


## Chris Gutteridge

Call 2006



### Clerks' Details

 Joshua Finn  
 0161 817 7124

 Leigh Daniels  
 0161 817 2768

### Memberships

- Personal Injury Bar Association
- Northern Circuit Medical Law Association
- Northern Circuit Administrative Law Association
- UK Acquired Brain Injury Forum

### 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 is an experienced clinical negligence practitioner. He represents claimants who have suffered serious and sometimes catastrophic injuries (and is happy to accept instructions on a CFA basis). He regularly deals with claims involving complex breach and causation arguments. He is always happy to become involved at an early stage, providing preliminary advice to solicitor clients and meeting with lay clients to discuss their claims. Chris can also help with the selection and instruction of expert witnesses. He regularly holds conferences with experts in wide ranging disciplines with a focus on ensuring expert evidence is presented in a compelling and comprehensive way.

Chris has a particular interest in catastrophic injuries arising from clinical negligence with experience of cerebral palsy claims arising from the negligent management of labour and spinal cord injuries caused by negligent surgery. Chris is also instructed to represent claimants who have suffered disastrous consequences after negligently performed cosmetic surgery.

## Recommendations

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

"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:**

"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 (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/>*

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### **B (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 (under Montgomery). Represented claimant at the 3 day trial of liability as a preliminary issue (which lasted 3 days) and succeeded with the argument that doctors had failed to make him aware of material risks and reasonable alternative treatments and that properly advised he would have opted for circular frame fixation and avoided amputation.

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### **C (2017)**

The 44 year old claimant suffered catastrophic physical and brain injuries after an aneurysm ruptured. The aneurysm had been identified by her doctors but was not promptly treated. The defendant Trust admitted negligence. The claimant would need round-the-clock care for the remainder of her life. She was wheelchair-bound and needed a great deal of disability equipment as well as regular access to therapies and specially adapted accommodation. The claim settled at JSM for a lump sum of more than £3 million plus annual payments of £200,000 per year for life. Led by William Waldron QC.

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### **D (2017)**

The infant claimant, now 10, suffered a hypoxic brain injury at birth. He has cerebral palsy but is an active little boy. He has significant behavioural issues which complicate

his care regime. There was a dispute about how and where his care should be provided (whether at home or in a residential unit). Settled at JSM for £4.5million plus annual payments for life (expected to be to age 84) reaching over £190,000 in adulthood. The compensation encompasses the purchase/adaptation of a new home and the cost of professional care at home. Led by Amanda Yip QC (prior to her judicial appointment). *Link to press release: <https://www.exchangechambers.co.uk/chris-gutteridge-multi-million-pound-settlement/>*

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### **E (2016)**

A complicated case involving a middle-aged woman who developed sepsis as a result of a negligently retained cannula in her arm. She went on to suffer terrible soft tissue damage across her upper body and chest. The scarring that resulted caused functional problems (interfering with movement) and psychological injury. Settled for £500,000 shortly after service of proceedings.

## 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 doing pilates. He 'tweets' as often as possible about interesting publications, news and case law (follow him: @GutteridgeChris).