

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

Personal Injury

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.

Chris has a wealth of experience as a trial advocate in the High Court and County Courts. He has represented claimants at trials of liability as a preliminary issue and on the assessment of damages, including cross-examination of medical experts, non-medical experts and collision reconstruction experts.

Chris has a particular interest in accident reconstruction evidence and is an assistant editor of the Royal Society judicial primer on Forensic Collision Investigation (soon to be published jointly by the Royal Society and the Royal Society of Edinburgh's "Science and the Law" programme).

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 accidents.

Chris 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:

"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:

“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 claimant suffered a catastrophic brain injury and other serious physical injuries as a result of a road traffic accident when she was 52 years old. She was left with a significant cognitive impediment and neuropsychiatric symptoms (which had seen her detained under the Mental Health Act in recent years). Her claim settled at a JSM for a lump sum of £1.3m and annual payments of £155,000 (equivalent to £4.3m capitalised). The claim included the cost of specially adapted accommodation, a deputy to manage her affairs and round the clock care for the rest of her life. Led by Bill Braithwaite QC.

B (2020)

The claimant, a 57 year old motorcyclist, suffered a catastrophic crush injury to his foot in a road traffic accident. He underwent a below-knee amputation. He was unable to return to his work as a consultant draughtsman on-site at nuclear installations around the country. He required specially adapted, single storey accommodation and a suite of prosthetic limbs (including a microprocessor controlled ankle). In later life, he would become a part-time wheelchair user and require specialist equipment, including a wheelchair-accessible vehicle. He would require daily nursing care in the last years of his life. His claim settled at JSM for £1.5m. Led by Gerard Martin QC.

C (2020)

The claimant was a 32 year old motorcyclist involved in a high speed collision with a motorcar. She sustained life changing spinal and orthopaedic injuries. She required multiple surgical interventions and had a spinal cord stimulator implanted for pain relief. She was left with permanent foot-drop and chronic instability in the knee. She walked with a stick and used orthotics. She was unable to return to her work as a pastry chef (in a Michelin star kitchen). She required adaptations to her accommodation and an adapted motorbike to return to motorcycling. Her claim settled for £900,000 (gross of contributory negligence).

D (2019)

The claimant was a motorcyclist who suffered catastrophic lower limb injuries after a road accident in 2015. He underwent a below-knee amputation on the right and suffered a significant injury to his left ankle. His claim was settled at a JSM for £1.7 million including, amongst other things, the future costs of a powered propulsion prosthetic ankle, future care, a specially adapted bungalow and adapted vehicles. The claimant was able to make a return to motorcycling (on an adapted motorbike) and to

his pre-accident pursuit of attending motorcycle rallies and music festivals (in a caravan specially adapted for his needs). Led by Will Waldron QC.

Link to press release: <https://www.exchangechambers.co.uk/will-waldron-qc-chris-gutteridge-secure-1-7-m-motorcyclist/>

E (2019)

The claimant was working as a manual labourer when a steel girder weighing 11 tonnes fell and landed on his arms causing catastrophic injuries. He underwent a below elbow amputation on the left and amputation of his fingers and thumb from the right (dominant) hand. The claim settled at JSM for £2.1 million, including the future costs of a sophisticated myoelectric prosthesis and 'Michelangelo' hand for the left arm. The settlement also encompassed the cost of specially adapted single storey accommodation and a package of care (which will increase in intensity in later life). Led by David Knifton QC.

F (2018)

The claimant developed CRPS in his right foot and lower leg after fracturing his ankle when he fell from a lorry in the course of his employment with the defendant. His pain was resistant to medication, therapies and even spinal cord stimulation. Eventually he underwent a trans-femoral amputation, but CRPS affected the residuum of his right leg, making it impossible for him to wear a 'socket-based' prosthesis and confining him to a wheelchair. Settled at JSM for £3m, which will be used to fund the claimant's surgery and provide state-of-the-art prosthetics for the rest of his life. Led by Gerard Martin QC.

Link to press release: <https://www.exchangechambers.co.uk/gerard-martin-qc-and-chris-gutteridge-secure-3m-settlement-for-above-knee-amputee/>

G (2018)

The claimant suffered a traumatic brain injury when knocked over whilst crossing a road. He made a good recovery, but was left with lingering cognitive problems and needed daily help from support workers. The defendant admitted liability for the accident but alleged contributory negligence against the claimant. A settlement worth more than £1.4 million (gross of an agreed liability apportionment) was approved. Led by David Knifton QC.

Link to press release: <https://www.exchangechambers.co.uk/multi-million-pound-settlements-for-david-knifton-qc-and-chris-gutteridge/>

H (2018)

The claimant suffered an electric shock at work and developed chronic regional pain syndrome (“CRPS”) in her hand and forearm. Her pain was resistant to treatment and eventually she underwent a below-elbow amputation. After a successful trial of a sophisticated prosthetic hand, the claimant’s experts predicted she would come to function very well. The claim was settled for £2.75 million at a successful round-table meeting, including a fund of over £1m to enable the claimant to purchase the best available prosthetics for the rest of her life. Led by David Knifton QC.

Link to press release: <https://www.exchangechambers.co.uk/multi-million-pound-settlements-for-david-knifton-qc-and-chris-gutteridge/>

Publications

“The Art of Persuasion” – a discussion of the importance of written advocacy and the value of IT in the preparation of schedules of loss for seriously injured claimants.
(New Law Journal, 1st February 2013, 163 NLJ 91)

“Overworked and Under Attack” – analysis of 3 recent decisions of the Court of Appeal on an employer’s liability for violent attacks on employees whilst at work.
(Personal Injury Law Journal, February 2013, Issue 112)

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). 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.