

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

Personal Injury

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 personal injury claims.

Chris represents claimants who have suffered catastrophic injuries in road traffic accidents or accidents at work and those with claims arising under occupiers' liability legislation. His practice encompasses claims arising from traumatic brain injuries, spinal cord injuries and injuries resulting in amputations.

Chris has a reputation for being “*very knowledgeable*” and having “*a fantastic understanding of difficult claims*”. 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 collision reconstruction experts. 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 claimants (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.

Personal Injury Cases

Case study 1 (2023)

The claimant was a cyclist (not wearing a helmet) who was hit by a bus and sustained a severe traumatic brain injury. Chris was instructed to advise the claimant and his family prior to commencement of proceedings. He assisted with marshalling expert evidence from a number of disciplines in support of a significant claim. In this case, the claimant's failure to wear a helmet was a key issue. Chris advised in conference with engineering and neurological experts and presented an argument that the claimant's rotational brain injury would not have been prevented by use of a helmet. Chris settled the pleadings, including the schedule of loss and represented the claimant at a joint settlement meeting where compromised was reached at a seven figure sum.

Case study 2 (2024)

The claimant was a driver involved in a head-on collision. She sustained polytrauma injuries including fractures to both tibias and both knees as well as a traumatic brain injury. Chris was instructed to advise on case planning and settled pleadings. As the matter progressed towards settlement, Chris advised in conference with medical experts to refine the presentation of the claim. The claimant had a pre-existing back injury which would have impacted her ability to work in any event, but her need for paid support and adapted accommodation was successfully argued to be a direct result of the accident. The matter settled for a seven figure sum.

Case study 3 (2024)

The claimant sustained multi-fragmentary intra-articular fractures to both femurs in a road-traffic accident. She was left significantly disabled: she was unable to walk for any distance and struggled with stairs. Her pre-injury home was a rented first floor apartment up a steep flight of stairs. Attempts to find a more suitable apartment to rent failed because of steps in common areas. As such, Chris advised on the preparation and presentation of a claim for the cost of purchasing/adapting a bungalow to meet the claimant's needs. Chris advised in conference with experts, drafted the schedule of loss and represented the claimant at a joint settlement meeting, where a compromise was struck at a seven figure settlement.

Case study 4 (2024)

The claimant sustained a serious knee injury in a road-traffic accident. He was unable to continue his pre-injury work as a machine engineer in a factory and obtained employment as a school estates manager. Chris advised in conference with the claimant and the orthopaedic expert witness regarding whether the claimant was 'disabled' for the purpose of an Ogden loss of earning calculation. The defendant denied that the claimant was disabled and argued he had suffered no loss of earnings by finding a similarly well-paid job. The matter went to trial on that issue. Chris cross-examined the defendant's expert and successfully argued that the claimant met the criteria for 'disability'. Judgment was awarded at just shy of half a million pounds.

Case study 5 (2024)

The claimant was a pedestrian hit by a bus on a pedestrian crossing. She sustained a severe traumatic brain injury. Prior to the accident, she had lived in supported accommodation because of developmental disabilities and learning difficulties caused by undiagnosed hypothyroidism at birth. There was no dispute she now needed significant support, the issue was whether she would have ever lived without support but for her injury. That dispute required careful marshalling of expert and lay witness evidence as well as careful analysis of pre and post-injury records. Chris advised in consultation as junior to William Waldron KC, drafted the schedule and represented the claimant at the JSM where he and Mr. Waldron secured a multi-million pound settlement.

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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