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



Occupational Disease CV

Appointments

Junior Counsel to the Crown (North West, since 2007 to present)

Preferred Panel of Counsel for the Equalities and Human Rights Commission

Profile

Matthew's personal injury practice is concentrated in multi-track litigation. He is adept at handling high value 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 Injury cases requiring significant care regimes, periodical payments and accommodation claims.
- 2. Clinical Negligence inept surgery, failed vasectomy, finger tendon repair, breast surgery, knee surgery and fatalities consequent upon inadequate nursing care.
- 3. Fatal Accidents complex business valuations, family disputes over dependency claims and high value financial dependency claims.
- 4. Industrial Disease the full spectrum including asbestos exposure, HAVS, dermatitis, occupational asthma, dermatitis and repetitive strain injuries.
- 5. Large Loss contentious disputes concerning the medical expert evidence over causation and prognosis where the future earning capacity and/or care requirements of a badly injured person are in dispute.

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.

He is fully conversant with insurance law principles and acts in claims for breach of insurance contracts frequently in cases involving breach of the utmost good faith.

Recent Cases

- Acting on behalf of a hospital porter who contracted permanent, severe dermatitis by exposure to airborne microorganisms.
- Acting on behalf of a domestic working in a hospital who developed occupational dermatitis due to exposure to irritant cleaning chemicals.
- Acting on behalf of a road worker who was employed by a local authority all his life working in the highways department who developed HAVS and Carpel Tunnel Syndrome.
- Acting on behalf of a sheet metal worker who suffered shoulder injuries as consequence of heavy and repetitive metal fabrication work.
- Acting for a machine worker who developed irritant dermatitis following exposure to industrial denatured alcohol.

Notable Past Cases

- Advising widow of Deceased worker who died of lung cancer caused by asbestos.
- Acting on behalf of machine operator who contracted occupational asthma inhaling Toluene Di-Isocyanate (TDI) fumes. Liability experts instructed by both sides.
- Acting on behalf of three road workers who all contracted permanent HAVS whilst working for a multi-national construction company. All claims resulted in favorable settlements. Consultant Vascular Surgeons instructed on both sides in all three claims. One of the claims settled for £145,000 after an initial first offer of £6,000.
- Acting on behalf of a forklift truck driver who developed HAVS and Carpel Tunnel Syndrome using power saws. Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeons instructed on both sides.

Additional Information

Matthew regularly authors articles on matters relating to personal injury law. A sample of his most recent articles are:

- 'We Need to Talk About Katie' PIBULJ December 2012
- 'Lights Out for Excitement' NLJ February 2011
- 'Financially Entwined' NLJ August 2010

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

Matthew enjoys mountain biking, skiing, trail running, five-a-side football and pretending to be a disc jockey.

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 appealsto Solicitors thanks to his'really sharp mind andability to get right to theimportant issues of a case'."
- Chambers & Partners 2005