

Guildhall Chambers

Personal Injury & Clinical Negligence Team

The Guildhall Personal Injury & Clinical Negligence teams pride themselves on consistently delivering the highest standards of advisory and advocacy services for both claimants and defendants throughout the country.

Barristers within the teams are widely applauded for their robust professionalism, accessibility and approachability. The quality of the service provided is the consequence of both an excellent clerking team and members being truly specialised in personal injury and clinical negligence law.

The Personal Injury team focuses primarily upon serious injury in the form of:

- Brain injury (including cases of subtle or paediatric injury).
- Chronic pain (including Fibromyalgia, CRPS, SSD, and FND and other related disorders/syndromes)
- Death (inquests and fatal accident claims).
- Industrial disease (including asbestos-related conditions, VWF, deafness, stress, asthma, dermatitis, and repetitive strain).
- Orthopaedic and soft tissue injuries of all types.
- Paralysis and amputation (including claims for adapted accommodation, prosthetics, etc).
- Psychological injury (PTSD and lesser conditions).

The junior members and Pupils within the team are regularly instructed to undertake advocacy and drafting in respect of Small Claim and Fast Track hearings, deal with Stage 3 matters and are skilled in dealing with claims involving credit hire and issues of fundamental dishonesty.

Our Clinical Negligence team covers all aspects of clinical negligence litigation, including, but not limited to:

- Anaesthetic injuries
- Cardiac (surgical and non-surgical management)
- Cauda equina syndrome
- Colorectal surgery
- Delayed diagnosis of cancer and associated treatments

- Gynaecological injuries
- Hand surgery
- Management of chronic illness in the primary care setting (e.g. urological, renal, and gastric)
- Management, care, and containment of patients in the psychiatric setting
- Neurological injuries arising out of alleged mismanagement of stroke, subarachnoid haemorrhage, and meningitis.

Clerks

Caroline Evans

Senior Practice Manager - Personal Injury, Clinical Negligence, Costs & Litigation

Caroline joined Guildhall Chambers in May 2021 and is responsible for the management and business development of our Personal Injury, Clinical Negligence and Costs & Litigation teams.



She began clerking a civil set in 2001, is a qualified Legal Executive, Chartered Insurer and CIM qualified.

Olive Kavanagh

Practice Manager - Personal Injury & Clinical Negligence

Having started in Guildhall Chambers as a member of the Receptionist team, Olive has embraced the opportunities given to her in progressing her career in Chambers and relishing the role of Assistant Practice Manager for the Personal Injury, Clinical Negligence and Cost teams.



For further information, please contact one of our dedicated clerks: Email: pi.clerks@guildhallchambers.co.uk
Telephone: 0117 930 9000

Barrister profiles

Selena Plowden KC

Call: 1991

Co-Head of Personal Injury & Clinical Negligence Teams



“Absolutely excellent - she really stands out for her acumen and expertise in clinical negligence cases.” “She’s truly meticulous and incredibly sharp.” CHAMBERS UK BAR 2022

Chambers and Partners have consistently ranked Selena as a leading junior and “Star Individual” since 2014 for her Clinical Negligence work. She is recognised as “one of the standout Clinical Negligence barristers at the Western Bar for cases concerning birth injury, catastrophic neurological injury and fatalities”.

Selena is regularly instructed in high value, medically complex clinical negligence cases. Her caseload covers a wide spectrum of injuries including:

- Patients with catastrophic brain injuries following sub arachnoid haemorrhage, anaesthetic injury & basilar artery stroke;
- Cerebral palsy and developmental amnesia following obstetric mismanagement;
- Spinal injuries including paraplegia & cauda equina syndrome;
- Maternal birth trauma;
- Cardiothoracic surgery;
- Delayed diagnosis of cancer.

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Julian Benson

Call: 1991

“He is exceptional and one of the best counsel I have ever seen with clients. He makes every client feel at ease.”
CHAMBERS UK BAR 2022

Julian works exclusively on complex and/or high value claimant and defendant work, typically involving brain injuries, catastrophic limb injuries (and amputations), chronic pain syndromes and disorders, and psychiatric injuries frequently against leading counsel.

Julian is a co-organiser, speaker and co-chair of the annual Peterhouse Medico-Legal Conference in Cambridge. In recent years he has addressed the Royal Society of Medicine (pain division) and the bi-annual conference of the British Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society (“BOFAS”)

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Anthony Reddiford

Call: 1991

“An excellent technical barrister and a very tactical advocate. He is always immaculately prepared and always in command of the brief.” “He has really good forensic analysis skills and an eye for detail.” CHAMBERS UK BAR 2022

Anthony (Tony) is a catastrophic injury and industrial disease specialist with 30 years' experience. He regularly handles multi-million pound claims alone or led for Claimants and Defendants. His current cases include multi- million pound claims for brain, spinal and amputation injuries. He has substantial experience of chronic pain claims.

Anthony has a particular interest in complex fatal claims involving difficult issues in relation to family businesses and inheritance of assets. His asbestos disease cases include low-dose mesothelioma claims (breach and causation); lung cancer causation; and immunotherapy costs. Anthony has substantial trial and pre-trial experience of claims where fraud/dishonesty is alleged.

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Gabriel Farmer

Call: 1994

“An excellent advocate who is innovative but realistic in his advice and pleadings.” “He is good with clients, puts them at ease and is able to build a rapport with them very quickly.” CHAMBERS UK BAR 2022

Gabriel has a long-standing specialist practice in personal injury and clinical negligence. He enjoys a balanced Claimant/Defendant practice and brings robustness and sensitivity in equal measure. He is known for prompt delivery of written work as well as being highly pragmatic. His experience includes representation at all levels including the Court of Appeal. His cases often include KC opponents.



His PI caseload generally comprises catastrophic cases. He has broad experience of liability issues spanning fatal accidents, RTA/MIB claims, occupier/public liability claims, asbestos claims, cases of post-accident clinical negligence or involving technical factual issues. Quantum disputes regularly involve fatality, paralysis, traumatic brain injury, spinal injury, amputation and claims involving CRPS/Somatoform/or other chronic pain disorders.

His clinical negligence work has recently included GP and surgical breaches of duty including failures to respond appropriately to the formation of spinal abscesses and bowel perforation.

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Fergus Currie

Call: 1997

Fergus specialises in Personal Injury, Employment, Civil Fraud, Public/Regulatory Law and Sports Law. He is a robust advocate with an in-depth knowledge of his chosen fields. Thoughtful and understanding, clients know that they are in the best possible hands.



After starting at the Bar with a mixed Criminal and Civil practice, Fergus has gone on to develop a mixed but complementary practice in Personal Injury, Employment, Civil Fraud, Public/Regulatory Law and Sports Law.

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Oliver Moore

Call: 2005 | SOL: 1998

Co-Head of Personal Injury & Clinical Negligence Teams



“Oliver, has a real nose for tactics and is very bright, sharp and responsive”. “An extremely safe pair of hands. He is a very experienced, knowledgeable and diligent barrister.” CHAMBERS UK BAR 2022

Oliver specialises in Personal Injury, Clinical Negligence and Costs Litigation. He was a solicitor (with Higher Rights) before transferring to the Bar and has worked in the personal injury field for almost 25 years.

He has a substantial practice mainly consisting of serious and catastrophic injuries. Particular areas of interest and expertise include: fatal accident claims; brain injury claims; claims involving loss of chance of career and/or promotion; and chronic pain cases.

Oliver is head of Chambers’ Costs and Litigation Funding team and his knowledge and experience in costs is frequently sought after in respect of PI and clinical negligence claims. He is renowned for his handling of CCMCs in high value PI and clinical negligence claims. He is the author of the chapters on Part 36 and Costs Appeals for BPILS.

He is recommended as a Leading Junior in both Legal 500 and Chambers UK for Personal Injury and Costs Litigation. He is the only barrister on the Western Circuit recommended in both directories for both Personal Injury and Costs Litigation.

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Robert Sowersby

Call: 2000

“Robert is always well-prepared, very down to earth, and adept at putting forward hard hitting, persuasive arguments. I have every confidence that with his guidance, the outcome at the end of the case will be the best for the client.” LEGAL 500 2022



Rob's busy practice is centered around defending clinical negligence claims and he has worked as a practitioner in this field for over 15 years. Initially best known for Claimant work, having followed the well-worn “poacher turned gamekeeper” path, Rob now acts principally for doctors, health boards and hospital trusts, no longer accepting instructions to act on behalf of claimants.

He has a reputation for success in unusually difficult cases and is well regarded for being strongly client-focused, ‘down to earth’ and skilled in dealing with experts. He is consistently recommended by the leading legal directories and is recognised for his ability to approach cases forensically but with an eye on the ‘bigger picture’.

Rob sits locally as an Assistant Coroner and as result of this, along with regularly being instructed to provide representation, he has acquired extensive experience of large and high-profile inquests.

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Martin Lanchester

Call: 2001

“He is approachable, excellent with clients and gives practical advice.” CHAMBERS UK BAR 2022

Martin is a member of the Guildhall Personal Injury and Clinical Negligence team. Martin is able to take instructions covering a whole range of personal injury and clinical negligence matters representing both Claimants and Defendants.

Martin is instructed to assist with fast track trials, multi-track trials, infant approvals, costs advocacy, and provides thorough and timely advices on liability and quantum. Martin is regularly instructed in Inquest hearings acting for families of the deceased and other interested parties.

He is an experienced advocate having spent a number of years as a criminal practitioner and was included on the specialist panel for prosecutors undertaking serious sexual crime. Following on from this Martin has a particular interest in abuse claims.

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Oliver Manley

Call: 2005

“A good advocate who is able to really command the trust of the judge.” “He provides excellent client service.” CHAMBERS UK BAR 2022

Oliver is a commercial, property & estates and personal injury barrister with considerable experience in resolving all manner of disputes arising from his practice areas. He regularly appears in both the High Court and County Court and is consistently instructed in cases at all stages, from advisory, pre-action, interlocutory applications, trial, costs and appeals.

Oliver has built a successful and substantial practice in Personal Injury. He covers all areas of negligence and represents both Claimants and Defendants. He deals predominantly with Multi Track work but is also happy to be instructed on FT work, if appropriate. He is regularly instructed to appear at CCMCs, interlocutory applications and of course trials. Oliver accepts instructions to deal with matters on a CFA with no uplift. He will not charge for his initial advice should the case lack prospects.

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Sophie Holme

Call: 2009

"She is a meticulous, forensic and diligent lawyer with an excellent manner and great empathy for her clients. Her written work in particular is excellent." CHAMBERS UK BAR 2022



Sophie Holme is a leading junior with a strong reputation for representing Claimants and Defendants in clinical negligence and personal injury claims. Sophie acts in cases involving the full range of medical specialisms and a wide range of injuries.

In inquests, Sophie has experience of difficult cases involving a wide range of healthcare matters involving medical and psychiatric treatment including prison deaths and those within Hospital Trusts. Sophie appears on behalf of families, Trusts and represents the interests of doctors. Sophie is happy to consider acting pro bono in appropriate cases given the difficulty faced by many seeking to fund representation in the coronial setting.

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Kriti Upadhyay

Call: 2011

"Kriti has an excellent strategic brain. She is extremely reliable and detail-orientated. Reassuring, calm and eloquent and able to decipher complex cases to ensure clients understand all merits and risks to their case. She delivers advice with compassion." LEGAL 500 2022



Kriti has a busy clinical negligence practice, and advises on a wide range of cases ranging from complex obstetric and gynaecological issues, delayed cancer diagnoses and surgical errors in various disciplines. She is instructed to advise and appear in court in matters by both claimants and defendants. Kriti regularly drafts pleadings for multi-track cases, advises both in conference with experts from various disciplines and on settlement.

Kriti advises on a wide range of personal injury cases on behalf of both Claimants and Defendants. Her practice includes cases involving a range of injuries sustained in road traffic accidents, employers' liability, public liability and Animals Act claims. Kriti also has experience of CICA and MIB claims.

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James Bentley

Call: 2012

“He is incredibly personable and a pleasure to work with.”
CHAMBERS UK BAR 2022

James Bentley is recognised as a leading junior for both personal injury and costs. He appears for Claimants and Defendants in broadly equal measure, with most of his caseload being in the multi-track.



In addition to ‘standard’ RTA, EL and PL claims, James has extensive experience in more complex claims. He is commonly instructed in cases relating to: brain injury, the Fatal Accidents and Animals Act, secondary victims, pain disorders, accidents abroad, and those with complex loss of earnings. He also continues to be instructed in fundamental dishonesty/fraud cases by both sides. Most of his cases are valued in excess of six figures.

James has also built a successful clinical negligence practice, receiving instructions on behalf of both Claimants and Defendants. His cases usually involve at least 3 or more experts being instructed for each side. He has also been instructed as a junior and second junior in cases involving injuries at birth. His expertise has resulted in him being selected to co-author the Clinical Negligence chapter of Butterworths Personal Injury Litigation Service Manual.

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Manon Rowlands

Call: 2016

Manon is a specialist Personal Injury and Clinical Negligence practitioner. She regularly appears for both Claimants and Defendants in court.

Manon has a busy Personal Injury practice and regularly appears for both Claimants and Defendants in a range of matters such as Road Traffic Accidents, Occupiers and Employers' Liability and Highways Act claims. Manon is routinely instructed on Fast Track trials, Stage 3 hearings, Credit Hire, Infant Settlement approvals and Applications.

Manon is developing a wide Clinical Negligence paperwork practice. Manon has been instructed on a range of cases including delayed diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder, negligently performed surgeries and neuropsychiatric injury arising from chemoprophylaxis prescriptions.

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Dr. Philip Hughes

Call: 2017

Philip is a specialist Personal Injury and Clinical Negligence practitioner, instructed on behalf of claimants and defendants. With experience beyond his year of call, Philip advises and appears for clients in fast-track and multi-track proceedings. He is able to leverage his qualification as a doctor to provide fresh insight to even the most complex of injury claims. Philip also accepts instructions in associated costs matters.

Philip's Personal Injury practice is focused towards high-end fast-track and multi-track litigation. His experience is across the spectrum of personal injury matters and at all stages of proceedings, from advising on prospects through to trial and determination of costs. He is regularly instructed on matters involving fraud/fundamental dishonesty and demonstrates a strong track record of success in this area.

Philip has a particularly strong Clinical Negligence practice. The knowledge he has gained from qualifying as a doctor gives him invaluable insight into the medical profession and a deep understanding of factual issues.

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Sophie Walmsley

Call: 2017

Sophie is a specialist Personal Injury and Clinical Negligence practitioner and is instructed on behalf of both claimants and defendants. She continues to develop her already busy practice and welcomes instructions in all areas of personal injury, clinical negligence, costs and Court of Protection.



Sophie continues to develop her clinical negligence practice and has experience in a wide range of clinical disputes, including those of delayed or misdiagnosis, substandard treatment and pressure sores. She has drafted pleadings and provided advice on quantum and liability for both claimants and defendants.

Prior to pupillage, Sophie was seconded to an in-house legal team within an NHS trust where she developed her understanding and insight of clinical disputes and continues to build on this experience in practice.

Sophie has experience in all areas of personal injury law, including road traffic accidents, employer's liability, occupiers' liability, highways claims and product liability. She is regularly instructed to represent and advise both claimants and defendants.

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Alastair Prince

Call: 2021

Alastair Prince completed his pupillage in October 2023 and is a member of the [Personal Injury](#) and [Clinical Negligence](#) teams.



Alastair has a growing personal injury practice, frequently appearing both for claimants and defendants on range of matters, including stage 3 hearings, infant approval hearings and small claims trials, including credit hire cases. Alastair is looking to build his practice further, and is keen to accept instructions.

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Louise Hayes

Call: 2022

Louise is a barrister in the Personal Injury, Clinical Negligence and Court of Protection teams. She successfully completed her specialist pupillage in September 2023, under supervision of Oliver Moore.

Louise has a busy Court practice. She regularly appears on behalf of Claimants and Defendants, particularly in fast-track trials, small claims, interlocutory applications, stage three hearings, credit hire matters and infant settlement approvals. Louise is also developing a growing paperwork practice. She is regularly instructed to draft pleadings and advice in a broad range of cases.

Developing from her Personal Injury and Clinical Negligence practice, Louise welcomes instructions in matters in the Court of Protection, coroners' Court and in regulatory proceedings.

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