Stuart McCracken

Call 2010

Clerks

Leigh Daniels
0161 817 2768

Olivia Cleere
0161 817 7138

Appointments

- Deputy District Judge
- Pro Bono Panel – Centre for Women's Justice
- Junior Counsel to the Crown (Regional Panel C) (2018-2023)

Memberships

- Human Rights Lawyers Association
- Personal Injuries Bar Association

Education

- Bar Vocational Course, BPP Law School (Outstanding, 2010)
- Master of Laws (LLM), University of Sydney (2005)
- LLB (Hons) Law, University of Manchester (Class 2:1, 2001-2004)
- Buchanan prize, Lincoln's Inn (2010); Thomas More Scholarship, Lincoln's Inn (2009); Hardwicke Scholarship, Lincoln's Inn (2008).

Personal Injury

Stuart has a busy and wide-ranging personal injury practice, acting in a sensitive but forthright manner for claimants who have sustained life changing injuries. He is recognised by Chambers and Partners and the Legal 500 2027 as a Leading Junior in the field of personal injury. He has experience of drafting multi-million pound schedules of loss in complex cases, and a particular expertise in military claims and cases involving serious orthopaedic injuries.

Always happy to provide informal advice on procedure and tactics at any stage in proceedings, Stuart prides himself on an ability to establish strong relationships with solicitors and clients. He is able to draw on his experience prior to the Bar when dealing with cases that have human rights implications; something in which he has a particular interest.

Personal Injury Cases

S v MoD (2025) – in this military NIHL case a pyrotechnic exploded close to the claimant's head while he was asleep, causing acoustic trauma and hearing loss. He lost the opportunity to commission and as a result left the British Army. Breach of duty and causation were denied, exaggeration was alleged, and limitation arguments were made by the defendant. Stuart was extensively involved throughout, securing the abandonment of the breach of duty and limitation defences, and concessions on the part of the defendant's ENT expert following CERA testing which provided objective proof of the claimant's hearing loss. The claim settled for over £750,000 at JSM.

N v P (2025) – following an accident with a saw at work the claimant suffered a partial amputation of his middle finger and serious injury to the ring finger of his non-dominant hand. Primary liability was admitted but late allegations of contributory negligence were made by the defendant. Stuart advised following receipt of an early offer, marshalled the expert evidence (most significantly prosthetics evidence), and following a successful trial of an MCP Driver secured a settlement of £625,000 at JSM, ensuring that the claimant will have the necessary prosthetics provision for life.

A v MoD (2024) – the claimant who was a Royal Navy diver sustained a mild non-freezing cold injury ('NFCI') during a diving exercise in Scotland. Despite the mild nature of his injury he was unable to continue his career as a diver and was medically discharged as a result. Liability, causation and quantum were all in dispute. Following exchange of expert evidence Stuart drafted a detailed schedule of loss, projecting not only military losses but more significantly the loss of civilian diving opportunities as a commercial SAT or Air diver thereafter. The claim settled at JSM for £950,000.

M v Z (2023) – the claimant was injured when he was crushed by a piling rig which was being operated by the defendant. He suffered a ruptured spleen, requiring splenectomy, and damage to his AC joint. Stuart was instructed from the outset, helping to secure an early admission of primary liability and private treatment. Happily the claimant made a good recovery and returned to his pre-accident employment, but would always be more vulnerable to septicemia. This risk, and the issue of contributory negligence, were strongly disputed by the Defendant at JSM, where the claim settled for a significant six-figure sum.

A v B (2022) – led by David Knifton KC, Stuart acted for the claimant who had suffered a brain injury in a road traffic accident. There was considerable disagreement between the experts as to the nature and extent of the claimant's permanent symptoms, and their likely effect on his earning capacity and need for care and case management in the future. The claim settled at JSM for £1.75million, ensuring the provision of lifelong support.

X v M (2022) – Stuart acted for the claimant who had suffered NIHL during military training exercises as a result of a failure to provide adequate hearing protection. Causation was in issue. After significant input into the medico-legal evidence and a robust Reply causation was ultimately conceded, the claim settling at a JSM for well over £200,000.

X v M (2022) – in this unusually severe NFCI claim both liability and causation were denied. Stuart had significant involvement throughout due to its factual and medical complexity. Following joint statements the claim settled for a six-figure sum at a pre-trial settlement hearing.

X v J (2022) – this was a liability-contested employers' liability claim following an accident in which the claimant sustained a serious head injury following a fall at work. Expert neuro-rehabilitation and neurology evidence was obtained, and despite liability being denied in full a settlement of £200,000 was achieved at JSM.

X v Essex (2021) – successful Highways Act claim following a 2-day trial in which liability and quantum were both strongly contested.

X v P (2021) – the claimant suffered a significant injury to his left ankle at work for which liability was admitted. Issues in the case included the extent of any ongoing disability, future earning capacity, pre-existing degenerative conditions, and the need for orthotics and pain management treatment. A settlement of £300,000 was secured at JSM.

X v Y (2021) – acted in this High Court fatal accident claim on behalf of the estate and dependants of the deceased, involving complex issues of financial and services dependency, including expert care evidence. Following provision of a detailed schedule of loss the claim settled at JSM for a substantial six-figure sum.

X v P (2020) – represented the claimant motorcyclist, who sustained severe orthopaedic injuries to the left limb, pelvis and hip, from an early stage. Issues included residual earning capacity, life expectancy and care/aids. The claim settled for £575,000.

X v C (2020) – acted for the claimant following a serious road traffic accident in which he sustained a significant injury to his knee. Liability was denied and forensic engineering evidence was obtained by both sides. The defendant also sought to rely on surveillance evidence of the claimant . A settlement of £250,000 was agreed at a JSM.

Recommendations

"Stuart is efficient, organised and friendly."

"Stuart has a nice manner with military clients and is a really safe, steady, quality advocate."

"Stuart is clever and a skilled tactician. His paperwork and attention to detail are excellent and his bedside manner with clients is impeccable."

"Stuart is an excellent advocate with outstanding client service skills. His level of expertise can always be counted upon."

"Stuart is technically excellent and wonderful with clients."

Chambers and Partners 2027

"Stuart is an excellent barrister with first-rate attention to detail, strong analytical skills, and sound judgment. He is exceptionally well prepared and provides clear, practical advice. His client care skills are outstanding; he communicates with empathy and clarity and inspires confidence in clients and solicitors alike. He is approachable, responsive, and always a pleasure to work with. I have not identified any particular weaknesses in his practice."

The Legal 500, 2027

"Stuart is a very technical barrister, easy to work with, and particularly good with sensitive clients. He is able to explain complex legal matters in a way they understand."
The Legal 500, 2026

"Stuart is an experienced junior in military personal injury litigation. He has a relaxed manner with lay clients and does an excellent job of putting them at ease, and this skill is extremely important when dealing with vulnerable clients."
The Legal 500, 2025

"Stuart is excellent on papers and available for ad hoc advice. He is always very well-prepared for conferences with clients and experts, and he is a good negotiator."
The Legal 500, 2024

'Stuart is extremely well-prepared for his trials. He is impressive tactically; tenacious in his submissions and took good points; and his cross-examination is incisive and effective. Alongside all of that, he is a pleasure to be against. He fights hard for his client while also being a very pleasant opponent.'
The Legal 500, 2023

Publications

Stuart is the co-author of Account Rendered: Extraordinary Rendition and Britain's Role (Biteback Publishing, London, 2011).

Beyond the Bar

Stuart is a sports obsessive. When not playing badminton or football, he can be usually be found watching live sport, and has travelled the world in search of the perfect match.

Prior to coming to the bar Stuart worked in Parliament for the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Extraordinary Rendition, campaigning to get to the bottom of UK involvement in rendition. Stuart spent 5 months with the Office of the Prosecutor at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, assisting in the prosecution of four former government ministers for genocide and war crimes.