



## James Townsend

Call: 1980

Email: james.townsend@guildhallchambers.co.uk

### **Practice:**

**Clinical Negligence**

**Personal Injuries**

**Crime**

### **Clinical negligence**

James is a highly experienced, specialist clinical negligence practitioner. He works exclusively for claimants and spans the full range from surgical negligence and neo-natal injury to mis-diagnosis. He has an extremely loyal base solicitors who value his expert grasp of every detail – from selecting the appropriate experts, collating all necessary evidence, to cross-examination at trial. Lay clients appreciate his clear and concise advice and his is repeatedly described as highly sympathetic. Complementing his clinical negligence, James has developed a strong niche in disciplinary and regulatory work in the medically-related field.

### **Cases of interest:**

*Yearworth & Others v North Bristol NHS Trust* [2009] 2 All ER 986 (CA) – Multi-party action for four separate groups of men. Men had banked sperm at a hospital, pending treatment for cancer, the sperm subsequently being damaged through failure of the freezing equipment, causing them mental distress and psychiatric injury. The Defendant denied liability on the grounds that there had been no “personal injury” and that the sperm was not the property of the men. The Court of Appeal held that the sperm was still the men’s property, and that the sperm should be treated as having been bailed to the Defendant, who was liable on a principle close to that of contract.

Acting for a large group of patients against their local NHS Trust following defective hip replacements. Liability was initially denied, however following detailed arguments of causation and quantum the claims were successfully settled at the value claimed.

Claims acting for several children (now adults) who brought claims against local authorities for psychiatric injury consequent upon poor supervision whilst in their care. The claims involved difficult arguments over causation of psychiatric injury but were eventually settled in the claimants favour.

Delayed diagnosis of neuro-development disorders. Claims brought against local education authorities and NHS trusts for the delay in diagnosis which led to educational and psycho-social disadvantages. Difficult issues in determining levels of quantum.

Defending nurses against allegations of professional misconduct. Hearings before a professional disciplinary body involving a variety of allegations from mal-administration of medication, dishonesty and psychological problems.

### **Crime**

James practises in complex fraud cases, mainly prosecuting. He has undertaken this type of work for more than 15 years, appearing in mortgage, government, property, professional and other types of fraud. He also acts for the Serious Fraud Office.

**Education:**

New College, Oxford M.A. (Jurisprudence)

**Pupillage:**

3 Pump Court  
Guildhall Chambers

**Appointments:**

Recorder

**Professional memberships:**

Professional Negligence Bar Association  
AvMA

**Directory recommendations:****Legal 500 2010 & 2009**

Personal injury and clinical negligence  
James Townsend is recommended.

**Clerks:**

For clinical negligence and personal injury please contact either Alastair Campbell ([alastair.campbell@guildhallchambers.co.uk](mailto:alastair.campbell@guildhallchambers.co.uk)) or Maggie Fisher ([Maggie.fisher@guildhallchambers.co.uk](mailto:Maggie.fisher@guildhallchambers.co.uk))

For crime please contact Lucy Northeast ([lucy.northeast@guildhallchambers.co.uk](mailto:lucy.northeast@guildhallchambers.co.uk))

**CFA**

Yes