Chris Barnes KC

Call 2000 | Silk 2022

Clerks

Rachel Williams
0151 242 8840

Appointments

Junior Counsel to the Crown (2011)

Military Injury Claims

As a junior, Chris had a niche specialism in military claims for many years. He was repeatedly recommended in the Legal 500 and Chambers directories for military claims and has lectured widely upon them, including on a number of occasions to the APIL Military Claims Conference.

Chris has experience of the full range of military claims including NIHL (with particular emphasis on combat-related deafness); bullying, harassment and assault (including serious sexual assaults and rape); NFCI; pelvic stress fractures; training accidents; aviation accidents (including a number of the Voyager claims); and naval accidents.

Significant cases include:

Abbott v Ministry of Defence [2023] EWHC 2839 (KB) – Representing 7,000 claimants and 18 firms of solicitors in successfully opposing the application for a Group Litigation Order in the military noise induced hearing loss litigation.

Lillington v Ministry of Defence [2015] EWCA Civ 775 – Successful respondent to an appeal relating to a loss of promotion following injury.

Ifede v Ministry of Defence [2015] EWHC 3835 (QB) – Interaction of the AFCS and limitation.

Birch v Ministry of Defence (2012) EWHC 2267 (QB) and (2013) EWCA Civ 676 – Catastrophic injury claim for Royal Marine injured in Afghanistan.

Bradlaugh v Ministry of Defence (Lawtel, 29.4.10) – Significant award for NIHL/tinnitus.

X v MOD – Settlement of £8,000,000 plus provisional damages relating to syringomyelia for a paraplegic claimant injured in a training exercise.

Recommendations

"Christopher is the very definition of the ideal barrister. He is approachable, makes himself available and has the ability to simplify the most complex matter, which is an essential skill when trying to negotiate a highly complex clinical negligence claim."

"Christopher is the perfect barrister in many respects. He is both approachable and knowledgeable, he has the ability to break down and simplify the most complex of matters, he has a great manner with claimants, their families and professionals alike, and he is an exceptional advocate."
The Legal 500 2025

"The best KC I have instructed."

"Chris is a genius. He's insightful and with a warmth and an exquisite sense of the right values and words at exactly the right time."

"Chris is my ideal barrister. He is easy to contact, readily available and makes the most complex appear simple. He's also effective in court, clear and concise."

"He is fast becoming a leading PI silk. He's forensic, with a fearsome knowledge of the key issues."

"My go-to silk. He puts clients at ease and provides straightforward advice on complex issues. He identifies the future core issues in the case early and advises practically and proportionately."
Chambers and Partners 2025

"Christopher is extremely knowledgeable in relation to military and catastrophic claims generally. He is very calm under pressure and is decisive, which is reassuring to mutual clients as well as the instructing solicitor."
The Legal 500 2024

"Christopher is a leader in his field. He is extremely knowledgeable, tactically astute and a fantastic negotiator."

"Christopher has the full set of skills honed over many years of practice."

"Christopher has a great ability to identify the key issues early and provides practical and proportionate advice."
Chambers and Partners 2024

"Chris is an outstanding barrister and someone that instructing solicitors trust completely with the most serious clinical negligence cases. He has a great ability to simplify the most complex issue which is exactly what you want when dealing with clinical negligence claims. He is thorough, analytical and responsive. He is a strong advocate and an excellent and safe pair of hands in this particular area. He is the complete barrister."

"Christopher is extremely knowledgeable in relation to military and catastrophic claims generally. He is very calm under pressure and is decisive, which is reassuring to mutual clients as well as the instructing solicitor."
The Legal 500 2023

"Christopher is very pragmatic in negotiation."
Chambers and Partners 2023

"He is excellent in court and with clients." "He sees the correct way forward in any situation and is very good in settlement negotiations."
Chambers and Partners 2022

"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

"Christopher is an outstanding operator."
The Legal 500 2022

"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

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.