Matthew Snarr

YEAR OF CALL 2001

Email: matthew.snarr@9sjs.com

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Inquests & Public Inquiries, Clinical Negligence, Insurance Fraud, Personal Injury, Regulatory and Professional Discipline Group



Clinical Negligence CV

Appointments

Junior Counsel to the Crown (Provincial) 'Treasury Counsel' appointed 2007

Profile

Matthew's personal injury practice is concentrated in multi-track litigation. He is adept at handling high value litigation in claims exceeding six figure sums and is instructed in cases exceeding £1 million. His work is split evenly between claimants and defendants.

Matthew is a trial lawyer. He is frequently instructed in liability disputes at trial where complex cross examination or technical legal submissions are involved. Matthew is regularly instructed to attend joint settlement meetings to negotiate large loss quantum disputes.

He has particular expertise in the following areas:

- 1. Brain damage cases requiring significant care regimes, periodical payments and accommodation claims.
- 2. Clinical negligence claims arising out of inept surgery; failed vasectomy, finger tendon repair, breast surgery, knee surgery and fatality consequent upon inadequate nursing care.
- 3. Fatal Accident Act cases including dependency claims.
- 4. Industrial Disease litigation covering the full spectrum including asbestos exposure, HAVS, dermatitis and repetitive strain injuries.
- 5. High value disputes in medical evidence concerning the future earning capacity of badly injured claimants.

Matthew advises and acts in high value, serious fraud proceedings particularly organised rings of fraudulent individuals and institutions often with a value exceeding £1 million. He also acts in cases involving malingering and false accounting.

Clinical Negligence Experience:

Current Cases

- Acting for a lady who developed a serious infection following a novasure ablation procedure which was overlooked by her GP who failed to prescribe broad spectrum antibiotics leading to a severe womb infection. A consultant

Gynaecologist subsequently carried out an unnecessary total hysterectomy and bilateral oophorectomy leading to significant surgical complications causing internal organ damage. This necessitated over 18 additional surgical procedures including major internal reconstruction surgery leading to permanent impaired bowel (with a colostomy), bladder and kidney function. Consequential life expectancy and provisional damages issues are engaged requiring a periodical payment order.

- Acting for a teenage boy who attended hospital with a septic appendix requiring emergency surgery where the abdominal wound closure was substandard leading to a burst abdomen and a 'cheese wiring' effect into the small bowel perforating the same. This caused damage to the small bowel and necessitated a temporary stoma, several additional surgeries and a prolonged admission in hospital because the patient could not absorb his nutritional intake until a PICA line was inserted and eventual closure of the jejumostomy (providing access to the stoma) together with limited resection of the small bowel leading to permanent consequences of abdominal scarring and weakness and future risks of hernia and bowel adhesions.

Notable Past Cases

- Acting for a lady who was suffering from a centrally prolapsed L4/5 disc giving rise to symptoms of Cauda Equina Syndrome which were missed by her physiotherapist. Listed for 3 day trial on breach of duty and causation. Defendant put all issues in dispute but a settlement of £241,14.92 was achieved
- Advising Mother of deceased new born who died of Group B Streptococcus (GBS) leading to sepsis on the cause of death death of her baby son and her position as a primary / secondary victim.
- Acting for a man who underwent a knee replacement but was prescribed post operative antibiotics for too short a period leading to MRSA infection of the knee and an above knee leg amputation. Matthew dealt with liability arguments alone and settled the final Schedule of Loss alone. Settled for £1.35M. With Tim Horlock KC
- Acting on behalf of Claimant in breast operation in which the operating surgeon failed to advise on risk of infection. Gregg v Scott type claim.
- Acting in case where A&E surgeon is alleged to have failed to identify a severed tendon on examination resulting in failure to operate on the hand until post-optimal date leading to incomplete recovery and disability in hand.
- Acting on behalf of Claimant with Crohn's disease regarding inadequate treatment upon repeated admission to hospital leading to urgent surgery to remove infected section of small intestine.
- Acting on behalf of family of elderly lady given inappropriate care regarding existing ulcer sores and blood infection leading to her death. Case involved recommendations made by the Health Ombudsman.
- Acting on behalf of Defendant optician who failed to identify increased glaucoma in the eyes of diabetic patient leading to patient becoming blind.

Publications

Intoxication and Inebriation: Another Late Night - Journal of Personal Injury Law [2015] No.2 pages 84-90 with Chris Kennedy KC.

We Need To Talk About Katie' Personal Injury Brief Update Law Journal Dec 2012 (with Michael Lemmy)

'Lights out for Excitement' New Law Journal 25.02.11

'Jelic v CC S. Yorks - ELA Briefing 01.10.10

'Financially Entwined' New Law Journal 13.08.10

'Crash course in LVI claims' New Law Journal 27.01.06 (with Boyd Morwood)

'Proving it in Reverse' New Law Journal 13.03.09 (with Tim Horlock KC)

'Restoring Disorder' New Law Journal 08.12.06 (with Boyd Morwood)

Additional Information

Matthew is experienced in public inquiry work having worked on the 1st phase of the Shipman Inquiry.

Matthew was a member of the British Debate Squad acting as an overseas debate coach in 2002. Matthew and his debating partner won the European Debating Championships 2001 and were ranked 6th at the World Debating Championships 2002.



Quotes

Personal Injury: Band 1"Matthew is very helpful, very knowledgeable and has an excellent level of competence in all areas.""He is very detailed, thorough, approachable and very professional, He leaves no stone unturned."He is very sensible and dogged in his presentation - a very good negotiator."

- Chambers and Partners 2024

Personal Injury: Matthew is very thorough with all papers, his trial prep is forensic, and he has great advocacy skills in tricky cases. He has great attention to detail and excellent drafting skills, and he can deal with complex and high value claims with aplomb."

- Legal 500 2024

Personal Injury - Northern (Bar): "Matthew is an incredibly capable barrister." "He is particularly strong in conference with experts." "He is unbelievable on attention to detail, he leaves no stone unturned." "Matthew really knows his way around high-value brain injury and fundamental dishonesty cases."

- Chambers and Partners 2023

Personal Injury: "Matthew has an excellent grasp of complex law and knows what to say and when to say it in a conference to make you feel as if you are a real team. He has an excellent manner with clients and witnesses, fantastic attention to detail and yet retains a pragmatic and strategic overview at all times. He gives views clearly without ever being condescending, he invites comment, and is a real team player. His advocacy skills are impressive, he engenders a sense of calm and control and is always well prepared and incisive."

- Legal 500 2023

Personal Injury - Northern Bar: "He is excellent in conference and fantastic with clients. He is always thoroughly prepared." "A very good strategist who is very detailed on the evidence." "He knows exactly where the weak points are in an opponent's case and how to exploit them effectively."

- Chambers and Partners 2022

Personal Injury: "Matthew is highly forensic in his analysis of evidence and is an exceptional strategist. Personable and collaborative, he has assisted in bring numerous complex CAT PI cases to a sensible settlement."

- Legal 500 2022

Personal Injury (Northern Bar) Band 1

"He is excellent at cutting through the issues in complex cases and is very good at thinking on his feet. He is an impressive advocate." "He is exceptional when speaking to his clients and explaining complex ideas. He demonstrates a real understanding of the ways in which the injuries have affected the client."

- Chambers and Partners 2021

Personal Injury (Northern Bar) Band 1

"His attention to detail is second to none, and clients and instructing solicitors love him because they know they will get forensic and commercially driven advice. He is absolutely outstanding."

"A very good negotiator who quickly grasps all the relevant issues."

- "He's very sharp and a great trial advocate."
- Chambers and Partners 2020

Personal Injury: Leading Junior Band 1

- "An excellent trial advocate with a great eye for detail."
- Legal 500 2020



Personal Injury and Clinical Negligence ranked Tier 1 His practice includes industrial disease, failed surgery and brain injury claims.

- Legal 500 2019

Personal Injury Northern (Bar): Leading Barrister (Band 2) "He is superb and a real one to watch. He is thorough, dynamic, leaves no stone unturned and is very tenacious." "He is a very energetic and capable practitioner with an excellent reputation and a very busy practice."

- Chambers and Partners UK Bar 2019

"An excellent junior. Very capable, good in terms of detail, a good negotiator and very good with clients."

- Chambers and Partners 2018

'A health and safety specialist.'

- Legal 500, 2017

'Known for acting in clinical negligence claims arising from failed surgery.'

- Legal 500, 2017

"Specifically acts for defendants in cases of fraudulent motor insurance claims. He has a particular specialism in high-value proceedings and those relating to organised fraud rings." "Thorough, sensible and can talk to the client in a way that they can understand."

- Chambers and Partners 2017

"Focuses his practice on personal injury and health and safety matters, with considerable expertise in employment liability. He has significant advocacy experience at both trial and appellate level, and regularly acts for clients in high-value claims. 'He's very capable and a good opponent, he does a good job for his clients.' 'A very good and very straightforward barrister.'"

- Chambers and Partners 2016

"He acts on an array of personal injury claims, including high-value and complex disputes. He is often instructed by defendants on cases involving alleged fraud. 'He is a very astute and alert barrister.'"

- Chambers and Partners 2016

"He's very clever, thorough, good on the detail, a good negotiator and very good on his feet." "He is exceptionally well prepared."

- Chambers & Partners 2015

"He's a very determined litigator, who is very able, particularly when handling complex areas of law."

- Chambers & Partners 2015

"Noted for his work on complex race discrimination and unfair dismissal claims. He is also known for handling negotiations and settlement agreements."

- Chambers & Partners 2015

"He is approachable and accessible."

- Legal 500 2014

"He is someone in whom you have confidence."

- Legal 500 2014

"He stands out for his enthusiasm, application and commitment, his understanding of issues, and his eagerness. He brainstorms and tries to get the best possible angles"

- Chambers & Partners 2014

"Matthew Snarr 'gets on well with clients and the instructing solicitor'."

- Legal 500 - 2013

"demonstrates considerable talent"

- Legal 500 2013

"The 'insightful and erudite' Matthew Snarr is another talented junior at the set. He is recognised for his 'outstanding cross-examination,' and was described by one solicitor as 'our first, second and third choice on tricky cases'."

- Chambers & Partners 2013

"undertakes a large amount of health and safety work for the HSE and is recommended for his fearless manner"

- Legal 500 2012

'extremely thorough and meticulous'

- Legal 500, 2012

"Thorough accurate and intuitive"

- Legal 500, 2011

"Very good with Clients"

- Legal 500 2009

"Clients further heaped compliments on the 'very pragmatic' Matthew Snarr who will always go the extra mile."

- Chambers & Partners 2009

"extremely good"

- Chambers & Partners 2008

"Very firm but fair."

- Chambers & Partners 2008

"Working well beyond his call."

- Legal 500, 2007

"...enthusiastic recommendations from solicitors thanks to his 'supreme professionalism.' "

- Chambers & Partners 2006

"Matthew Snarr appeals to Solicitors thanks to his really sharp mind andability to get right to the important issues of a case'."

- Chambers & Partners 2005