

An extraordinarily sharp barrister.

Legal 500 2010



Guy Watkins

Called in 1999 +44 (0)20 7583 9241

Guy Watkins specialises in personal injury, clinical negligence, inquests, insurance and employment work.

Guy acts for both claimants and defendants in personal injury matters involving serious and fatal accidents, product liability, and industrial disease. His caseload tends to involve catastrophic and other high-value claims with complex medical causation and quantum issues. He undertakes liability work, usually involving complex factual and/or expert evidence. Guy also advises on related insurance matters.

He has experience of a range of clinical negligence work, including negligently performed surgery resulting in the need for leg amputation, failed sterilisation, and failure to ensure appropriate transfer arrangements between hospitals for neuro-rehabilitation.

Guy has experience of a wide range of inquest work, including road traffic accidents, workplace death and a fatal diving accident.

His employment experience is wide-ranging and covers, for example, unfair dismissal, redundancy, whistle-blowing and sex, race, disability, religious belief and age discrimination. He acts for both claimants and respondents. He also acts in contractual disputes with an employment flavour.

Location

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Clinical Negligence

Guy acts in clinical negligence claims for claimants. He has experience of a wide range of clinical negligence cases, including negligent treatment resulting in the need for leg amputation, failed sterilisation, and failure to ensure appropriate transfer arrangements between hospitals for neuro-rehabilitation.

Employment

Guy's experience of employment work is wide-ranging and covers, for example, unfair dismissal, redundancy, whistle-blowing, and sex, race, disability, religious belief and age discrimination. He acts for both claimants and respondents. He also acts in contractual disputes with an employment flavour.

Guy has acted for an international construction company in a number of employment cases, including:

- A claim for unfair dismissal following summary dismissal of an employee for failing a random drugs test.
- A claim against a former employee for fraudulent misuse of company labour.
- A whistle-blowing claim brought by a logistics manager.

Inquests

Guy has experience of a wide range of inquest work, including road traffic accidents, workplace death and a fatal diving accident.

Insurance

Guy advises on MIB and Article 75 issues.

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Personal Injury

Guy acts for both claimants and defendants in catastrophic and other high-value personal injury cases both on his own and with leading counsel.

His personal injury work generally involves:

- Brain injury
- Spinal and other serious orthopaedic injuries
- Amputation and prosthetics
- Fatal accidents and dependency claims
- Provisional damages
- Foreign accidents
- Liability issues in relation to road traffic accidents, work equipment, industrial and construction site accidents
- Motor Insurers' Bureau
- Criminal Injuries Compensation
- Complex medical causation issues

Guy has a particular interest in limitation and is the author of the Personal Injury / Clinical Negligence chapter in the 'Law of Limitation' published by Bloomsbury Professional.

Civil Fraud

Guy has experience of advising in respect of fundamental dishonesty in the context of s.57 in a number of high value cases. He also has extensive experience of advising in relation to surveillance evidence and social media evidence in the context of fundamental dishonesty.

Notable Cases

Prebble v Levers

Acted for the claimant at first instance and in the Court of Appeal in RTA claim where the Court of Appeal had to consider whether the trial judge's liability findings were sustainable on the evidence.

Claimants v Chief Constable of South Yorkshire Police

Acting for claimants in claims for psychiatric injury arising from the Hillsborough stadium disaster. Claims stayed pending conclusion of the new Inquest into the disaster.

MB v PA

Settled Counter-Schedule in catastrophic brain injury action with damages claimed in excess of £15m. Led by Alan Jeffreys QC.

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DJ v Water Treatment Contractor

Acting for a water treatment contractor in defence of a claim arising from an outbreak of Legionnaires' disease at a London hotel.

Darty Ltd v Karthikeyan & Hunnisett

Acted for the agent of a Formula 1 racing driver in a High Court action involving a disputed commission fee for introduction to sponsors.

Khalaf v BBC

Acted for the BBC in a claim for unlawful deductions from wages brought by a World Service broadcast journalist.

Bucknell v Morse Group Ltd

Acted for a former Finance Director of a large IT company in a claim for unfair dismissal, whistle-blowing and non-payment of bonus.

Mitchell v Autotorq.com Ltd

Acted for a senior female executive at a judicial mediation in a claim for constructive unfair dismissal and sex discrimination.

Re JN

Represented the family of an employee who suffered fatal crush injuries in the course of loading a HGV trailer when heavy equipment fell from a fork-lift truck being driven by a colleague.

Re CL

Represented the family of the deceased killed in a recreational diving accident at Stoney Cove, National Diving Centre.

If you would like to instruct Guy Watkins or would like help or advice in doing so, please call and talk to our excellent clerking team, led by senior clerk Alan Kilbey MBE. Our phone number is +44 (0)20 7583 9241. Alternatively, please email us at chambers@farrarsbuilding.co.uk

For more information about our clerking team, please [click here](#) for the clerks page.

Appointments & Memberships

- Commercial Bar Association
- Personal Injuries Bar Association
- London Common Law

Education & Qualifications

- Registered pupil supervisor
- BVC, Inns of Court School of Law
- Certificate in French Law, Université de Caen
- LLB Hons (European Legal Studies), University of Bristol

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'Friendly and approachable, builds great arguments out of small points, leaves no stone unturned.'
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