

Christopher Barnes

Call 2000



Clerks' Details

 Rachel Williams
 0151 242 8840

Appointments

• Junior Counsel to the Crown (2011)

Beyond the Bar

Away from work, Chris enjoys fell running and was a member of the British Ski Mountaineering Team at the 2013 World Championships and 2014 World Cup.

Chris won the 2017 British Mountain Marathon Championships.

Personal Injury CV

Overview

Chris practises exclusively in the areas of personal injury, clinical negligence and related litigation. He represents claimants and defendants.

He has significant experience of all levels of multi track claims up to and in excess of £10 million, particularly:

- Catastrophic injuries, including brain, spine and amputations;
- Fatal accidents;
- Military claims;
- Clinical negligence;
- Product liability;
- Employer's liability
- Chronic pain and fibromyalgia;
- Subtle brain injury;
- Amputations;
- Multiple/complex orthopaedic injuries.

Cases

MILITARY CLAIMS

Chris has built up an extensive practice in military claims, including:

Many cases involving Non Freezing Cold Injuries (at least 30 ongoing);

Many cases involving Noise Induced Hearing Loss (at least 20 ongoing);

Numerous other ongoing claims in a range of circumstances and including clinical negligence (in the services), stress, harassment and bullying;

Fatal accident claim involving a military diver (settled for over £850,000);

Clinical negligence claim involving a developing cauda equina syndrome (settled for £1,000,000);

Counsel for the Claimant (Led by Amanda Yip Q.C.) in *Birch v Ministry of Defence* (2012) EWHC 2267 (QB) and (2013) EWCA Civ 676;

Counsel for the Claimant in *Bradlaugh v Ministry of Defence* (Lawtel, 29.4.10, £329,000 awarded for moderate deafness/tinnitus);

Counsel for the successful Claimant at first instance and on appeal in *Lillington v Ministry of Defence* [2015] EWCA Civ 775;

Counsel for the Claimant in *Ifede v Ministry of Defence* [2015] EWHC 3835 (QB).

GENERAL CATASTROPHIC WORK

Serita Shone v British Bobsleigh

The Claimant was a professional heptathlete who was recruited by British Bobsleigh. After undergoing land based training she travelled to the Alps for ice based training. On her 5th run, her bobsleigh crashed and she fractured her spine. The judge accepted her claim that the injuries arose from the failure to adapt the bobsleigh to her particular dimensions. Shortlisted for PI Case of the Year 2018.

Experience of the full range of catastrophic injury claim, with recent settlements including (N.B. led by Bill Braithwaite QC or Gerard Martin QC):

£13,250,000 for a 22 year old tetraplegic;

£3,300,000 lump sum and periodical payments of £130,000, £155,000 and then £250,000 for AB who suffered a serious brain injury as a young child giving rise to high level, lifelong needs (capitalised value of the PPO in excess of £10,000,000 at the previous discount rate of 2%)

£3,000,000 for Kuwaiti resident who suffered severe brain injuries when hit by a van, as a pedestrian, whilst visiting the UK;

£2,000,000 lump sum and PPOs of £230,000 for a 20 year old man left in a PVS after a road traffic accident;

£2,900,000 and provisional damages for a C7 ASIA tetraplegic injured in a road traffic accident.

Counsel for the Claimant in the case of *Fry v McFaull* (High Court, Manchester DR, 12.6.18 HHJ Bird) in which the application of *Coles v Perfect* was considered and refined.

Counsel for the Claimant in the case of *Aurora Brown v Lisa Alexander* (Liverpool High Court, HHJ Wood QC, 3.8.18), reported on Lawtel, which addressed the disclosure of rehabilitation records to medico-legal experts.

Counsel for the Claimant in the case of *Hill v Gill* [2018] EWHC 2703 (QB)

CLINICAL NEGLIGENCE WORK

Experience of a wide range of different work. For further details see his Clinical Negligence CV.

GENERAL MULTI TRACK WORK

The full range of RTA, EL and PL claims (generally only where the value exceeds £100,000), including:

Counsel for the successful Claimant in the case of *Colin Crooks v Hendricks Lovell Ltd.* [2016] EWCA Civ 8

Recommendations

“His client care skills are excellent and he has very good attention to detail.” “He is very sharp, incisive and able to get to the nub of the problem very quickly. He always provides very sound and practical advice.” “He is a highly skilled, organised, technical and forward-thinking barrister.”

Chambers and Partners 2021

“Thorough, highly intelligent, gets fantastic results and clients love him.”

Chambers and Partners 2020

“He is an exceptional advocate in court and is a safe pair of hands on serious injury work.” “He explains things very well to clients, gets a good grip on matters and understands the issues quite quickly. He works very efficiently and turns paperwork around incredibly quickly.”

Chambers and Partners 2019

“A good, sensible advocate who does not take bad points.” “One of the best military injury barristers.”

Chambers and Partners 2018

“Chris is extremely switched on, organised, confident, prepared and alert of all the issues in any case. He is an excellent negotiator who is able to secure maximum compensation for those he represents.”

The Legal 500, 2021

“Has an excellent manner with vulnerable clients. “

The Legal 500, 2020

“He is excellent on both tactics and strategy.”

The Legal 500, 2018/19

“Very hardworking and good with clients.”

The Legal 500, 2017

“Extremely professional and impressive.”

The Legal 500, 2016

“He has a particular interest in military injuries, including combat-related deafness and non-freezing cold injuries.”

The Legal 500, 2015

“He has a varied practice with a particular specialism in military claims.”

The Legal 500, 2014