

Charles Robertshaw

Call: 2007
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AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Personal Injury, Clinical Negligence, Fraud, Insurance, Costs & Litigation Funding, Inquests, Credit Hire

Charles specialises in complex personal injury claims. He is regularly instructed for both claimants and defendants in a wide range of personal injury work involving serious injury and death, including: employers' liability, public liability, highways claims, clinical negligence, and road traffic liability. Charles' practice involves claims of high value, including some in excess of £1 million.

Charles is known for combining his notorious attention to detail and thorough preparation with an ability to identify the key issues in the case and provide pragmatic, clear, logical advice to his clients.

Charles is an experienced, persuasive and robust trial advocate. He is approachable and builds a strong rapport with his instructing solicitors and clients.

Where settlement is appropriate for his clients, he is a skilled negotiator both in JSM's and in mediations and regularly achieves successful outcomes for his clients without recourse to trial.

Personal Injury

Charles has considerable experience and expertise in a wide range of complex personal injury work, including:

- Employers' liability (particularly accidents on construction sites)
- Occupiers' liability
- Public liability
- Accidents on the highway
- RTA claims
- Fatal Accidents
- Psychiatric/Secondary Victim claims

His cases often involve fatalities and injuries of the utmost severity, particularly:

- Complex orthopaedic and psychiatric injuries;
- brain injury and spinal damage;
- Pain syndromes (including CRPS, somatoform disorders, and fibromyalgia).

In addition to his court advocacy, Charles is frequently instructed to represent both claimants and defendants at mediations and joint settlement meetings and he regularly drafts pleadings, schedules of loss, counter-schedules and interlocutory applications and advises both on paper and in conference.

Recent examples of Charles' personal injury work include the following:

- Acted for a defendant in a claim pleaded at around £900k arising out of an accident at work in which a groundworker suffered a very severe crushing injury to his foot which involved extensive surgery and a protracted and partial recovery. The key issues in the case included the quantum of the future loss of earnings as the accident occurred at a time when the claimant had only just started his business in the UK. Settlement was successfully achieved at JSM.
- Acted for a claimant who suffered an accident at work when a spark entered his ear causing him to suffer catastrophic tinnitus and associated severe psychological injuries. Causation of both the tinnitus and psychological injuries were complex and disputed between the parties given the claimant's history. A successful settlement in a six-figure sum was achieved prior to trial.
- Acted for a defendant in a claim pleaded at around £700k arising out of an accident at work which resulted in the amputation of an index finger. Complexity arose in the valuation of the claims for prosthetics, future care and future loss of earnings. Settlement was successfully achieved at JSM.
- Acted for a claimant who suffered a neck fracture in an RTA and went on to develop a chronic pain disorder which significantly disrupted his ability to work. Extensive expert medical evidence was obtained and an appropriate six-figure settlement figure was achieved at JSM at an early stage in proceedings.
- Acted for a claimant who suffered a significant knee injury which affected his ability to pursue a career as a top-level sports conditioning coach for Team GB and Premier League football clubs. The matter involved difficult issues regarding future earning capacity and evidence of likely salaries. The matter was successfully concluded at a JSM.
- Successfully obtained a settlement a six-figure settlement at JSM for 3 children whose mother was killed in a RTA. The significant issues in the case included the valuation of the gratuitous care for the children provided by their father.
- Acted for one of four defendants in £100K+ claim by worker who suffered a significant eye injury whilst working on a construction site. The matter was successfully concluded at JSM following resolution of a difficult issue of apportionment between the defendants.
- Acted for a claimant who suffered a significant psychiatric injury following witnessing her deceased father's coffin being buried in the wrong plot at the defendant's graveyard. The case examined where the boundaries of the class of secondary victims in psychiatric injury claims may lie.

Qualifications & Awards

Imperial College, London BSc (First Class, Hons) in Biological Sciences,
LLB Law (Hons), The College of Law
BVC (Outstanding)
GDL (Distinction)

HR Light Bursary (Middle Temple Scholarship) Winner
College of Law (London) GDL Mooting Competition 2006
Awarded College of Law (London) Advocacy Prize 2007

Memberships

PIBA