



## SPECIALISATION

All aspects of personal injury litigation (claimant and defendant), industrial disease (mainly asbestos, but also VWF/HAVS and deafness) and fatal accident/disease litigation. All other areas of law with medical issues, including clinical negligence, CICA, and Inquests, particularly arising out of clinical negligence and asbestos exposure.

Challenging PI cases dealt with include: complex orthopaedic injuries; chronic pain and somatoform disorder; animals (particularly horse-related accidents); dental injuries; mesothelioma, asbestosis and low asbestos exposure; civil proceedings for multiple attempted rape and physical assaults; neglect of elderly relatives in nursing care.

Cases have included advising on accidents which have occurred abroad in and outside Europe.

Professional regulatory work, acted for Registered Nurses in NMC proceedings and also before Care Standards Tribunal; GMC; Medical student in University/GMC-related disciplinary issue; Dentist, including in relation to their NHS Trust; and also have advised Radiographer and Health and Care Professionals' Council - HCPC.

## PI CASES

PI case values range from fast track to £million plus.

Recent cases successfully concluded include:

General PI - Non-disease/Orthopaedic:

- Brian Injury – Client was violently assaulted and left for dead by her ex-partner. Client was left with severe head injuries – cognitive functioning, hearing, speech, memory and balance. This case had to be resolved as a CICA case. TCL, Stanmore.
- Brain Injury/clinical negligence – Miss AM Developed a viral infection (herpes simplex encephalitis) causing brain damage as the virus destroyed the brain. Hospital failed to diagnose HSE and negligently treated with oral acyclovir instead of intravenous, left client with problems including the mental age of an 8 year old. Complex causation and quantum issues. Feld, McKay & Donner Solicitors, Rochdale.
- Spinal Injury – Passenger in a Road Traffic Accident. Suffered multiple injuries including the removal of spleen. Neurosurgeon confirmed a loose bone fragment in the intervertebral canal which was moving. This involved risks of damaged nerve roots or worse. Complex neurosurgery to remove bone fragment. Silverbeck Rymer, London.
- Serious soft tissue back injury in claimant with pre-existing type 1 Neurofibromatosis. Complex causation problems. AMV Law, Barnet.
- Mining accident – falling materials leading to serious developing injuries – Watson Burton Solicitors, Newcastle.
- Contralateral amputations following accident to pedestrian on railway. Silverbeck Rymer, Liverpool.
- Teenager severely burned in barn fire – Feld McKay & Donner Solicitors, Rochdale.
- Police officer repeatedly assaulted and attempt rape by her older police officer partner – Ralli Solicitors, Manchester.
- Elderly patient in care with dementia – serious injuries, there were no witnesses for Claimant – Ralli solicitors, Manchester.
- Case where claimant had elements of somatoform disorder. Defendant asserted exaggeration. Significant challenges with obtaining expert evidence post-Jackson. AMV Law, Barnet.
- Horse riding accidents - claimants riding other peoples' unfamiliar horses – lack of instruction, supervision and unsafe systems – GLP solicitors, Bury and Feld, McKay & Donner, Rochdale

## INDUSTRIAL DISEASE

- Many deceased mesothelioma cases and several asbestosis cases where Defendant argued *de minimis* exposure, including successful against 11 day employment – Higgins & Co Birkenhead, JMP Solicitors Warrington, Birchall Blackburn Solicitors Manchester.
- Advised in several hundred British Coal Respiratory (Chronic Bronchitis, COPD and pneumoconiosis) cases and some VWF scheme cases.



- Deceased mesothelioma cases where practically all employment pre-1954 – Ralli Solicitors, Manchester
- Cases with significant issues relating to causation where diagnosis asbestosis versus idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis (usual interstitial pneumonia). Roberts Jackson, Wilmslow.
- Mesothelioma case of woodworker where uncertainty of materials being processed uncertain – John Pickering Solicitors, Manchester
- Upper limb disorder from use of staple gun at work – Irwin Mitchell, Leeds

## CLINICAL NEGLIGENCE

Cases have included failure to diagnose scaphoid fractures, macular degeneration, slipped femoral epiphysis in child, failure to diagnose Crohn's disease, breast cancer and herpes simplex encephalitis. Also, failure to diagnose and treat DVT, resulting in serious injury and death. (In one case advising defendant in employer's liability case identified clinical negligence resulting in significant contribution from negligent health authority.)

The CICA cases which I have been involved in have included a number of sensitive cases for local authorities on behalf of children (now in care) who have been sexually abused, including where it has been inappropriate to call them as witnesses. Also police officers (instructed by Russell Jones and Walker, Manchester) and a nurse subject to assault at work (instructed by Royal College of Nursing, Bolton).

## INQUESTS

Include many mesothelioma, asbestosis and lung cancer deaths. Also suicide for young woman in presence of police officers (Russell Jones and Walker, Manchester); Also death of a senior doctor under extreme pressures from media as a result of professional standing in the community – (Pannone, Manchester); nurse alleged to have neglected patient (Royal College of Nursing).

## PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

- Finding of no impairment for Registered Nurse accused of having hit a patient – Royal College of Nursing, Bolton.
- Overturning of CQC's (Care Quality Commission) refusal to register a foreign-trained nurse as Care Home Manager by Care Standards Tribunal - Royal College of Nursing, Bolton.
- Nurse admitted to failing to follow prescriptions for babies in Paediatric Intensive Care Unit - Royal College of Nursing, Sunderland
- Dentist charged with fraud - maintaining of permission to practice for NHS during course of police investigation – Pannone, Manchester

## OTHER GENERAL COMMON LAW

Especially other contractual and tortious cases. Also, health and safety prosecutions of businesses especially for food hygiene issues. Successful cases have included:

- Challenging government contract tendering process – Molesworths Bright Clegg, Rochdale
- Advising in commercial lease dispute – Wrigley Claydon Solicitors, Oldham
- 50% reduction in fine for successful food business prosecuted for health and safety breaches upon appeal.

## OTHER PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS

Part-time (fee paid) First Tier Tribunal Judge in the Immigration and Asylum Chamber.

Membership of PIBA, APIL and the UK Association of Women Judges

## MEDIATOR AND MEDIATION ADVOCACY

I am a fully trained mediator, although recent mediation work has been as mediation advocate on a number of complex PI cases which were not amenable to settlement by joint settlement meeting.



## VOLUNTEERING

Mentoring A level students at Xaverian 6<sup>th</sup> Form College in Rusholme each year since 2009.

## LEISURE

Keeping fit (to counter the hours in front of the WPI!) swimming, horse-riding, yoga, gym, hiking.  
Also food/cooking (have worked as chef in "good food guide" restaurants in France and Manchester in the past), learning Spanish, "arthouse" films and travel (e.g. South America, India & Malaysia). Renovating Catalan farmhouse in Priorat. Failing to keep grip on family.

## LANGUAGES

Pretty fluent in conversation at Spanish ("nivel avanzado") and French (A level +)

## EDUCATION

Oxford University (MA Jurisprudence) 1989-92  
Manchester University – MA in Healthcare Ethics and Law (part-time 2000-2)  
Inns of Court School of Law 1992/3  
Bury Grammar School