

GABRIEL FARMER

CALL: 1994

"In court he is a robust advocate and his forensic attention to detail is evident in his cross-examination."

Chambers UK 2019

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Gabriel is Head of the Guildhall's Personal Injury team. He has a longstanding specialist practice in personal injury and clinical negligence including catastrophic cases. He has broad experience of liability issues spanning fatal accidents, industrial injury, RTA/MIB claims, occupier/public liability claims, disease cases, cases of post accident clinical negligence or involving technical factual issues.

Gabriel has regular involvement in quantum disputes involving fatality, paralysis, traumatic brain injury, spinal injury, amputation and claims involving CRPS / Somatoform / or other chronic pain disorders. He enjoys a busy practice, is instructed by claimants and insurers and is described in Legal 500 as "highly effective" and "ultimately the advocate you want on your side" and is ranked at as a tier 1 junior.

He is ranked in Chambers UK as "Extremely thorough in his preparation, and knowledgeable of the relevant law" and "Always on top of the detail." Recent cases include a T12 paraplegic, a novel issue relating to contributory negligence in a lung cancer claim (destined for the Court of Appeal in 2017), a bilateral above-knee amputation and paralysing discitis caused by a workplace laceration with subsequent clinical negligence.

Alongside these less higher-end claims Gabriel's practice also includes cases spanning down to lower values - a consequence of loyal relationships forged over time. Solicitors particularly value his approachability, commercial awareness, and ability quickly to gain the confidence of the lay client, especially in cases where problems have arisen or where careful handling is required.

PRACTICE AREAS

- Personal Injury
- Clinical negligence
- Inquests

PERSONAL INJURY

Gabriel is typically instructed in liability disputes arising out of:

- Fatal claims of all types
- Road traffic accidents
- Subrogated claims
- Multi-handed liability apportionment disputes
- RTA 1988 s.151 disputes
- MIB liability
- Regulatory breaches in employer liability cases
- Contributory negligence issues in cases of significant quantum
- Public liability injury cases
- Limitation - especially in disease cases

Quantum disputes typically involving:

- Complex or multiple injury claims
- Cases involving difficult causation issues surrounding pre-existing medical conditions / acceleration / damaging surveillance / competing psychological disorders
- Law Reform / Fatal Accident Act assessments
- Brain injury cases
- Amputation injuries
- Pain cases (CRPS, fibromyalgia, chronic pain etc)

Cases involving complex quantum, issues such as:

- Claimants requiring significant care regimes
- Losses of earnings in self employed claimants
- Significant claims for prosthetics and other appliances
- Cases involving the need for modifications to accommodation
- CICA claims

RECENT CASES

Claimant Cases

- Hind quarter amputation (leg, part pelvis, genitals) EL claim. C not eligible for a prosthetic (no bearing surface). Claims included earnings, care, accommodation and mobility aids. Settled for c. £1m.
- £750k claim arising out of avulsion of C's hand in a jet ski accident. Claim including Michelangelo bionic hand and received significant media attention (on-going).
- Severe knee fracture (EL claim) and subsequent clinical negligence leading to loss of career in HGV driver (trial: £250k).
- Fatal RTA of designer with significant career potential (settled for £750k).
- Double fatal RTA including issues of automatism on the part of the defendant (on-going).
- RTA causing chronic pain where claimant (a GP) suffered significant diminution in earnings potential (on-going).
- £1m claim involving loss of creative ability secondary to frontal lobe damage.

Defendant Cases

- Fatal RTA based on complex facts including earlier identical accident on the same road and allegations of defective works causing flooding (on-going).
- RTA leg amputation. Led by Adrian Palmer QC. Settled for c. £1m.
- Defending £700k quantum claim brought by claimant with pre-existing leg palsy. Claimant cross-examined on credibility 1 day. Claimant then accepted historic P36 offer of £25k.
- Quantum defence in case of severe electrical burns causing severe hand injuries and psychological damage (on-going).
- Hernia claim in manual worker (case struck out at trial on causation argument).
- Defence of Human Rights Act claim brought by parent following children being placed on "at risk" register by social services (on-going).

CLINICAL NEGLIGENCE

Gabriel enjoys a mixed practice claiming and defending in cases involving GP and hospital negligence.

His recent cases include:

- Negligent failure to prescribe prophylactic antibiotics leading to spinal neurological impairment
- Post surgery well leg compartment syndrome leading to chronic pain and impaired mobility
- Negligent failure to diagnose and treat spinal discitis following a workplace laceration causing neurological impairment

INQUESTS

As an adjunct to his Fatal Accident Personal Injury and Clinical Negligence practise and as a result of many years' appointment to the Treasury Panel Gabriel has significant experience of inquest work.

Gabriel's inquests work has included:

- Acting as counsel to the enquiry in a complex young person suicide cases
 - Numerous RTA workplace inquests (especially where issues involve multi-party liability)
 - Public liability fatal claims
 - Prison / secure unit suicide cases
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RECOMMENDATIONS

- [Chambers UK 2015](#)
 - [Chambers UK 2014](#)
 - [Legal 500 2014](#)
 - [Chambers UK 2013](#)
 - [Legal 500 2013](#)
 - [Chambers UK 2012](#)
 - [Legal 500 2012](#)
 - [Chambers UK 2011](#)
 - [Chambers UK 2010](#)
 - [Chambers UK 2009](#)
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MEMBERSHIPS:

- PIBA
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EDUCATION:

- BSc Hons (Reading) 2:1
 - CPE (Leeds)
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RECENT NEWS

- [Personal Injury Case Updates - December 2015](#)
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