Russell Dickinson

YEAR OF CALL 2002

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AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Insurance Fraud, Personal Injury



Personal Injury CV

Russell practices exclusively in the field of personal injury work, representing both Claimants and Defendants in cases involving significant injuries following accidents in the workplace, public liability disputes and serious road traffic accidents. He has a particular interest in cases involving serious limb injuries, particularly those involving mobility issues and the ability to return to work. His work in the area of insurance fraud includes advising in cases involving allegations of exaggeration/malingering and complex medical issues such chronic pain conditions and psychiatric conditions such as somatic symptom disorders.

Russell has developed a significant depth of expertise and experience in personal injury work over the years. He is regularly instructed to advise on expert evidence and is very experienced in dealing with experts in conference and at trial. He is regularly instructed for Joint Settlement Meetings and to advise in relation to negotiation and settlement tactics more generally. He also continues to attend court on a regular basis, for case management and at trial, which gives him an invaluable insight into the current court approach to various issues. He is regularly instructed for Costs and Case Management Hearings and is very experienced in dealing with contentious directions and disputes over costs budgets.

Russell is often instructed in contentious and high value proceedings involving significant disputes of fact and/or complex medical causation issues, including in cases involving the suspicion of exaggeration and malingering and the use of covert surveillance evidence. His usual caseload is Multi-Track cases with a value of £100,000 to £1.5 million but he also has experience of being led in very high value cases.

With a background in economics and finance, (including a stint working in the City in corporate finance), Russell is adept at working with figures and is regularly instructed to draft Schedules of Loss and Counter Schedules. He combines a friendly and approachable manner with a keen eye for detail and appreciation of commercial considerations, which is regarded as a key asset by his clients. He is regularly complimented on his ability to "get on" with his lay clients and to work within a team to secure the best possible outcome. This approach has led to regular instructions from a broad range of loyal clients, including many of the country's leading insurers, local authorities and national firms of solicitors.

As part of his commitment to developing solid working relationships, Russell often provides seminars to his solicitor and insurer clients.

Sample of recent interesting cases:

- A v OVT Instructed by D following a serious road traffic accident which resulted in life-threatening injuries including multiple internal injuries, serious lower limb injuries and psychiatric injury. At an early JSM negotiations resulted in a settlement at £300,000.
- P v WSS Instructed by C following a relatively minor accident at work but following which C continued to experience significant ongoing symptoms. Expert evidence in the fields of orthopaedics, pain management and psychiatry was obtained by both parties and there was significant dispute between the experts as to whether C's ongoing symptoms could be explained by a Somatic Symptom Disorder and, if so, whether this was attributable to the index accident. Negotiations at a JSM resulted in settlement at £195,000 net.
- R v AFP Instructed by C following an accident at work. C sustained a significant foot fracture that resulted in significant ongoing symptoms that impacted on his mobility and ability to work. Expert evidence in the fields of upper limb orthopaedics, lower limb orthopaedics and employment was obtained by both parties. The accident occurred very early in C's potential career as an electrician and there was significant dispute between the employment experts as to C's likely "but for" and "as is" employment prospects/earnings. Negotiations at a JSM resulted in settlement at just under £520,000.
- M v OCS Instructed by D following a slipping accident in a public area. In addition to a modest hand injury, C maintained that she had suffered significant colorectal injury, with serious ongoing symptoms that impacted her ability to return to work. Expert evidence was obtained by both parties in the areas of orthopaedics and colorectal surgery and initially there was significant dispute as to causation. An application by C to adduce further documents, lay witness evidence and expert colorectal evidence on causation shortly prior to trial was successfully defended. C subsequently accepted D's (approximately 12 month) old Part 36 offer to settle the claim for £5,000 with costs consequences shortly before trial.
- W v CP Instructed by C following a serious accident work resulting in a significant lower limb injury with ongoing mobility issues. Liability was disputed by D but following negotiations agreement was reached at a 2/3 to 1/3 split in favour of C. Preliminary expert evidence was obtained in the fields of orthopaedics, endocrinology, psychiatry and care/OT. A Preliminary Schedule was prepared for damages exceeding £800,000 and following service and further negotiations, settlement was agreed at £675,000 gross.
- C v N Instructed by D following a serious RTA resulting in C sustaining significant multiple injuries including pelvic fractures, leg fractures, loss of a kidney, erectile dysfunction and psychiatric injury. C advanced significant claims for PSLA, Loss of Earnings and Care and his Preliminary Schedule was pleaded at in excess of £1 million. At an early JSM, settlement was successfully negotiated at £475,000 gross.