



Chris Gutteridge

Call 2006



Clerks

 Leigh Daniels
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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

Clinical Negligence

Chris has been committed to working on behalf of seriously injured people and bereaved families for nearly two decades. He has an established track record of achieving excellent results for claimants in high-value clinical negligence claims.

Chris represents claimants who have suffered catastrophic injuries as a result of medical negligence. His practice encompasses:

- Birth injury claims (including cerebral palsy and brachial plexus injuries);
- Injuries resulting in amputations (including from failures to recognise and treat limb ischaemia);
- Claims involving spinal cord injury (including delays in diagnosis of Cauda Equina Syndrome and failures to diagnose myelopathy);
- Claims involving brain injuries (including avoidable strokes);
- Claims arising from delays in diagnosing cancers.

Chris has a reputation for quickly “*getting to the heart*” of a clinical negligence claim and providing “*clear and eloquent*” advice. He is always happy to be involved in the earliest stages of a claim to discuss tactics, expert evidence and a claimant’s rehabilitation needs.

He has a wealth of experience as an advocate in the King’s Bench Division. He has represented claimants at trials of breach and causation as preliminary issues as well as for assessment of damages. He is adept at cross-examination of medical experts and medical lay witnesses. He is recognised the legal directories as a “*brilliant*” and “*extremely tough*” advocate.

Chris has a special interest in the engagement of vulnerable claimants in their claims for compensation. He successfully represented the claimant in the first reported case on the ‘vulnerability’ provisions in CPR PD1A: *AXX v. Zajac* [2022] EWHC 2463.

Chris is also renowned for his skill in producing high value schedules of loss. He negotiates settlements worth millions of pounds every year for seriously injured victims of medical negligence (including at joint settlement meetings and mediations).

Chris' focus is always on achieving the best possible outcome for his lay clients, both during and at the conclusion of their claims. Securing adequate interim funding to put in place effective rehabilitation is his first priority when taking on any new instruction. His goal in every case is to ensure that his badly injured clients finalise their claims with a sufficient pot of compensation to make positive changes to their lives in the short and long term.

Beyond his practice, Chris has a passion for improving equality and diversity at the bar. His special interest is the prevention of bullying, harassment and discrimination at the bar – a topic on which he has published articles and lectured extensively. He is an officer of the Northern Circuit's Equality, Diversity and Social Mobility Committee.

Chris is also chair of Exchange Chambers' pupillage committee and an organiser of the Personal Injury Bar Association's Northern Circuit Conference.

Clinical Negligence Cases

Case study 1 (2024)

The claimant suffered a total anterior circulation stroke as a result of the defendant's (admittedly) negligent failure to refer him for anti-coagulant therapy. He was left with profound weakness, spasticity and spasms on his left side and no use of his left hand. Chris was instructed as junior to Chris Barnes KC. They advised on and instituted a caseplan. Chris provided advice on expert evidence and preparation of key witness statements. He drafted the claimant's schedule of loss, including claims for the cost of obtaining single-storey accommodation and procuring paid support for the remainder of the claimant's life. A multi-million pound settlement was reached 2 weeks before trial.

Case study 2 (2024)

The claimant suffered a devastating brain injury through mismanagement of her birth. Her mother was sent home from hospital repeatedly whilst in established labour. The defendant's failure to monitor fetal heart rate during labour meant that signs of distress were missed and delivery was delayed, resulting in injury. After prolonged pre-litigation preparation (during which Chris and David Knifton KC advised with the instructed experts in consultation and drafted proceedings), the defendant admitted liability in its defence and judgment was entered alongside the defendant making a substantial interim payment. Chris is now advising on securing a further interim payment to fund purchase of a large single storey property.

Case study 3 (2023)

The claimant suffered cerebral and spinal cord strokes as a result of alleged failures to provide appropriate treatment for hypotension whilst she was an inpatient at the defendant's hospital. She was a type 1 diabetic with, amongst other complications, diabetic nephropathy and was in hospital for dialysis treatment when she began to experience low blood pressure and suffered her strokes. Led by David Knifton KC, Chris advised extensively prior to proceedings and drafted the pleadings. The defendant admitted mismanagement of the claimant's dialysis, but alleged her strokes were unavoidable and unrelated. A six-figure compromise was agreed at JSM reflecting the litigation risks posed by the dispute over causation.

Case study 4 (2023)

The defendant was the claimant's dentist who missed an oral tumour during a routine check-up, causing a delay in diagnosis of squamous cell carcinoma. But for the negligence, the claimant would have been 'cured'. As a result of the delay, his life expectancy was very short indeed. The claimant's primary concern was to conclude his claim before he died so that he could know his family would be provided for. Chris settled the pleadings, successfully resisted an application for an extension of time for the defendant's defence, successfully obtained directions for an expedited trial and represented the claimant at JSM – achieving the claimant's goal and securing more than half a million pounds in compensation.

Recommendations

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

"Chris is fantastic, he is going places."

“A stand-out junior probably destined for early Silk.”

“Chris is very good. He is contactable and approachable, happy to hop on a call and just talk you through things.”

“His advocacy is very good and he’s very empathetic and patient with clients.”

“Chris is very knowledgeable and a technically competent individual. He is capable of cutting through complex expert reports and getting to the heart of the issues.”

Chambers and Partners 2025

“Chris is an excellent all-round barrister with brilliant advocacy skills who is very helpful and a joy to instruct.”

“He is very hard working and tactically able, and works well with difficult clients.”

“Chris is very knowledgeable, calm and always has a clear plan.”

“He has expansive skill and experience.”

Chambers and Partners 2024

“Chris is a fabulous junior who can bring matters to a speedy and effective resolution.”

“Chris has a fantastic understanding of difficult claims. He is a good tactician.”

“Chris is able to extrapolate the finer details of complex reports into a simple form.”

Chambers and Partners 2023

“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:

“Chris is an utterly fabulous junior who quickly gets to the heart of a claim to bring matters to a swift and effective resolution. A fantastic understanding of difficult claims, providing clear and eloquent advice with practical solutions.”

“Chris has skills which far exceed his call. He is an outstanding junior in all respects, as he is highly knowledgeable, a polished advocate, and he has an easy, down-to-earth approach with lay clients.”

The Legal 500 2025

“Chris is much more accomplished than his years’ call suggests. He is a phenomenally able barrister, he has a very relaxed manner, clients love him, and he is an extremely tough advocate.”

“Chris is a highly intelligent and skilled barrister whose preparation is detailed and analysis of the law and the facts is thorough. He maintains a very personable manner with solicitors and clients alike, and is rightly in demand for high-value clinical negligence cases.”

The Legal 500 2024

“Chris is calm, collected, has a good grasp of the law and is always available. He is friendly and a delight to work with. He combines common sense with huge ability and his understated manner belies an outstanding determination to achieve the best outcome for those he represents.”

“A fabulous junior who quickly gets to the heart of a claim to bring matters to a speedy and effective resolution. A fantastic understanding of difficult claims, providing clear and effective advice with practical solutions. Very well received by claimants and lawyers and an absolute pleasure to work with. He is friendly, approachable and a good tactician. He is logical, extremely knowledgeable and an extremely capable junior well beyond his call.”

The Legal 500 2023

“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

Beyond the Bar

Chris lives in south Manchester with his family and their three cats. He was born and raised in Salford and is a lifelong Manchester United fan (even without much to cheer about since 2013). He is a Level 2 CrossFit trainer and coaches at a CrossFit gym in south Manchester in his spare time.

Chris has a passion for improving equality and diversity at the bar. His special interest is the prevention of bullying, harassment and discrimination at the bar – a topic on which he has published articles and lectured extensively. He is an officer of the Northern Circuit’s Equality, Diversity and Social Mobility Committee.

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