

Matthew Stockwell

Call 1998



Clerks

-  Sarah Rotherham
-  0151 242 8887

Appointments

- Honorary Life Member, Association of Personal Injury Lawyers
- Working Party member and contributor to the Guide to the Conduct of Cases Involving Serious Injury

Memberships

- APIL
- ALBA
- PIBA
- PNBA

Education

- Trinity College, Dublin
- Liverpool John Moores University
- Liverpool College

Clinical Negligence

Matthew has undertaken clinical negligence work throughout his career and is regularly instructed to advise and represent patients and their families in claims involving all areas of clinical practice including neurology, neurosurgery, spinal and other orthopaedic surgery, obstetrics and neo-natal management, pain medicine and anaesthesia, paediatrics, gynaecology, general surgery, vascular, cardiac and stroke management.

Drawing upon his complementary experience in the sphere of mental health and mental capacity law, Matthew is particularly adept at dealing with claims involving informed consent, psychiatric treatment and psychiatric injury.

Matthew's clinical negligence practice increasingly focuses on high value brain and spinal injuries arising in the following circumstances:

Brain

- Brain injury caused during or following surgery (head surgery or neurological complications arising from other surgical procedures)
- Obstetric and neo-natal management
- Misdiagnosis or delayed treatment following head injury
- Stroke – failure to prevent and delayed diagnosis and mismanagement
- Delayed diagnosis and mismanagement of:
 - Aneurysms, haemorrhages and haematomas
 - Meningitis and other infections
 - Raised intracranial pressure
 - Brain tumours or abscesses
- Mismanagement of medication resulting in brain injury
- Radiology and assessment errors resulting in brain injury

Spinal

- Cauda Equina Syndrome

- Missed fractures of the neck and back
- Patient handling and mobilisation errors
- Spinal surgery
- Negligent advice and consent issues
- Delayed diagnosis and management of spinal infection, abscesses and tumours
- Mistakes from facet joint injections and caudal epidurals

As with other aspects of his practise, Matthew brings a proactive and focused approach to his clinical negligence cases, closely assisting as requested with all aspects of the process from initial assessment and case planning through to settlement or trial.

Clinical Negligence Cases

Paraplegic whose care and accommodation requirements significantly increased following mismanagement of pressure injuries by district nursing staff.

Lower limb amputation claim involving older client following vascular mismanagement.

Failure to obtain informed consent for colorectal surgery resulting in post-operative infections which caused severe spinal infection resulting in cauda equina compression and weakening of the legs and incontinence.

Negligent management and treatment of a spinal abscess resulting in tetraplegia. Patient died from related infection and respiratory problems approaching third anniversary of negligence. Proceeded as financial dependency claim.

Failure to undertake prophylaxis following abscess surgery resulting in DVT and pulmonary embolism. Complex consideration of lifetime risks and provisional damages.

Fatal accident claim arising from negligent post-operative management of aneurysm repair.

Delayed diagnosis and management of spinal TB infection resulting in permanent pain and weakness.

Negligent post-operative management of spinal surgery resulting in kidney loss and ineffective rehabilitation of presenting spinal injury.

Claim based on lack of informed consent and post-surgical management of knee replacement procedure leading to development of Complex Regional Pain Syndrome (CRPS).

Claim on behalf of diabetic patient who suffered below knee amputation following delayed diagnosis and treatment of foot infection.

Claim on behalf of wife of patient who died (following a three-year period in a minimally conscious state) following delayed diagnosis and mismanagement of a subdural haemorrhage.

Numerous claims of delayed diagnosis and management of patients resulting in cauda equina syndrome (CES), typically following disc herniation but also those arising from spinal stenosis, cancer, trauma and abscess formation.

Recommendations

“He’s very meticulous and handles very high-value cases”

“Matthew has a great analytical approach to clinical negligence and complex personal injury claims.”

Chambers and Partners 2024

“Matthew is strong in identifying issues and considering solutions to problems when they arise. He works well with experts, identifying any weaknesses in their evidence which need to be explored, he is very good at planning ahead in the most serious of cases, and he is good at drafting high-value schedules of loss.”

“Matthew is strong in achieving outstanding outcomes for his clients. His approach to clients is sympathetic yet practical in seeing a way through very complex issues.”

The Legal 500 2024

“He thinks outside the box.”

“Matthew is incredibly intelligent and conscientious.”

“He is a very effective advocate. He makes really difficult concepts easy to understand.”

Chambers and Partners 2023

“Matthew has an encyclopaedic knowledge of the law relating to clinical negligence claims. His input to drafting the opening and closing submissions at trial is invaluable. He is always ready and willing to provide expert witness recommendations based on first-hand experience.”

“Matthew is thorough and gets to grips with the issues in a case. He plans the progression of cases well, knows the relevant law and addresses both liability and quantum in a practical and informative manner. He has good client skills, demonstrates empathy and puts them at ease. His advocacy is also good and he is helpful and approachable.”

The Legal 500 2023

“Great attention to detail and organisational skills. Genuine empathy with clients. Not afraid to take on complex cases.”

“Matthew is a fantastic legal mind but approachable with clients and lawyers alike. He is a superb tactician and is prepared to explore all avenues to drive a case to success. He will remain a go-to barrister for clinical negligence work.” **The Legal 500 2022**

“He knows the topics inside out and he knows the direction he wants cases to go in.”

“An excellent senior junior barrister – he really gets into the minutiae of the case.” “A superb tactician who is great on the detail and very approachable.” **Chambers & Partners 2022**

“He is very responsive and helpful in answering questions. His questioning of experts in conference is very well prepared and thorough. He is very clear with clients.”

“He is excellent at getting to the heart of cases. He has a very good knowledge of relevant case law and the CPR and I know that I can rely upon his advice. He has excellent client care skills too and is flexible in his dealings with the clients and experts. He knows how to gain their trust. He plans cases ahead of time. Always keen to be helpful.” **The Legal 500 2021**

“He has a good manner with clients.” **Chambers & Partners 2021**

“Is an encyclopaedia of forensic and tactical knowledge.” “He is an organised and persuasive advocate both in orally and in writing.” **The Legal 500 2020**

“He is an organised and persuasive advocate and an encyclopaedia of forensic and tactical knowledge.” **The Legal 500 2018/19**

“His recall of principle is encyclopaedic.” **The Legal 500 2017**

“His empathetic approach goes down well with clients. He works hard and achieves good results as a consequence.” **Chambers & Partners 2016**

“He is very capable and has a good approach to the work. Very straightforward and knowledgeable, he keeps up to date with the law and the process in this area.” **Chambers & Partners 2016**

“Well known for handling complex personal injury cases, particularly those involving brain injury and issues relating to mental capacity. Interviewees praise his high level of technical skill. “Out of all the barristers I deal with he has a unique ability to spot appeal points and persuade the court to accept his point of view.” “He is very good on paper and on his feet.” **Chambers & Partners 2015**

“Respected junior on the Northern Circuit noted for his skill in handling deprivation of liberty cases on behalf of the vulnerable adult. He has particular knowledge of cases stemming from acquired brain injury. “Delivers very passionate, well-balanced arguments.” Acted for the applicant in bringing a successful appeal to have an elderly woman with complex medical treatment needs released from a care home.” **Chambers & Partners 2015**

“Maintains a broad practice in judicial review proceedings, with a particular interest in health, social welfare, education, human rights and mental health issues. He acts for local authorities, government and individuals. “He gives calm, assured and authoritative advice.” Acted in the Supreme Court for the appellant challenging the refusal of the Health Secretary to make a referral to the First-Tier Tribunal to review her detention under the Mental Health Act.” **Chambers & Partners 2015**

“Strong in brain injury cases, including those involving mental capacity issues.” **The Legal 500 2014**

“An experienced judicial review and local government petitioner.” **The Legal 500 2014**

“Handles a range of public law matters including those pertaining to healthcare and social welfare.” **Chambers & Partners 2014**

“Liverpool-based Matthew Stockwell represents individuals, family members, local authorities and the Official Solicitor. “He can spot unusual points in a case which others might not be able to.”

Chambers & Partners 2014

“Acts in a range of serious and catastrophic injury cases for claimant and defendant solicitors, including complex and catastrophic work relating to brain and spinal cord injuries and amputations “He’s a very competent and knowledgeable member of the Bar.” **Chambers & Partners 2014**

“Liverpool-based Matthew Stockwell...focuses on adult welfare issues, and frequently acts on behalf of local authorities. As a member of the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers, an organisation of which he is now Vice-President, he has been involved in challenging the Lord Chancellor’s review of the discount rate prescribed under the Damages Act 1996.” **Chambers & Partners 2013**

“Matthew Stockwell...is hailed for a practice that extends to health, social welfare, adult safeguarding and mental capacity issues. Sources emphasise that he is their advocate of choice before the Court of Protection. He has a huge breadth of experience thanks to his diverse work for claimants, local authorities and the Official Solicitor. Interviewees cannot praise him enough for his work ethic. “He works round the clock to deliver the most rigorous service to clients”, sources say.” **Chambers & Partners 2012**

“Matthew Stockwell...is the secretary of the Northern Administrative Law Association. Added to this, he has an impressive public law practice, principally acting for local authority clients in mental health and community care-related matters.” **Chambers & Partners 2011**

“Matthew Stockwell has recently been involved in several high value, complex PI and clinical negligence claims.” **The Legal 500 2011**

“Matthew Stockwell is praised for his expertise in community care law.” **The Legal 500 2011**

“Chambers has developed a local authority following for regulatory and public law instructions, spearheaded by Matthew Stockwell.” **The Legal 500 2010**

Publications

- Co-author of the APIL Guide to Accidents at Work.
- Chapter editor and contributor to APIL Personal Injury: Law, Practice and Precedents Service (since 2017).
- Specialist contributor to Judicial Review: Law & Practice (Jordans – 1st and 2nd Editions).
- Past Editorial Board Member, Journal of Personal Injury Law.

Beyond the Bar

Outside work, Matthew's main interests are cooking (an early starter at 4 years of age), outdoor sports (including skiing, walking and scuba diving), travelling (highlights include trekking to Machu Picchu, diving and sailing around the Galapagos Islands, watching the sunrise from the Ganges River in Varanasi and visiting Mountain Gorilla families in the rainforests of Rwanda) and family (he is married with two small and boundlessly energetic children).

Matthew is also a Community Governor at Palmerston School, a state special school for boys and girls aged from 11 to 19, which nurtures and supports young people with more serious and profound learning disability.