heart of a claim to bring matters to a speedy and effective resolution. A fantastic understanding of difficult claims, providing clear and effective advice with practical solutions. Very well received by claimants and lawyers and an absolute pleasure to work with. He is friendly, approachable and a good tactician. He is logical, extremely knowledgeable and an extremely capable junior well beyond his call.”

The Legal 500 2023

“An excellent communicator and fantastic technician, with a lovely rapport with the most seriously injured clients.”

“Chris has skills well beyond his call and manages to build meaningful and valued relationships with those who instruct him as well as his lay clients. He is uber-efficient and distils even the most complex cases to the crucial, case deciding core issues.”

The Legal 500 2022

“A rising star in the PI field. He has excellent technical skills and a terrific ability to draft complex Schedules of Loss in an accessible and concise format.”

“Chris is a stand-out junior with skills well beyond his call. He is excellent with lay clients and adopts an understated but no nonsense approach to dealing with complex and high value litigation. Chris has the envied ability to get to the heart of a case fast, and wastes no time in making his sensible and practical advice clear to his instructing solicitors and lay clients alike.”

The Legal 500 2021

“A good tactician who quickly gets to grips with complex claims.”

The Legal 500 2020

“A first-rate clinical negligence junior”

The Legal 500 2018/19

“His experience of catastrophic injury litigation is well beyond his years of call.”

The Legal 500 2017

“His outstanding people skills, commercial sense and compassion make him a first-rate practitioner.”

The Legal 500 2016

“He has a strong track record in settling multimillion-pound schedules of loss.”

The Legal 500 2015

Cases

A (2020)

The 64 year old claimant underwent a below knee amputation in 2015 after the defendant Trust failed to consider a vascular cause for his symptoms of pain and numbness in the lower leg. In fact, thrombotic material from an abdominal aortic aneurysm had embolised to the left leg and it became ischaemic. The claimant rehabilitated well and returned to work as a bus driver. He would need specially adapted accommodation and support at the end of his life. He would need significant prosthetic costs until later life when he would use a wheelchair more frequently. Settled at JSM for £800,000. Led by Gerard Martin QC.

B (2020)

The claimant suffered a life-changing spinal cord injury as a result of the Defendants' failures to recognise severe L4/L5 stenosis on an MRI scan and subsequently diagnose cauda equina syndrome. By the time she underwent lumbar decompression, the Claimant's CES was complete and she was left with a significant neurological deficit (pain, weakness and incontinence). The Defendant alleged that the Claimant's CES would have been complete before surgery even absent the delay and her outcome would have been the same. The claim settled for £900,000 including claims for the cost of professional care and adaptations to her accommodation.

C (2020)

The 20 year old claimant suffered an elbow injury requiring replacement of the radial head. The implant was, however, inserted in mal-alignment and left in that position for 8 months. When it was removed the Claimant was left with an irreparable fixed flexion deformity at the elbow which significantly limited her function. She required assistance with all aspects of domestic life and childcare, and specialist equipment to maintain her independence with personal care. The defendant alleged that the claimant would have been significantly impaired because of her original injury even absent the negligence. The claim settled at JSM for £350,000.

D (2020)

The claimant underwent negligently performed knee replacement surgery in 2012 and negligently performed revision surgery in 2015. The negligence brought about the need for further remedial surgeries and the Claimant would need a further revision knee replacement with a custom-made implant (because of the damage caused to the surrounding bone by the negligent surgeries) in the near future. The claimant required

adaptations to his home and an adapted vehicle because of his impaired mobility caused by the negligence. He needed help around the home and his need for help would increase as he aged. Settled at JSM for £250,000.

E (2020)

The claimant developed Nitrofurantoin-induced pneumonitis after receiving repeat prescriptions of a prophylactic dose of Nitrofurantoin (as treatment for recurrent UTIs) from her GPs over a number of years. Lung toxicity is a recognised side effect of Nitrofurantoin and its use as a long-term treatment was a breach of duty. The Claimant was left with breathlessness which impacted her work and activities of daily living. The Defendant disputed that the cause of her breathlessness was the residual effects of the Nitrofurantoin lung disease (suggesting she suffered from a different and unrelated lung condition). The claim settled for £190,000 at JSM.

F (2019)

The claimant had both of his legs amputated below the knee in 2015 as a result of a negligent failure to consider a vascular cause for his complaints of pain and numbness in his feet. Liability was admitted. The claimant became a full-time wheelchair user and was confined to the ground floor of his home. The claim settled after a JSM for £2.5 million (which included the cost of building specially designed accommodation on a plot of land close to the village where the claimant and his family had lived for years before his injury).

Link to press release: <https://www.exchangechambers.co.uk/barristers-secure-2-5m-settlement-for-double-amputee/>

G (2019)

The claimant had undergone surgery to fix right lower leg fractures with medial tibial plate but the operative site became infected and led to the need for a trans-tibial amputation. He claimed the defendant trust had failed to obtain his informed consent to the surgery. After a 3 day trial of liability as a preliminary issue the claimant succeeded with his argument that his doctors had failed to make him aware of material risks of plate fixation and reasonable alternative treatments. The judge accepted that, properly advised, the Claimant would have opted for circular frame fixation and avoided amputation, giving judgment in his favour for an amount of damages to be assessed.

Beyond the Bar

Chris was born in sight of Old Trafford and grew up in Salford so it is unsurprising that he is an avid Manchester United fan. He has a young family that keeps him busy but spends spare time at the gym and is a Level 1 CrossFit coach. He 'tweets' as often as possible about interesting publications, news and case law (follow him: [@GutteridgeChris](https://twitter.com/GutteridgeChris)). Chris is a co-founder of 'All Rise' – a project designed to tackle bullying, harassment and discrimination at the Bar (All Rise (The Bar) - Open Collective). He is also a member of the Northern Circuit Equality, Diversity and Social Mobility Committee.