Christopher Kennedy KC

Head of Chambers

YEAR OF CALL 1989 YEAR OF SILK 2010

Email: pi@9sjs.com

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Clinical Negligence, Travel & International Personal Injury Law, Insurance Fraud, Regulatory and Professional Discipline Group, Personal Injury



Clinical Negligence CV

Specialist Areas of Practice

Personal Injury Clinical Negligence

Profile

Chris is the head of the personal injury and clinical negligence group which has 32 members including 4 silks.

Personal Injury

Chris has very wide experience of personal injury litigation including all types of employer's liability, public liability, serious road traffic accident and industrial disease cases. He is used to dealing with the type of issues relating to quantum generating by someone suffering catastrophic injury. He has considerable experience in multi-party actions for both Claimants and Defendants.

Chris has particular expertise in cases involving psychogenic pain and in the conduct of defence work in potentially fraudulent claims. He receives instructions from a number of insurers in these sensitive fields. He successfully represented two major insurers in the first contested action to recover damages from those behind a fraud 'ring'.

Clinical negligence

Chris' clinical negligence practice includes litigating a wide variety of issues including the management of psychiatric and other vulnerable patients, birth related defects, administration of drugs and informed consent. He is skilled at providing guidance on expert evidence in such cases.

Chris is either currently acting, or has recently acted for clients in cases which have covered the following ground:

Current Cases

- the issues generated by the killing of one psychiatric patient by another whilst they were both detained in a secure hospital;
- the failure by a hospital to detect a serious spinal fracture after a road traffic accident in which the Claimant also

suffered a significant traumatic brain injury.

Recent Instructions

- the responsibilities of (i) a psychiatrist and (ii) a social worker for the behaviour of a resident at a half-way hostel who seriously wounded one of the resident carers;
- the development of pressure sores during respite care by a Claimant who lacked capacity;
- the claim of a lady who had to give birth without anaesthetic as a result of a failure correctly to interpret her scans sufficiently early.

Additional Areas of Practice

Health and Safety Corporate Manslaughter Environmental Law Professional disciplinary work

Quotes

Personal Injury: Band 1"He is one of the most respected silks in the industry by both lawyers and insurers alike. He is incredibly knowledgeable, approachable and commercially aware. He always goes above and beyond with his preparation.""Christopher's knowledge of this area of the law cannot be beaten.""Christopher has superlative-forensic attention to detail, he is very commercial, strong in negotiations, and very pragmatic."

- Chambers and Partners 2024

Personal Injury: Christopher has immense experience and a quick-fire mind, and he is able to digest vast amounts of information rapidly, and has an easy manner with clients. He is a go-to silk, and during advocacy, he is composed, measured, and his are points delivered in a smooth style."

- Legal 500 2024

Personal Injury - Northern (Bar): "Chris is a fountain of knowledge and is technically excellent."

- Chambers and Partners 2023

Personal Injury - Northern Bar: "He is highly intellectual and able to effectively distil complex issues and make them straightforward for clients."

- Chambers and Partners 2022

Personal Injury - Northern (Bar): Band 1 "He has forensic attention to detail." "Very intelligent and has excellent commercial awareness."

- Chambers and Partners 2021

Personal Injury: Leading Silk Band 1 "Technically excellent, approachable and user-friendly"

- Legal 500 2020

Personal Injury - Northern (Bar): Band 1 "He is excellent on high-value and complex personal injury claims. He's always extremely well prepared and approachable, and is a fantastic negotiator." "He's very good with clients and is able to present complex issues in a straightforward way." "He has a lovely manner and is able to drill down into complex evidence without flustering witnesses and experts."

- Chambers and Partners 2020

Motor Insurance Fraud All Circuits: Band 1 Has a quick mind, is very good with clients and possesses a superb grasp of detail."

- Chambers and Partners 2020

Personal Injury and Clinical Negligence ranked Tier 1 A very confident silk with a quick mind and a superb grasp of detail.

- Legal 500 2019

Motor Insurance Fraud All Circuits: Leading Barrister (Band 1) "A very robust advocate." Chambers and Partners UK Bar 2019

- Chambers and Partners UK Bar 2019

"His close attention to detail, commercial awareness and preparation are second to none."

- Chambers and Partners 2018

"Outstanding. Very analytical and extremely good with papers, clients and experts. Always on top of his brief and very easy to get on with."

- Chambers and Partners 2018

'A master on his feet.'

- Legal 500, 2017

'He is forensically brilliant.'

- Legal 500, 2017

Principally represents defendants, often on significantly high-value claims, though he also undertakes claimant work. His caseload encompasses catastrophic brain injury, RTAs and industrial disease claims, among others. "Detail-driven and an effective negotiator." "An incisive thinker with an approachable and emphatic manner with clients. He is superb at breaking down the complex components of policy issues and his attention to detail in catastrophic personal injury claims is outstanding."

- Chambers & Partners 2017

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- Chambers and Partners 2017

An expert in personal injury law who also has considerable knowledge of road traffic accident cases. Single-minded in pursuit of his case and quite prepared to dig his heels in where necessary.

- Chambers and Partners 2017

"Recommended for health and safety prosecutions."

- Legal 500, 2016

"Recommended for cases involving psychogenic issues."

- Legal 500, 2016

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breaking down the complex components of policy issues and his attention to detail in catastrophic personal injury claims is outstanding."

- Chambers and Partners 2016

"A leading regulatory practitioner who devotes his practice to the defence of individuals and companies in health and safety prosecutions. 'He has the knowledge and presence to have clients eating out of the palm of his hand."

- Chambers and Partners 2016

"Focuses on defending individuals and companies facing enforcement proceedings for health and safety offences. He also acts for local authorities. 'He is always prepared and gets straight to the heart of a matter.'"

- Chambers and Partners 2016

"A leading practitioner who principally represents defendants in serious personal injury cases, with wide-ranging experience in cases involving potentially fraudulent claims. He undertakes the full spectrum of disputes, including matters involving industrial disease and clinical negligence. 'I found him excellent. He is very knowledgeable, good on his feet, good with clients and very bright.'' He is very approachable and capable. He is very forensic and quick to grasp the relevant issues.'"

- Chambers and Partners 2016

"Very easy to deal with, he goes the extra mile and is extremely approachable." "Calm and considered, he's absolutely on the point when cross-examining witnesses."

- Chambers & Partners 2015

"He is nicely commercial and pragmatic. He doesn't just give you a legal opinion he also gives you a business opinion."

- Chambers & Partners 2015

"He is very good on his feet: calm and considered, and absolutely on the point when cross-examining the witness." "He is excellent in conference and always meticulously well prepared."

- Chambers & Partners 2015

"Expertise in the health and safety aspects of personal injury matters."

- Legal 500 2014

"Experienced in multi-party actions for claimants and defendants."

- Legal 500 2014

"He's detail-driven, and an effective negotiator."

- Chambers & Partners 2014

brilliant .

- Legal 500 - 2013

Christopher Kennedy KC is head of 9 St John Street s personal injury group. He tackles a broad range of claims, including those concerning employer s liability, public liability, industrial disease and serious road traffic accidents.

- Chambers & Partners 2013

cross-examination skills are outstanding

- Legal 500 2012

The astute and unstuffy Christopher Kennedy QC is courteous yet tough , and keeps his opponents on their toes . His written advice is concise and well thought-out, say clients, and he is sought on the trickier catastrophic injury and quantum issues.

- Chambers & Partners 2012

A new silk, who fellow barristers believe will always make a good fist of a case however seemingly weak it is .

- Chambers & Partners 2011

Christopher Kennedy s practice spans all types of personal injury work, but also takes in a substantial proportion of regulatory work. He is approachable, pragmatic and will cut to the issues .

- Chambers & Partners 2010

"Christopher Kennedy is a sought after choice for general personal injury work. Clients like him as he provides 'unfailingly commercial and practical advice'."

- Chambers & Partners 2009

"Christoper Kennedy always gives excellent service."

- Chambers & Partners 2007

"Christoper Kennedy offers 'technical excellence, pragmatism and a clear understanding of the client's expectations'."

- Chambers & Partners 2006