
CHAMBERS UK 2024

The Leading Lawyers and Law Firms in the UK

Personal Injury

How lawyers are ranked

Every year we carry out thousands of in-depth interviews with clients in order to assess the reputations and expertise of business lawyers worldwide. The qualities we look for (and which determine rankings) include technical legal ability, professional conduct, client service, commercial awareness/astuteness, diligence, commitment, and other qualities most valued by the client.

Contents:

London Mainly Claimant p.1104
 UK-wide Mainly Claimant: Industrial Disease p.1109
 UK-wide Mainly Defendant p.1113
 South West Mainly Claimant p.1116
 The South Mainly Claimant p.1119
 Thames Valley Mainly Claimant p.1122
 East Anglia Mainly Claimant p.1123
 Midlands Mainly Claimant p.1125
 North West Mainly Claimant p.1127

Yorkshire Mainly Claimant p.1131
 North East Mainly Claimant p.1132
 Wales Mainly Claimant p.1133
 Wales Mainly Defendant p.1134
 Northern Ireland Mainly Claimant p.1135
 Northern Ireland Mainly Defendant p.1136
 Scotland Mainly Claimant p.1140
 Scotland Mainly Defendant p.1142
 Leaders' Profiles in Personal Injury p.1145

London Mainly Claimant

Personal Injury: Mainly Claimant	Personal Injury: Mainly Claimant
Leading Firms	Senior Statespeople and Eminent Practitioners
Band 1	Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners
Anthony Gold	Allen Patrick <i>Hodge Jones & Allen *</i>
Leigh Day	Day Martyn Leigh Day
Stewarts	Paxton Paul Stewarts
Band 2	Eminent Practitioners
Bolt Burdon Kemp LLP	Eddy Alison Irwin Mitchell *
Fieldfisher	Kightley Stuart Osbornes Law *
Irwin Mitchell	Marshall David Anthony Gold
Osbornes Law	Wheeler Jonathan Bolt Burdon Kemp LLP
Band 3	Leading Individuals
Hodge Jones & Allen	Star individuals
Band 4	Greenfield Jill Fieldfisher
Bindmans LLP	Kennedy Jenny Anthony Gold *
Penningtons Manches Cooper LLP	Moore Sally Leigh Day
Russell-Cooke	Band 1
Thompsons	Dinsmore Andrew Stewarts
<i>* Indicates individual with profile.</i>	Posford Ben Osbornes Law *
<i>◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.</i>	Band 2
<i>Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.</i>	Barrett Keith Fieldfisher
	Collins Warren Penningtons Manches Cooper LLP
	Redgrave Peregrine Stewarts
	Band 3
	Bibi Sana Anthony Gold
	Chamberlayne Julian Stewarts
	Edwards Charles Stewarts
	Godwin Nick Slater and Gordon Lawyers (ORL) ◇
	Hallam Tristan Penningtons Manches Cooper LLP
	Incles Grant Russell-Cooke
	Malik Sapna Leigh Day
	Robinson Lucy Stewarts
	Salmon Clare Stewarts
	Spinks Jackie Anthony Gold *
	Storey Tracey Irwin Mitchell *
	Band 4
	Abrahams Cheryl Bolt Burdon Kemp LLP
	Aylott Rob Osbornes Law *
	Benson Tracey Slater and Gordon Lawyers (ORL) ◇
	Buchanan Jennifer Fieldfisher
	Clarke Stephanie Stewarts
	Gardner Janice Russell-Cooke
	Geraghty Richard Irwin Mitchell *
	Mehta Dushal Fieldfisher
	Murphy Alla Bindmans LLP *
	Peters Ian Anthony Gold
	Rogers Ben Stewarts
	Yaqub Riffat Hodge Jones & Allen *
	Band 5
	Al-Nahhas Ahmed Bolt Burdon Kemp LLP
	Brough Ken Hodge Jones & Allen *
	Davies Sophie Osbornes Law *
	Fosler Nichola Stewarts
	Griggs Sarah Irwin Mitchell
	Phillips Henrietta Thompsons *
	Prior Stephanie Osbornes Law *
	Up-and-coming individuals
	Collard Sam Osbornes Law *
	Dhaliwal Chani Irwin Mitchell *
	Oliver Victoria Bolt Burdon Kemp LLP
	Usher Martin Shakespeare Martineau (ORL) ◇
	Associates to watch
	Daniel Rhiannon Bolt Burdon Kemp LLP
	Hassan Eman Fieldfisher
	Milton Kate Osbornes Law *
	Swaine Laura Osbornes Law *
	Taylor Louise Penningtons Manches Cooper LLP
	Wilson Emma Slater and Gordon Lawyers (ORL) ◇
	Wright Renee Leigh Day

Band 1

Anthony Gold

What the team is known for Anthony Gold houses a respected team with experience handling big-ticket catastrophic injury claims and particular expertise in spinal cord, brain and amputation cases. The team also regularly takes on cases concerning significant psychological injury. Team members receive strong acclaim for excellent client service, and the team is also noted for skilled handling of cases involving international accidents.

Strengths

"Jenny and her team are clearly very experienced in working on personal injury cases. They're professional and proficient in their approach and I have complete faith in them to achieve the best possible outcome."

"They really do care about their clients and are extremely competent at making sure that they get the best results."

"The team is fantastic. They're always available when needed and provide outstanding support both emotionally and professionally. The service they provide is very personal and also extremely efficient."

Notable practitioners

David Marshall is the managing partner at Anthony Gold. He has a longstanding reputation for handling stress at work, brain and psychiatric injury cases. **Strengths:** *"One of the most pre-eminent personal injury solicitors. He's knowledgeable not just about personal injury but related employment law and cost issues."* *"David is calm under fire. He gets the best out of his opponents and is good at taking the heat out of any situation, coming up with solutions. He is very good at client management and*

is very well prepared. I value his input." **Jenny Kennedy** (see p.1149) is highly regarded in the personal injury market for her work in complex brain, spinal and amputation cases. She is also recommended for cross-border matters. **Strengths:** *"She has a formidable intellect, works very hard for her clients, has exceptional client care skills and never gives in. She's a very impressive fighter and advocate for the most seriously injured."* *"Her brilliance as a solicitor and professionalism never left us in any doubt that we chose the right person to*

represent us. Jenny's kindness, all-round care, constant reassurance and ability to empathise makes traumatic and horrendous situations much easier to get through." "Jenny is very committed to her cases and her attention to detail is enormous." "Jenny is an extremely knowledgeable and tenacious lawyer. She provides an excellent service always responding promptly to any queries or questions raised." "I have complete faith in her to get the best possible outcome in any case; she has a very clear vision of the process to be followed to ensure the best. Jenny is extremely approachable and I would recommend her services to anyone." **Sana Bibi** handles complex brain and amputation injuries, especially cases arising from motor accidents and accidents at work. She is also well versed in complex orthopaedic injury matters. **Strengths:** "She is so efficient, always with a pleasant demeanour and shows compassion, making what is a difficult time for us a great reassurance." **Jackie Spinks** (see p.1152) has extensive experience in handling catastrophic injury claims. She is noted in particular for her expertise with regard to complex child brain injury cases. **Strengths:** "Jackie is very professional, kind and caring with a genuine interest in helping her clients." "She is honest, cares about her clients, and is diligent and a team player." **Ian Peters** is an expert in personal injury claims on behalf of people who have sustained serious injuries overseas and for foreign nationals injured in the UK. **Strengths:** "Ian is a great solicitor. He's just extremely solid and hard-working." "Ian is an excellent lawyer to work with. He's always professional, responsive and clear in his instructions."

Leigh Day

What the team is known for Leigh Day has an illustrious claimant team regularly instructed to act in catastrophic personal injury cases against a range of parties, including governments, public bodies and large corporations. Areas of expertise within the team include unlawful detention and torture, as well as high-level cycling injuries. It also offers particular expertise in cases concerning the mining industry, including claims relating to industrial disease, pollution and police violence. The team is highly experienced in taking cases to the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court and is regularly instructed on international mandates.

Strengths

"Leigh Day offers impeccable customer service. They communicate with me appropriately at all times, showing professionalism and empathy." "The team at Leigh Day is excellent. Each and every person is professional and knowledgeable." "They're absolutely a first-rate firm. They have huge experience in dealing with personal injury claims with significant international and complicated components. Leigh Day have unparalleled experience in this. They know the law inside and out., are practical and have the resources to run those cases."

Notable practitioners

Martyn Day is celebrated for his pioneering personal injury claims against corporations and government bodies, arising out of injuries sustained both at home and overseas. His areas of expertise include misconduct by the military, environmental pollution and historic rights violations. **Strengths:**

"He has got a wonderful strategic brain and isn't afraid to take calculated risks." **Sally Moore** leads the firm's personal injury department. She is among the country's standout practitioners for high-value personal injury accident claims, and is frequently sought out to handle brain, spinal, amputation and fatal accident cases. She is also noted in the market for her niche expertise in bringing cycling-related claims. **Strengths:** "An outstanding lawyer, knowledgeable, experienced, forward-thinking and calibrated." "She is very good, very sensitive and very straightforward." "She works authoritatively and ceaselessly in the best interests of her clients. She is an utterly fearless operator and refuses to take no as an answer. With Sally in your corner, clients know they're in safe hands." "Sally is brilliant. She's incredibly professional yet also very compassionate. I feel she does the best job she can for me, but also that she cares." **Sapna Malik** dedicates her personal injury practice to civil liberties and human rights claims. She is known for assisting clients with personal injury claims related to abuse arising from corporate negligence. **Strengths:** "Sapna is brilliant. She is conscious, on top of the detail in every case and she is dedicated to her clients." "Sapna is very bright and works very hard." "She's incredibly good at connecting to her clients. She's a very able lawyer with a very good legal mind. She really does engage with the detail of a legal case and adds value there." **Renée Wright** leads an impressive range of catastrophic injury matters. She also has an experience acting on chronic pain cases. **Strengths:** "Renée Wright is always very caring and passionate with clients." "She handles big cases and deals with difficult clients very well. She comes across as in control and authoritative." "She works to the highest standard and always shows compassion in some very challenging situations. She always explains the process and situations that arise, making awful situations much more manageable from all her hard work and dedication." "She always puts my thoughts and feelings first and always guides me in the right direction when needs be."

Stewarts

What the team is known for Stewarts maintains an excellent reputation as a go-to for claimants in complex catastrophic injury claims, including brain, spinal, tetraplegic and fatal injury claims. The team is notable for its strength in depth as well as its ability to secure top settlements and innovative rehabilitation solutions for its clients. It is also noted for its representation of minors in catastrophic injury cases, particularly arising from motor accidents.

Strengths

"Stewarts is a standout personal injury firm in catastrophic injury." "For catastrophic injury work, Stewarts is a pre-eminent firm. All the lawyers are good and at the top of their game." "The lawyers are extremely professional yet totally approachable. We are always dealt with promptly, with the whole team is open to any questions or queries we may have."

Notable practitioners

Paul Paxton maintains a stellar reputation in the market for his stewardship of high-value cata-

strophic injury cases, including those relating to brain and spinal cord injuries. He also has expertise in amputation claims. **Strengths:** "He is first-class. He's a top-drawer lawyer. He does unbelievable work for his clients and I've looked up to him for years." **Andrew Dinsmore** is well regarded for his serious injury practice, which takes in amputation, spinal and brain injury cases. He has extensive experience with regard to complex liability in relation to motor accidents. **Strengths:** "His clients have complete confidence that their case will be handled in the best possible way." "He's a real master of maximum severity personal injury cases." "All his clients have complete confidence that their case will be handled in the best possible way." **Peregrine Redgrave** handles brain and spinal cord injury and amputation claims for clients. His expertise includes accidents at work and motor accidents. **Strengths:** "He is dedicated and hard-working. His ability to connect with opponents is hugely valuable in this line of work, meaning the case will move quicker and more smoothly." "I find him to be incredibly thorough and knowledgeable. He provides clear instructions and is reasonable in terms of his expectations of timings." "Perry is universally liked and respected by his clients for the calm clarity he brings to the most complex of situations." "He's exceptionally clever, and navigates conflicts adeptly to ensure he achieves the best outcomes for his clients whilst maintaining constructive working relationships with all parties." **Julian Chamberlayne** focuses largely on international matters, regularly representing UK nationals in claims overseas. He is also frequently instructed to represent foreign nationals injured in this country. **Strengths:** "A very skilled, technical lawyer." "Julian handles complex international matters extremely well." **Charles Edwards** is recommended for his marshalling of serious injury cases, including spinal cord injury claims. He also negotiates with insurers on the development of litigation protocols to facilitate clients' access to rehabilitation treatment. **Strengths:** "A real incisive mind; defendants like him and can trust him and his clients have absolute faith in him." "He is collaborative and happy to share information. I know he'll do a good job for his clients and will look after them." "Charles is excellent and always ready to answer any questions and queries." **Lucy Robinson** acts for claimants in complex, high-value catastrophic spinal cord and brain injury claims. She has a notable specialism in cases arising from motor accidents. **Strengths:** "Lucy Robinson can't be any more professional and personable. She has an enormous level of expertise and always explains potentially difficult to understand procedures or processes in such an easy to comprehend way." "Lucy is a really well-known personal injury solicitor. She has done this for a very long time." **Clare Salmon** represents claimants who have suffered brain and spinal cord injuries as a result of RTAs and accidents at work. She also handles fatal accident claims. **Strengths:** "Clare is a very efficient litigator and is very good on cases involving case managers. She gets the best out of rehabilitation for clients, is very efficient and a very pleasant person." "Clare has been conducting high-value cases for many years. She's a class act." **Stephanie Clarke** has extensive experience

bringing large-loss and catastrophic injury claims. She is seasoned at motor accidents and cycling accident-related cases. **Strengths:** "A very good lawyer, very capable, knows her stuff. She's a smooth operator." "A very experienced hand." "Stephanie Clarke is very good on cases involving brain-injured people from road traffic accidents."

Ben Rogers' catastrophic injury practice includes military claims, occupiers' liability and motor accidents. He has niche expertise in assisting clients with claims for new technology as treatments, such as exoskeleton devices. **Strengths:** "Ben is very kind and empathetic. When you are going through something as traumatic as this it's good to have someone like Ben on your side." **Nichola Fosler** represents claimants who have suffered spinal cord and amputation injuries. She is particularly experienced in cases arising from motor accidents. **Strengths:** "Amputation cases are her focus and she's a real specialist. She is hugely intelligent and vastly experienced. She will push hard for her clients and she knows how to get the best for them." "She is exceptionally good at both the liability side and the quantum side. Nichola is really good on both angles, getting very thorough witness statements."

Band 2

Bolt Burdon Kemp LLP

What the team is known for Bolt Burdon Kemp LLP is a boutique personal injury firm known for its advice to claimants on the full span of serious injury cases. The team is particularly noted for expertise in handling military claims as well as historic child sex abuse cases. It is highly experienced in cases involving traumatic brain and spinal injuries in children.

Strengths

"The team at BBK always explains everything every step of the way and goes out of its way to ensure that everything is clear."

"Bolt Burdon Kemp is both professional and personable, always putting the client's needs at the forefront."

"They provide a good level of client service, are available and get good results for their clients."

"They properly evaluate and properly advise their clients about the strengths of their cases. They give proper advice, really getting to grips with their cases."

"They're always on top of the law and really care about clients. They really know their areas and experts. They know their clients too."

Notable practitioners

Managing partner **Jonathan Wheeler** draws on his experience handling serious injury claims arising from accidents in the workplace, accidents in public places and RTAs. He is particularly well known for his work on behalf of victims of child sexual abuse. **Strengths:** "Jonathan Wheeler is pre-eminent for his abuse work." "Jonathan continues to be a leading prominent, influential personal injury solicitor." **Cheryl Abrahams** is a widely respected practitioner with extensive experience handling child brain injury claims. **Strengths:** "Cheryl is kind, empathetic, professional and knowledgeable in her approach to both families

and professionals." "She is always very clear about what is happening, offers great support and I really feel that she does put her all in and works with her clients' best interests at heart." **Ahmed Al-Nahhas** heads the firm's military claims team. He acts for military claimants in complex personal injury matters such as PTSD from training and serious accidents. **Strengths:** "Ahmed is extremely tenacious and thorough. He really cares about clients." "Ahmed is utterly professional and knows his field inside out. He works hard to stay current with the ever-changing policies in his field and is always two steps ahead in the process so I know what's coming next." "He is calm, dignified and very knowledgeable." **Victoria Oliver** heads up the firm's spinal injury team. She specialises in representing claimants who have suffered spinal injuries, especially cases arising from motor accidents.

Strengths: "She is very personal, gets on very well with her clients and is very empathetic with them. She's an excellent lawyer with very good judgement and is very thorough." "She is happy to engage in further explanations and to gain deeper insight into the matters at stake and their circumstances. She is comfortable with communication at all stages."

Rhiannon Daniel specialises in spinal cord injury claims, whether they arise from RTAs, accidents in public liability spaces or at work, or surgical procedures. She also has expertise in claims on behalf of clients who have suffered from missed or delayed diagnosis of cauda equina syndrome.

Strengths: "She is very direct and empathetic. Rhiannon is very capable and collaborative to work with and thinks about her cases before asking questions. She's very easy to work with and is very respected by her clients." "She prepares cases very well, thinking them through and she thinks through the evidence. She gets on with things and is very impressive." "She acts with compassion dealing with sensitive individuals and is able to give compassionate advice. She is efficient and acts on complex matters that are not straightforward."

Fieldfisher

What the team is known for Fieldfisher is a strong team of catastrophic injury specialists within a full-service firm. Significant expertise in high-value and highly complex cases, including those with an international element, is on offer from the team. It also fields extensive experience with regard to severe motor accidents and injuries sustained in the workplace. The team is also regularly instructed to provide representation in high-profile cases especially related to historic abuse and have been active in personal claims arising out of terror attacks.

Strengths

"A detail-oriented, focused, effective litigation team with an impressive grasp of the complex medical cases coming across its desks."

"They are professional, concise and informative."

"The team is very fast on their feet and takes a very individual approach. It's very effective."

Notable practitioners

Jill Greenfield is renowned for her handling of high-value catastrophic injury cases for claimants, typically arising from motor accidents. She has also built a substantial practice dealing with both sexual abuse cases and injury claims

resulting from terror attacks. **Strengths:** "Jill is exceptional. Her knowledge of the field is second to none and her compassion and care for the victims she represents is unparalleled." "A terrific and terrifying litigator. She's utterly focused with an incredible level of experience. I would instruct her to be in my corner every time." "Jill is a trailblazer in her field and is highly respected for her considered and sensitive approach to supporting her clients. She's a credit to the legal profession." "Jill's reputation precedes her; she's very well known in the field. She's brilliant and such a proactive and serious advocate. She's on top of her cases for her clients."

Keith Barrett handles high-value claims arising out of accidents at work, on the road and in public places, including noteworthy expertise in aviation and child injury matters. **Strengths:** "He is very hard-working and diligent." "A hard-working lawyer who gets good results." "Keith is quite a talent with the ability to take a problem and get it sorted."

Jennifer Buchanan dedicates her personal injury practice to brain and orthopaedic injuries. She has deep expertise in claims arising from serious cycling injuries. **Strengths:** "Attention to detail is one of Jenny's strengths along with passion and a drive to secure the best results for her clients." "She comes across as very professional and sensible."

"She really cares about clients and puts everything she has into them. She's very good."

Dushal Mehta has notable experience in a range of personal injury claims sustained in the workplace. He also handles fatal accidents and catastrophic motor accident matters. **Strengths:** "He really cares and has a fine intellect to the law. He's hard-working and empathetic to clients." "He is incredibly sympathetic and detailed on cases." **Emam Hassan** has a reputable personal injury practice with particular strength in amputation, musculoskeletal and brain injury claims. She adeptly represents claimants in a range of fatal and catastrophic matters.

Strengths: "A future rising star: she clearly understands the industry and the law." "She's a team player and is well known in the market." "Emam has a great manner with clients and is very professional. She's always willing to help clients out by going the extra mile. She's an asset to her firm."

Irwin Mitchell

What the team is known for Irwin Mitchell houses a substantial team of specialist practitioners known for tackling the full range of personal injury claims. The firm maintains a standout reputation for its handling of catastrophic injury claims, as well as cases involving injuries resulting from child abuse and industrial disease. The team also offers broad experience ranging from motor accidents to workplace accidents, with the added capability of representing claimants in cross-border matters.

Strengths

"I find the team to be both methodical and innovative in its approach, demonstrating a high level of knowledge of both clinical and legal issues and being comfortable expressing these concepts in lay language."

"There is always someone available to talk to or email and as an organisation they are very quick to respond when we contact them."

"The Irwin Mitchell team is helpful and profes-

sional. My queries are answered quickly and the communication in general is very good."

Notable practitioners

Alison Eddy (see p.1147) is well versed in handling cases involving injuries arising from both clinical negligence and motor accidents. She is often sought after to represent clients in catastrophic brain and spinal cord injury litigation, acting on behalf of both adults and children. **Tracey Storey** (see p.1152) leads the firm's serious injury team and has significant experience advising on brain, spinal cord and sexual abuse injuries, whether procuring early settlement or litigating cases in the courts. **Strengths:** "She's a powerhouse. She's been in the industry and is a serious lawyer and great tactician. She's excellent." "Tracey does really high-quality work for her clients and is able to bring in fantastic expertise with the firm's resources."

Richard Geraghty (see p.1147) handles complex, high-value and often high-profile personal injury cases. He has particularly strong expertise in claims involving spinal cord, brain and amputation injuries, including those arising from motor accidents and accidents at work. He frequently represents clients in the High Court. **Strengths:** "Richard is knowledgeable, professional and approachable." "He has the ability to get to the heart of any case swiftly and capably and without fuss. He is extremely hard-working, well versed in all issues of catastrophic litigation and has the complete trust of his clients whom he works tirelessly to support and deliver a just result." "A solid personal injury lawyer who runs cases well." "Richard's attention to detail is absolutely on point. The quality of his work is excellent and he has a very good manner with clients." **Sarah Griggs** has extensive experience handling catastrophic personal injury claims. She has particular expertise with regard to serious brain injury cases. **Strengths:** "She brings great energy and passion to her work. Her dedication to supporting work is genuinely inspiring." "I'm always struck by the respect she affords clients and families, balancing compassion with a thoroughly intellectual and well-reasoned grasp on the legal issues." "Sarah Griggs is very dogged. She's very determined to get the best results for her clients and is brave." **Chani Dhalwal** (see p.1147) is noted for expert handling of serious injury claims including spinal cord, brain and amputation matters for claimants. He regularly represents clients in cases arising from motor accidents. **Strengths:** "He is very innovative and not fazed by the defendant. He's tenacious and very good with clients. He is very capable, focused and unafraid."

Osbornes Law

What the team is known for Osbornes is a well-regarded personal injury practice well equipped to advise on high-value and high-profile claims, including fatalities and severe injuries. It has considerable experience in cases arising from motor accidents and accidents at work. The team offers specialist expertise in cycling-related injury claims and regularly acts for foreign nationals.

Strengths

"The personal injury team is responsive and its level of service towards clients and other professionals is exceptional and high quality."

"They deal with people compassionately and take

on the right amount of detail. The firm has some really brilliant key solicitors."

"Osbornes prepares cases well; the whole team is good and lawyers there know their stuff."

Notable practitioners

Stuart Kightley (see p.1149) continues to head Osbornes' personal injury department and acts as the firm's managing partner. He is well known for handling serious injury cases arising from cycling collisions. **Strengths:** "He is very experienced and approachable." "He deals with cases really carefully and compassionately." "Stuart Kightley is a well-respected and talented lawyer."

Ben Posford (see p.1151) leads the catastrophic injury team and regularly represents claimants in neurological injury and fatal accident claims. He also has a niche specialism in claims involving cauda equina syndrome. **Strengths:** "He has the fantastic ability to see the wood for the trees. He is brilliant with clients and an amazing team leader."

"He's exceedingly good as well as very friendly. He's very easy to talk to and a very good lawyer who picks his counsel correctly." "A leader in his field of catastrophic injury work." "An outstanding catastrophic industry lawyer. His finger is on the pulse on the market and he knows exactly what is going on. He's an impressive individual."

Rob Aylott (see p.1145) is adept at handling sensitive and complex catastrophic injury claims. He offers a particular specialism in amputation claims. **Strengths:** "A super solicitor; he's very calm, considered and thoughtful." "He is very technically adept and is one of the nicest practitioners I know. Rob is good at high-value claims because of his technical ability."

"He identifies issues quickly and swiftly, and works through them efficiently." **Sophie Davies** (see p.1147) has notable experience in a range of personal injury claims sustained in the workplace and cycling collisions. She has particular expertise in claims for brain and orthopaedic injuries. **Strengths:** "Sophie is gentle, determined and efficient. She absolutely knows what she is doing and is a really good practitioner."

"Her knowledge of any given catastrophic case she's working on is compendious, returns all the details and is able to deploy them effectively. She's also personable and bright with the complete trust of her clients. She works with enthusiasm and dedication." **Stephanie Prior** (see p.210) specialises in child abuse matters. She has represented victims in a number of high-profile cases. **Strengths:** "She totally gets the detail, she's very pragmatic, she works out what matters and what needs to be done. She's very good at giving the right advice."

"She knows entirely how to run a case with thoroughness and dedication, she identifies issues early and deals with them efficiently. She has the respect of opponents and is tenacious." **Sam Collard** (see p.1146) is head of cycling accident claims at Osbornes. He is recognised for his talent in complex brain and amputation claims, developing strength particularly in quantum issues and sporting injuries and accidents. **Strengths:** "A really clear thinker and a good tactical personal injury lawyer."

"He's intelligent so knows what is important in a case but is also really personable. He's a pleasure to work with and clients appreciate the human side. He deals with matters sensitively." **Kate Milton** (see p.1151) regularly represents claimants in personal injury

claims arising from a range of motor accidents.

Strengths: "She is really thorough." "An excellent lawyer who can stand her ground and doesn't take any nonsense from the other side." "Kate Milton is very professional, approachable and works hard to achieve the best for her clients." **Laura Swaine** (see p.1152) often handles a range of personal injury claims for clients including brain and spinal cord injuries. She is especially experienced in advising in cases arising from motor accidents. **Strengths:** "Laura is very good in her commercial awareness, settlement values and how she can push cases. She is very lovely with clients whilst also being a robust negotiator and litigator." "A seriously good junior lawyer who has experience and judgement beyond her years."

Band 3

Hodge Jones & Allen

What the team is known for Hodge Jones & Allen advises claimants on the full range of fast-track and multi-track personal injury claims, including brain injury in children. The team regularly handles claims featuring multiple litigants, cross-border complexities and human rights implications. It has considerable expertise in motor accidents and accidents work at well. The firm is also adept at representing foreign nationals injured in the UK.

Strengths

"It's a firm where clients get a great service and feel a connection to those representing them."

"The solicitors are thorough with good ideas about the quantification of claims. They are quite lateral thinkers and are very helpful in sharing resources when experts need them."

"The team is very attentive in every regard. They consider my requests thoughtfully and give sound and solid advice tailored to each request."

Notable practitioners

Patrick Allen (see p.1145) offers clients his unmatched experience in a broad range of personal injury work, including complex catastrophic injury cases and multiparty personal injury claims. He has acted in numerous high-profile cases. **Strengths:** "Patrick is a very established personal injury solicitor." **Riffat Yaqub** (see p.1154) has experience acting for claimants who lack capacity as well as foreign nationals in a range of complex personal injury claims. She acts in complex and catastrophic injury claims, wrongful death and multiparty actions. **Strengths:** "She is professional, reliable, exceptionally efficient and discerning. She provides clear but kind communication, thoughtful to the particulars of each situation, and achieves brilliant outcomes." "She has a very good grasp on the law, is good in practice and clients really like her. She's extremely pleasant and sympathetic; she has all the qualities to make her a good lawyer." **Riffat handles huge pieces of litigation very well. She handles everyone diplomatically and keeps everyone on board.** **Ken Brough** (see p.1145) has extensive experience representing clients in a broad range of personal injury work including catastrophic injuries and chronic pain cases. **Strengths:** "He has an excellent feel for work, is good with clients and gets an excellent service to them." "Drilling down to the most important

points of his cases means that he is very popular with clients, but also that he is very effective at dealing with opposing solicitors." "All round a very experienced and very knowledgeable claimant personal injury solicitor."

Band 4

Bindmans LLP

What the team is known for Bindmans shows deep expertise with regard to brain, orthopaedic and psychological injury claims. The firm is regularly instructed for claims arising from accidents at work, particularly on behalf of construction workers, as well as cases involving human rights issues. The team also has the resources to frequently act for clients with Turkish and Polish backgrounds. Team members specialise in multi-track claims and wield additional experience in cases involving chronic pain and subtle brain injury.

Strengths

"They always provide a very good level of service and are extremely responsive."

"A very experienced team which understands complex issues and communicates instructions to me very clearly."

"They are very client-focused and very supportive."

"The team is always helpful and responsive."

Notable practitioners

Alla Murphy (see p.1151) is recommended for her handling of catastrophic neurological and orthopaedic injury cases on behalf of individuals as well as groups in multiparty litigation. **Strengths:** "I would recommend her not only for being a good lawyer and not only being very good with clients, but for her organisational skills and her ability to pull things together." "Alla is really dogged in her approach for achieving the best in her practice. She is good in finding creative solutions, ensuring clients get the best possible result."

Penningtons Manches Cooper LLP

What the team is known for Penningtons Manches Cooper handles a wide array of personal injury matters including catastrophic injury, psychiatric injury and historical sexual abuse claims. The firm has further expertise working with claimants based outside of the UK. The team also represents individuals from the police force who suffered physical and psychological injuries in the line of duty.

Strengths

"I am well informed, kept updated and reassured at each step of the claim. If I do not fully understand the language used, it is communicated to me in a way I can understand."

"They have a good grasp of the issues and the case is dealt with in an efficient and pragmatic way."

"All of the team is dedicated to the case, diligent and hard-working."

Notable practitioners

Warren Collins is noted for his representation of claimants in complex amputation, brain and spinal cord injury cases. He is also recommended for wrongful death matters. **Strengths:** "He takes his time to explain things clearly and ensures we understand everything at each stage of the process." "He

is much admired for his thoroughness, capability, wisdom and his experience." **Tristan Hallam** is much sought after for catastrophic personal injury cases, with an emphasis on head and spinal injury and amputation cases for clients, including those arising out of motor accidents. His expertise also extends to handling psychiatric injuries.

Strengths: "Tristan is a pleasure to work with; he has a real personal touch to his approach. I feel he is approachable and I am confident to ask him questions." "A very dedicated and thorough practitioner." "He's very careful and reassuring to clients."

Louise Taylor is notable for her work handling psychiatric injury claims stemming from workplace conditions and motor accidents. She also has significant experience in brain injury claims.

Strengths: "Louise is a pleasure to work with; she has great organisational and interpersonal skills." "Louise is very knowledgeable and attentive to the case and clients; she always explains the process, what to expect and when and encourages realistic expectations regarding time frames and outcomes."

Russell-Cooke

What the team is known for Russell Cooke is notable for its representation of claimants in cases arising from novel and unusual circumstances. The team is also adept at acting on catastrophic injury, CICA and historical abuse issues. Russell-Cooke shows a particular specialism in secondary injury claims, including large multi-party matters.

Strengths

"The team at Russell Cooke is meticulous in everything they do. They show a level of expertise I didn't know was possible for a case like mine."

"I find them very knowledgeable, very approachable and good at what they do."

"They respond to all clients within a timely fashion, are never chased for an update and ensure their client is aware of each step taken along their journey with their case."

Notable practitioners

Grant Incles is well known for specialising in high-value, life-changing and fatal accident claims. He has significant experience handling cases arising from motor accidents and accidents at work.

Strengths: "Grant is someone who will give his heart and soul and go the extra mile; he's responsive and swift in his dealing and nothing is too much effort for him." "He is very bright and a nice solicitor." "He does cases with industry impact and is a smart lawyer."

Janice Gardner is well regarded for her handling of psychiatric injury claims as well as serious injury claims resulting from motor accidents. She also represents clients in CICA and historic sexual abuse claims. **Strengths:** "Janice is a solicitor you want in your corner after a serious accident. She's tenacious, empathetic and focused on what needs to be done to secure the best outcome for clients." "She gives realistic, proper advice to her clients. She is hugely experienced and brings great tactical nous to all her decisions." "Janice is a very nice, solid and caring lawyer."

Thompsons

What the team is known for Thompsons offers a respected personal injury group with substantial experience representing trade unions in connec-

tion with workplace accident and occupational disease claims. The team also handles claims arising out of RTAs and regularly advises on serious cases of orthopaedic injury, respiratory problems and chronic pain syndrome.

Strengths

"The team takes a compassionate approach to catastrophic claims."

"They are very well organised and slick. They do their work very well."

"Thompsons is incredibly efficient. Their litigators are trained in getting to the point and what needs to be done next."

Notable practitioners

Henrietta Phillips (see p.1151) is recommended for the full span of personal injury claims, including those arising from cycling and other road traffic accidents, and accidents at work. She is also highly experienced with regard to catastrophic and fatal injury cases.

Other Ranked Lawyers

Tracey Benson of Slater and Gordon Lawyers is recommended for her extensive workplace accident expertise. Within this area, she is particularly knowledgeable on sports injuries, frequently representing footballers involved in sporting accidents. She also handles motor accidents involving serious neurological and amputation injuries.

Strengths:

"Tracey is highly professional, a great communicator and an active listener. She is very compassionate about her job and is empathetic."

"She has a great empathy with clients and works endlessly to achieve results for them. She is good at identifying matters in a dispute early and engages swift and practical solutions to bring about fantastic results."

"She is very client-focused, very experienced and is on top of the details of the case. Tracey has a firm grip on cases."

Nick Godwin of Slater and Gordon Lawyers is sought after by clients for representation in cases involving catastrophic brain injuries, and also life-changing injuries resulting in amputations. He frequently represents families in claims arising from fatal accidents.

Strengths:

"He's very strong and is unbelievably hard-working, always on it and dedicated."

"He is sensible and good with clients."

"Nick is highly professional, erudite and helpful whenever needed."

Head of the Lime Solicitors personal injury team, **Martin Usher** is adept at handling catastrophic injury cases. He shows particular expertise in traumatic brain injury matters.

Strengths:

"Martin is an excellent solicitor in his field. His manner is professional and empathetic, which lends itself well to the personal injury field."

"Excellent communication from him with comprehensive updates provided."

"Martin is extremely commercially astute and has a clear vision for those he supports."

Emma Wilson of Slater and Gordon Lawyers is recognised for her working handling psychiatric

and fatal injury claims. She also has significant experience in brain injury cases arising from motor accidents.

Strengths:

"Emma is great to work with and is on top of the

case. Clients really like and appreciate her and she thinks very deeply about her clients and how best to progress their case."

"She's dogged in grinding out the facts."

UK-wide Mainly Claimant: Industrial Disease

Personal Injury Mainly Claimant: Industrial Disease
Leading Firms
Band 1
Digby Brown LLP
Fieldfisher
Hugh James
Irwin Mitchell
Leigh Day
Band 2
The Asbestos Law Partnership LLP
Hodge Jones & Allen
Larcoms
RWK Goodman
Slater and Gordon Lawyers
Thompsons
* Indicates individual with profile.
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

Band 1

Digby Brown LLP

What the team is known for Digby Brown offers a leading industrial disease practice operating in Scotland. The team has extensive experience acting for clients with mesothelioma and other asbestos-related illnesses contracted as a result of working in heavy industry, particularly for those formerly employed in the Scottish shipbuilding industry. It offers particular expertise in cases concerning secondary exposure claims.

Strengths

"They get the best results, putting the work in initially and getting good experts in from the start. Cases are very well prepared."

"All the solicitors are hard-working and experienced in the field."

"They are attentive to details and are interested in promoting the client's interest."

"They are not only excellent at the law and legal issues; they are completely on top of the procedures and running these very sensitive claims, but I notice the humanity shown by the lawyers, who treat each client as an individual, showing compassion and care in their handling."

Notable practitioners

Fraser Simpson heads the firm's industrial disease practice, offering particular strength in asbestos and occupational disease claims. He also advises on matters concerning employers' liability. **Strengths:** "He has encyclopedic knowledge in the practice and law around asbestos-related litigation. He's a first-rate advocate for his clients." "Fraser is absolutely on top of technical issues the law. He also has good judgement about

Personal Injury Mainly Claimant: Industrial Disease
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Bains Harminder Leigh Day
Easton Daniel Leigh Day
Glanville Paul The Asbestos Law Partnership LLP
Johnson Kevin Leigh Day
Morgan Andrew G Fieldfisher
Williams Peter Fieldfisher
Band 2
Chandler Pauline Slater and Gordon Lawyers
Childs Helen RWK Goodman
Darlaston Guy Irwin Mitchell
Ganapathy Vijay Leigh Day
Green Richard Hugh James
Holdsworth Madelene Slater and Gordon Lawyers
Hussain Fozia The Asbestos Law Partnership LLP
Lovett Isobel Hodge Jones & Allen *
Magson Laura Boyes Turner (ORL) ◇
Mehta Dushal Fieldfisher
Osborne Michael Larcoms
Simpson Fraser Digby Brown LLP
Walsh Patrick Leigh Day
Wilson Helen The Asbestos Law Partnership LLP
Yeates Lynn Hugh James
Band 3
Bell Jordan Slater and Gordon Lawyers
Burbidge Stephen M Humphreys & Co. (ORL) ◇ *
Candlish Joanne Hodge Jones & Allen *
Chalmers Virginia Irwin Mitchell
Gower Phillip Novum Law (ORL) ◇
Hopgood Richard Larcoms
Love Euan Digby Brown LLP
Mosquera Shaheen Fieldfisher
Seavor Jennifer RWK Goodman
Singh Kathryn Hugh James
Venn Andrew C Thompsons *
Webster Lorna Hodge Jones & Allen *
Up-and-coming individuals
Strong Lucy Hugh James
Tant Ewan Leigh Day
Associates to watch
Davies Ruth Hugh James
Harbutt Melloney Boyes Turner (ORL) ◇
Hughes David RWK Goodman

the level appropriate for a settlement." "Fraser is very good and knows his stuff. He has a nice manner with clients." **Euan Love** specialises in asbestos disease and has a particular expertise in secondary asbestos exposure cases. **Strengths:** "He has lovely manner with clients, which is very important for these cases. He understands the law behind it and the intricacies of exposure periods. He has good knowledge of that." "Euan is empathetic

and especially good when talking to clients." "I go to Euan for advice on points of law with a crossover between England and Scotland. He's incredibly knowledgeable and a really terrific lawyer." "Clearly a good technical lawyer, Euan is passionate about the work and he clearly cares about his clients."

Fieldfisher

What the team is known for Fieldfisher has a market-leading industrial disease practice with an outstanding reputation for undertaking mesothelioma and asbestos disease litigation. The team deftly handles a range of complex and often high-value claims, and offers a strong track record in recovering hospice fees for clients. Team members represent claimants from industrial and manufacturing backgrounds, as well as hospital workers, teachers and other employees exposed to asbestos in the workplace.

Strengths

"Their client service is of a very high standard, and they always answer my questions in a detailed manner so I can gain a good understanding of the complications connected in my case. Every email and phone call is dealt with promptly and accurately."

"The team has superb knowledge and the ability to advise on case law and likely outcomes. They are clearly a leader in this field."

"The solicitors are highly responsive; they keep clients updated and fully informed of timescales."

Notable practitioners

Andrew Morgan is lauded for his expertise in handling industrial disease work, particularly mesothelioma cases. He also acts for clients bringing serious injury claims arising from accidents at work. **Strengths:** "Andrew is absolutely a go-to for industrial disease work." "Andrew is tenacious and with his persistence achieves good settlements." "A deeply ingrained and deeply established asbestos lawyer. He's very widely respected." **Peter Williams** represents clients in a variety of asbestos cases and has brought cases which resulted in landmark judgments. He is especially adept at representing claimants from a broad range of backgrounds including workers in manufacturing industries and hospitals. **Strengths:** "His knowledge, experience and judgement in this area of law is extremely impressive. Not only that, he's a thoroughly decent person; he's compassionate, understanding and empathetic, which is of equal importance." "Peter is fantastic. Not only is he super knowledgeable and commercially astute, but he's also really tactful and kind." "He's rightly recognised as an absolute star. Peter knows his way through disease unlike others. He gets terrific results by building up cases

the best for claimants without having to go to trial."

Dushal Mehta is highly experienced in representing claimants suffering from mesothelioma and other asbestos-related illnesses. He regularly represents claimants from industrial and manufacturing backgrounds. **Strengths:** "Dushal Mehta is very professional, knowledgeable, well-spoken and kind at all times. His understanding of this area of law is outstanding. He always has time to explain any complications that arise so I'm confident in the next steps of my case." "Dushal is very sensitive and demonstrates empathy." "In conflicts of interests, he would be my first call. He's really good with clients. I really rate him." "He's in the asbestos world and is well known. He has a name for being tenacious and running really hard cases." **Shaheen Mosquera** is well versed in representing asbestos exposure victims in mesothelioma and other related disease claims. She often represents clients from industrial backgrounds. **Strengths:** "I find Shaheen very hard-working, kind, thoughtful, patient and always there to explain things." "Her excellent qualities include tenacity, being incredibly bright and being able to take on difficult cases through her ability to take on arguments. She's a top lawyer." "She's a very good technical lawyer and clients appreciate her."

Hugh James

What the team is known for Hugh James is adept at handling a wide range of asbestos disease and occupational disease claims, including skin and lung cancers, and noise-induced hearing loss. Experienced in individual and group action claims, the team is regularly instructed on major cases concerning miners and industrial workers as well as military personnel.

Strengths

"Hugh James is one of the best in the market. The team are proactive, innovative, extremely capable and well trained. They achieve extraordinary results for their clients."

"They are extremely dedicated, with really great knowledge, and work tirelessly for their clients, preparing cases really well."

"Excellent understanding and expertise allows Hugh James to capture detail while maintaining a view of the bigger picture."

"They're one of the best in this asbestos area. All the fee handlers are very good and knowledgeable. They're all very personable as well, which makes for a good working relationship, but also means claimants feel comfortable with them and put at ease."

Notable practitioners

Richard Green heads the asbestos claims team and is frequently instructed on high-value mesothelioma and complex lung cancer claims resulting from asbestos exposure. **Strengths:** "Richard is exemplary in his knowledge and handling of difficult asbestos cases." "Richard is wonderful to work with. His contribution is significant and we're incredibly grateful to him for the time he dedicates to our work." "He often has pragmatic and creative solutions to problems or queries. Richard not only has significant expertise, but he also has a sensitive and thoughtful approach that always places the patient and their family at the heart of what he does." "He explains the process of the claim in simple terms for us and deals with it

all in a very professional manner. He always makes himself available to talk if needed." **Lynn Yeates** is based in Hugh James's Southampton office. She specialises in illnesses arising from asbestos exposure. **Kathryn Singh** is highly regarded for her deft handling of group action claims. She is also known for representing claimants suffering respiratory disease and skin cancer. **Strengths:** "An outstanding litigator with considerable group action experience and ability." "Kathryn Singh is a very efficient solicitor." **Lucy Strong** impresses with her work on asbestos-related disease claims. She is experienced in representing clients from manufacturing backgrounds. **Strengths:** "Lucy has excellent knowledge and gives clear instructions." **Ruth Davies** is well experienced in occupational disease claims including noise-induced hearing loss. She specialises in representing military personnel. **Strengths:** "She has really fantastic judgement and does brilliantly in very difficult cases." "Ruth is an absolute dynamo. She's all over every issue and doesn't take nonsense from the other side. She's a tough cookie."

Irwin Mitchell

What the team is known for Irwin Mitchell houses an exceptional industrial disease team which handles a range of disease claims, from asbestosis, silicosis and mesothelioma to vibration white finger. The team also has notable experience in hand-arm vibration syndrome cases. The firm is regularly appointed on high-profile group litigation, as well as advising on individual claims, and offers clients a dedicated in-house client liaison manager.

Strengths

"They are very organised, very approachable and good communicators. They pull everything together."

"The firm has a talented and very dedicated team to assist its clients in getting the best outcome from their case. They are well suited to handling complex and sophisticated matters."

"They are very responsive and provide an excellent level of service to their clients."

"The team are extremely knowledgeable and well organised, with a good understanding of time-frames."

Notable practitioners

Guy Darlaston is managing partner of Irwin Mitchell's Southampton office. He is an experienced asbestos disease specialist and holds strong ties to mesothelioma charities and research groups. **Strengths:** "He is highly knowledgeable in the disease area. He offers fantastic service to local clients with diseases." "He's genuinely dedicated to his clients." **Virginia Chalmers** is well experienced in asbestos disease claims. She regularly represents claimants in mesothelioma cases. **Strengths:** "She is extremely professional. She has great rapport with patients. She is highly knowledgeable and very efficient." "Virginia is good and has done this for a long time. She's a go-to in Bristol."

Leigh Day

What the team is known for Leigh Day has a highly respected industrial disease practice offering first-rate representation to claimants

suffering from asbestos-related diseases. The team features prominently in headline disease cases and retains strong links to support groups and non-profits catering for those with mesothelioma, and is also well versed in handling large international group claims, particularly those concerning claimants in developing countries. The firm boasts an extensive national platform, with offices in London, Manchester, Birmingham and Liverpool, and is highly experienced in taking cases to the Court of Appeal and in making judicial review challenges.

Strengths

"A first-rate team consisting of many of England's leading specialist asbestos claimant solicitors, responsible for notable landmark decisions on behalf of asbestos victims and asbestos support groups."

"The best in the field of industrial disease. They know exactly what they're doing and are really impressive. They're really easy to work with, very user-friendly and extremely switched on."

"I am informed and consulted on each and every step of the process. Any queries or emails are dealt with speedily and efficiently. Their attentiveness throughout exceeds my expectations."

"The team are always courteous and highly efficient. The standards displayed by all the support team, both legal and administrative, is exemplary."

Notable practitioners

Harminder Bains fields extensive experience in taking catastrophic injury and asbestos-related claims to trial, including up to the Supreme Court. She frequently represents claimants from industrial backgrounds as well as teachers. **Strengths:** "She is formidable and tenacious. She cares passionately about achieving justice for asbestos victims and is instrumental in achieving landmark decisions in difficult cases." "An outstanding lawyer who is a leader in the field of asbestos litigation." "She is incredibly hard-working and does a lot of pro bono work." "She's absolutely a force of nature. She's a campaigner as well as a lawyer." **Daniel Easton** is best known for his handling of complex and high-value catastrophic injury and asbestos disease-related claims. He is noted for his expertise in working on high-value and cross-border claims. **Strengths:** "He's very knowledgeable, meticulous and determined. Daniel is an outstanding lawyer."

"Polite, astute and extremely knowledgeable. He always places the interests of the sufferer first." "There's nothing Dan doesn't know about asbestos litigation. He's massively committed to it and will always do everything appropriate to pursue a case."

Kevin Johnson stands out for his experience in handling occupational disease claims and asbestos-related disease cases. He has represented claimants exposed to asbestos in all manner of industry sectors. He is noted for his expertise in cross-border claims. **Strengths:** "Kevin is a good lawyer with a good deal of experience. He's happy to cooperate." "Kevin Johnson is a powerhouse in the Manchester office. If a family member needed help, I would go to him." "Kevin has been at the forefront of asbestos litigation for a long time. He has lots of experience in litigating asbestos and running test cases." **Vijay Ganapathy** is well known for his advice on asbestos-related matters, especially those concerning mesothelioma. He is also

skilled in representing clients in multi-jurisdictional matters. **Strengths:** "He has a good bedside manner with clients but also he is quite analytical. He has good expertise in this area in law and has been doing it for many years." "He is experienced, efficient and knowledgeable." "Vijay Ganapathy is an excellent solicitor in this field." **Patrick Walsh** comes recommended for his extensive experience handling asbestos-related claims, including those involving mesothelioma, asbestos-related lung cancer, asbestosis and pleural thickening. **Strengths:** "Mr Walsh is the ultimate professional. He is very personable, attentive and very commercially aware of what is required to build a robust case." "He's very experienced and a tough negotiator." "Patrick Walsh is extremely clever. He has such attention to detail and is extremely thorough. He does an excellent job for his clients." **Ewan Tant** specialises in asbestos-related disease claims, including those relating to secondary exposure and claims with multi-jurisdictional aspects. **Strengths:** "Ewan is always available to me, answering questions and giving me information on any aspect that I am unsure of. He is always very polite, advising me on what happens next. We have full confidence in him." "He's brilliant, with a really good analytical mind." "Ewan Tant is very efficient and attentive to the details."

Band 2

The Asbestos Law Partnership LLP

What the team is known for The Asbestos Law Partnership is a specialist practice dedicated exclusively to the pursuit of claims on behalf of victims of asbestos-related disease, their families and dependants. All the lawyers are accredited asbestos specialists. The solicitors are experienced in litigating and securing compensation and access to the best treatment for mesothelioma, lung cancer, asbestosis, pleural thickening and all clinical complications arising from asbestos exposure.

Strengths

"The team are very helpful and detail-oriented. They are always available to answer my many questions and I'm constantly updated with any new developments and progress."

"They are very professional but personal at the same time, which makes the whole process a lot easier."

"The team at the Asbestos Law Partnership is made up of very experienced practitioners in this area who have years of experience in handling mesothelioma claims."

"The solicitors have a very clear grasp of all the issues and are proactive."

Notable practitioners

Paul Glanville is an experienced practitioner with a strong track record in litigating complex and high-value asbestos-related disease claims. He is celebrated for his work in the UK and also on cases with cross-border dimensions. **Strengths:** "Paul is attentive and shows empathy, making us feel like we're in safe hands. He gives regular updates and telephone consultations, and all the admin is completed in a very timely manner." "An outstanding lawyer with huge experience in the

field of asbestos litigation." "Paul is a very capable lawyer in the area of asbestos cases. He has no hesitation in taking on complex cases and obtains some fabulous results." **Fozia Hussain** is a highly regarded specialist practitioner. She has vast experience handling a range of asbestos-related claims for those affected. **Strengths:** "Fozia is an excellent lawyer. She always goes the extra mile for her client and their families." "She has excellent legal knowledge. She communicates very well with clients." "Fozia is a very strong litigator and fights hard for her clients." "Fozia is exceptionally professional at all times while being sympathetic to families. Nothing is ever too much and she's personally invested in the success of the claim."

Helen Wilson is widely known for expertise in industrial disease litigation. She regularly acts for claimants in asbestos-related disease claims. **Strengths:** "Helen is at all times thoroughly professional while at the same time, friendly and sympathetic to my case, health and concerns." "She has very good bedside manner and a gentle approach with clients." "She has excellent legal knowledge. She communicates very well with clients and has recovered significant amounts of compensation for clients over the years."

Hodge Jones & Allen

What the team is known for Hodge Jones & Allen houses a distinguished team of personal injury practitioners with particular strength in industrial disease claims, representing those affected by asbestos more specifically. The team boasts extensive experience in a range of matters including low-exposure asbestos litigation and product liability claims in the UK against manufacturers of asbestos products.

Strengths

"The team are diligent, persistent and professional throughout. Their communication is exceptional."

"They are very professional and keep us updated all the time."

"They know what they are doing; they are experienced and efficient."

Notable practitioners

Isobel Lovett (see p.1149) is a well-known and experienced asbestos disease specialist who has brought claims up and down the country. She is especially skilled in handling mesothelioma cases. **Strengths:** "Isobel Lovett has considerable experience and a determination to do the best for her clients. She has a strong work ethic, leaving no stone unturned." "She is a very empathetic and understanding solicitor. She is highly recommended for her expertise and personal touch in her service."

"Isobel knows what she's doing and her work is always meticulously prepared; she does very good work and does it well. She's also a clever negotiator and so clients have every confidence in her." **Joanne Candlish** (see p.1146) specialises in mesothelioma and other asbestos-related lung cancer claims. **Strengths:** "She provides me with information and advice throughout and maintains a thoroughly professional approach while dealing sensitively with the claim." "Joanne is personable, empathetic and informative. Joanne makes herself available to any questions at all times." "Joanne's detail management is impressive. She is very oriented on ensuring her job is done properly and is a pleasure to work with.

She deals with very vulnerable clients impressively and is at the end of the phone whenever the client needs it." **Lorna Webster** (see p.1152) focuses her practice on mesothelioma claims stemming from historic workplace asbestos exposure. **Strengths:** "A fantastic lawyer who is always very informative, polite and pleasant to speak to." "She is good with clients and detail-oriented." "She's very good with everything; she's very professional and helpful for the support needed." "Her experience is a key part of her practice. She's seen it all and is keen to stay up to date. She knows how to prepare a case too."

Larcomes

What the team is known for Larcomes houses an industrial disease practice based in Portsmouth. The team is best known for its expert knowledge and representation of claimants in mesothelioma and other asbestos-related disease claims. It frequently represents claimants who had been employed in local dockyards and shipbuilding industries.

Strengths

"The team offers a high degree of empathy and understanding mixed with professionalism."

"They have a very caring approach."

"They're compassionate, very knowledgeable and able to support patients and their families through what is quite a daunting process with empathy."

Notable practitioners

Michael Osborne enjoys a strong reputation for his handling of industrial disease claims and asbestos litigation. He regularly represents clients from industrial and manufacturing backgrounds. **Strengths:** "He is very personable so claimants really like him. He consults counsel a lot, keeping you abreast of everything." "He's got very good attention to detail." "Michael has deep knowledge of the work he does and has been doing it for a very long time. He is able to navigate patients through this process with kindness, empathy and understanding." **Richard Hopgood** heads Larcomes' industrial disease team. He is recognised for his expertise in industrial disease claims such as mesothelioma and asbestos-related cases, especially for those formerly employed in dockyards. **Strengths:** "He has great attention to detail and sensitivity which is required to deliver excellent service to the claimants." "Richard Hopgood is a key factor in the success of the company. He has exemplary knowledge and experience in the area." "He's very kind but he has deep knowledge and is very tenacious as well. Richard doesn't give up on things easily. He's able to look at a claim from a different perspective to bring it to a successful conclusion."

RWK Goodman

What the team is known for RWK Goodman houses a prominent industrial disease department. The team has extensive experience in a variety of asbestos cases and often acts on behalf of victims of asbestos-related disease, their families and dependants. It is best known for handling mesothelioma cases and regularly represents claimants from industrial backgrounds.

Strengths

"The lawyers at RWK Goodman are always polite, patient and understanding. They're also very knowledgeable."

"Every team member spoken to displays expertise and is kind, caring and compassionate."

"They are extremely efficient with phone calls, emails and meetings, dealing with them in a very professional manner while putting the client's requirements first and foremost with kindness and thoughtfulness."

"They offer an excellent service to clients. They are very efficient and knowledgeable too."

Notable practitioners

Helen Childs leads RWK Goodman's industrial disease team and has extensive experience representing clients in asbestos-related disease claims concerning mesothelioma, asbestosis, lung cancer and pleural thickening. **Strengths:** "She's the complete package: she is extremely experienced, has an extremely good manner with clients and is phenomenally diligent. She really deeply cares about her clients and knows what she's doing. She's a really impressive lawyer." "Helen is an exceptional lawyer with superlative customer care skills. She's a true superstar." "Helen really fights and is incredibly tenacious and very passionate about her work. She's very dedicated to her clients."

Jennifer Seavor regularly represents clients in a range of asbestos claims and is noted for handling secondary exposure cases. **Strengths:** "Jennifer is a brave solicitor who will take on some challenging cases. She works phenomenally hard to get justice." "She works hard making sure all the i's are dotted. She has a huge wealth of knowledge and experience in asbestos and really good instincts. She's a real pleasure to work with." **David Hughes** is highlighted for handling asbestos-related disease claims including mesothelioma and pleural thickening. **Strengths:** "An arriving star. He's an absolute pleasure to deal with, very thorough and always makes sure he gets everything right." "His judgement is very good and he's willing to put in the hours to get the best results for the clients." "He genuinely cares and the service we receive from start to finish is outstanding."

Slater and Gordon Lawyers

What the team is known for Slater and Gordon has a prominent industrial disease team with leading expertise in mesothelioma and other asbestos-related illnesses. It is also well experienced in claims concerning noise-induced hearing loss, exposure to poisonous gases and other occupational health issues. The team also offers in-house client liaison officers who dispense welfare benefits advice and other forms of practical support to clients.

Strengths

"Slaters are good at industrial disease cases. They've been doing it for a long time and know what they're doing. The team have a great deal of expertise and know the right experts to instruct." "The team are attentive and professional."

"I would recommend them to everyone. They keep me informed and up to date on the process every step of the way."

Notable practitioners

Pauline Chandler is an experienced industrial disease specialist with particular strength in pursuing bladder and nasal cancer matters for claimants. **Strengths:** "A doyenne of asbestos litigation. She takes on difficult cases and gets good results for them. She works extremely hard and people always turn to her for advice. She's exceptional."

"She's a force to be reckoned with. She has really good technical ability, is very hard-working and does a very good job for her clients." "Pauline has a huge reputation for her work in this field. She's been doing this work for a long time and has a lot of experience." **Madelene Holdsworth** heads the firm's industrial disease team. She is well reputed in the market for her handling of complex industrial disease and military litigation. Her experience includes stress at work claims, chemical poisoning and asbestos-related disease matters. **Strengths:** "She really knows her stuff and works very hard indeed. She is a very impressive lawyer in terms of tenacity and diligence." "Madelene takes difficult cases, is a good lawyer and knows the subject very well. She's very experienced." "The time I have with Madelene is time well spent. She is a superb litigator and a delight to work with." **Jordan Bell** is commended for his experience in dealing with asbestos-related disease claims, including those involving asbestosis, pleural thickening, lung cancer and mesothelioma. **Strengths:** "He is very experienced in the work he does, extremely competent, diligent, thorough and thoughtful." "He is very experienced and good with clients." "Jordan always keeps me informed and treats me in a very caring manner."

Thompsons

What the team is known for Thompsons is a nationwide practice with longstanding expertise in industrial disease matters. The firm primarily acts on asbestos-related disease cases, with additional experience handling HAVS, non-freezing cold injuries and hearing issues. Thompsons is closely allied to trade unions and a range of asbestos support groups across the country.

Strengths

"Thompsons is a solid firm doing asbestos work." "Thompsons is a very well-established firm which fights for clients."

Notable practitioners

Andrew Venn (see p.1152) is the firm's national practice lead for asbestos cases and he often acts for clients in mesothelioma cases. He is a highly experienced practitioner, having previously pursued cases up to High Court level. **Strengths:** "He's incredibly knowledgeable. He really knows his

stuff." "Andrew is very good with clients, technically capable, efficient and careful."

Other Ranked Lawyers

Stephen Burbidge (see p.1146) of Humphreys & Co. specialises in industrial disease claims and he has extensive experience handling mesothelioma cases.

Strengths:

"Stephen is very professional with his level of service. He keeps us aware and up to date with everything that is going on. I would say he is very aware and in touch with the field he works in."

"He goes to great lengths to explain everything in layman's terms. As cases progress, he provides regular updates and progress reviews."

"He is extremely tenacious in pursuing claims. He knows the area of law and practice inside and out."

Phillip Gower of Novum Law is commended for his experience in dealing with industrial disease cases. He is particularly noted for handling secondary exposure matters.

Strengths:

"He is very good at disease work and is very good with clients with a history of managing complex cases."

"Phillip has a very good grasp of the legal technicalities."

"Phillip does serious industrial disease cases and I wouldn't hesitate in recommending him."

Melloney Harbutt of Boyes Turner is skilled in handling a range of asbestos-related disease claims.

Strengths:

"Melloney is hard-working and an intelligent lawyer, putting her clients' needs at the forefront."

"She really cares about her clients. She is dedicated."

Laura Magson leads Boyes Turner's industrial disease team. She is recognised for her swift handling of asbestos-related disease claims, prioritising settlements within claimants' lifetimes.

Strengths:

"Laura deals with claims in a professional manner and explains queries in an understandable way."

"An exceptional asbestos specialist. Laura really goes the extra mile for the client and is not afraid of difficult cases. She is commercially savvy and practically astute."

"Laura Magson is a very talented, hard-working, kind and lovely person who goes that extra mile for all her clients."

"Laura is professional while remaining personable and approachable."

UK-wide Mainly Defendant

Personal Injury: Mainly Defendant
Leading Firms
Band 1
Clyde & Co LLP
DAC Beachcroft LLP
DWF
Kennedys
Keoghs LLP
Band 2
HF
Weightmans
Band 3
Browne Jacobson LLP
CMS
Forbes
Eminent Practitioners
Eminent Practitioners
Dickinson Graham DWF
Jones Glyn DWF
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Burton Mark Kennedys
Henké Malcolm C HF
Hibbert Andrew Clyde & Co LLP
Holt David Weightmans
McCabe Jamie C Keoghs LLP
Band 2
Adamson Derek DWF
D'Netto Philip DAC Beachcroft LLP
Parker Andrew DAC Beachcroft LLP
Pugh David Keoghs LLP
Young Ken Keoghs LLP
Band 3
Bowler Claire DWF
Collins Claire Clyde & Co LLP
Murray Christopher Clyde & Co LLP
Singer Danielle DAC Beachcroft LLP
Sless Tania DAC Beachcroft LLP
Taverner Paul Bevan Brittan LLP (ORL) ◇
West Richard Kennedys
Yuill Sally DAC Beachcroft LLP
Band 4
Achour Raouf HF
Blamire Bethany Trethowans LLP (ORL) ◇
Bowers Kella Forbes
Caddies John Hill Dickinson LLP (ORL) ◇
Chadder Paul HF
Eccles Chris Clyde & Co LLP
Farmaner Kelvin Trethowans LLP (ORL) ◇
Garnett Clare Clyde & Co LLP
Hahlo Fiona RPC (ORL) ◇
Kerr Andrew Clyde & Co LLP
Rees Owen DWF
Southern Neil Clyde & Co LLP
Spencer Emma Keoghs LLP
Thompson David Kennedys
Young David DWF
Associates to watch
Jones Claire Bevan Brittan LLP (ORL) ◇
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

Band 1

Clyde & Co LLP

What the team is known for The defendant personal injury team at Clyde & Co is highly regarded in the market and focuses on complex high-value claims, including those with international elements. The team handles the full range of personal injury matters, including catastrophic accident and mesothelioma claims. It also works with an enviable list of major insurers, defending both group actions and substantial individual claims.

Strengths

"One area of particular strength is they are very good with clients and very client-focused. They tailor different solutions based on different clients and are very technically able too. Clydes is a pragmatic firm which knows how to drive a deal through."

"Clyde & Co is a very innovative firm looking to provide additional value and support."

"What you get from Clydes is a high standard of work and cooperation with lots of years of experience."

Notable practitioners

Andrew Hibbert is well known for handling high-value individual motor accident claims. He is experienced in high-value brain and spinal injury, limb loss and fatal accident claims, including those arising out of RTAs. **Strengths:** "Andrew Hibbert is very collaborative. He is someone who sees the bigger picture." "He is one of the top catastrophic litigators in the country." "Andrew has good relations with the leading personal injury claimant firms. If the wheels fall off or relations break down, he'll pick up the phone and speak to the equivalent of him on the other side to cut through the nonsense. He's a nice guy and works collaboratively." "Andy Hibbert is exceptional. He's a brilliant catastrophic lawyer." **Claire Collins** has considerable experience handling complex catastrophic injury cases including, amputation, spinal and brain claims. She has particular expertise in subtle brain injury matters and acts for many leading insurers. **Strengths:** "Insurers really like her: she's very sensible and quite creative. She's not black and white in how she thinks about things; she brainstorms ways to deal with them instead. She's very strong on strategy too." "She's tough and gets really good results. Claire Collins is impressive." **Christopher Murray** has a broad defence-side practice, routinely representing both public and private sector clients in claims arising from severe RTA, accident at work and industrial disease-related injuries. **Strengths:** "Chris is a sound and customer-focused lawyer." "He is excellent with clients and very insightful." **Chris Eccles** acts on complex large-loss claims often resulting from road traffic collisions. He is experienced in defending insurers in cases involving serious catastrophic injuries. **Strengths:** "Chris Eccles is very hard-working, very thorough and very bright." "He's an example of someone who has both an eye for forensic detail but also is able to take a practical approach to things." **Clare Garnett** is well regarded for her

work on Animals Act claims and equine liability in particular. She attracts additional praise for advising on cases involving fraud and exaggeration. **Strengths:** "She is incredibly knowledgeable in terms of Animal Act cases, especially equestrian ones." "She's often instructed by horse insurance companies to do personal injury cases. She is a good team person." **Andrew Kerr** defends insurers against catastrophic and large-loss claims. He is noted for his work dealing with significant injuries stemming from RTA liabilities. **Strengths:** "Andy Kerr is very bright and very personable." "He is very calm and on top of everything." **Neil Southern** acts for insurers in large loss claims stemming from motor accidents. He is particularly recognised for advising on cases involving fraud. **Strengths:** "Neil is excellent at high-end fundamental dishonesty claims."

DAC Beachcroft LLP

What the team is known for DAC Beachcroft is a national firm housing a substantial team of experts who can defend everything from serious injury and industrial disease claims to suspected cases of fraud. It is a leading adviser to major insurers and very capable of handling international matters. The team also wields particular expertise in motor claims, with additional knowledge of public and employers' liability.

Strengths

"A number of people at DAC Beachcroft are stand-outs."

"The firm's lawyers are at the top end and are good practitioners. They have a good client following."

"The firm has a strong reputation in the market."

Notable practitioners

Philip D'Netto dedicates his practice to defending insurers in large-loss and catastrophic injury claims. **Strengths:** "Philip D'Netto is extremely strong on insurance and very knowledgeable on these matters." "He is a catastrophic injury specialist." "He is consistently among the big and complex cases, and clients like him." **Andrew Parker** is experienced in defending and advising insurers in strategic test cases, most notably with respect to personal injury matters. He is often instructed in landmark appeals and offers a wealth of expertise representing defendants in judicial reviews. **Danielle Singer** defends insurers against severe brain, spinal injury and amputation cases. She has particular expertise in significant injuries arising from motor accidents. **Strengths:** "She is a details person and is passionate about defence work. She's a really tough opponent and is on top of her game." "She is recognised for motor work and has a good reputation in that area." **Tania Sless** has a broad defence practice including personal injury claims arising from accidents at work and motor accidents. She works with clients from a wide range of industries including manufacturing and hospitality. **Strengths:** "She is good on the injury side and catastrophic claims especially relating to stress. She's a really good and safe pair of hands." "She often deals with high-level motor cases and has been around for quite some time." **Sally Yuill** handles catastrophic injury claims as a result of

motor and employers' liability. She is experienced in cases involving spinal injuries and amputation.

DWF

What the team is known for DWF is a pre-eminent large-loss practice which acts on complex, high-profile cases and defends insurers against claims arising from catastrophic accidents, negligence and abuse. The team also offers deep expertise in occupational illness matters, including noise-induced hearing loss, as well as proficiency in cases involving accidents in the UK and abroad. The specialist expertise within the team also includes handling fraudulent claims, such as substantial motor insurance fraud rings.

Strengths

"DWF are very good at understanding what clients want and translating that into action. They're there when you need them."

"The firm has very strong individuals with rehabilitation knowledge. They are very forward-thinking."

"The DWF team is very strong and has true market-leading experts."

"They are good at setting and communicating a strategy in each case."

Notable practitioners

Graham Dickinson heads the catastrophic injury team in London and is known for handling large-loss claims arising from accidents. He is also extremely adept at resolving disputes via mediation, and has extensive experience handling claims on behalf of UK and overseas insurers and reinsurers. **Strengths:** *"Graham is the most tactically astute defendant personal injury solicitor."* *"He's well known in the market. He has a reputation for doing this work."* **Glyn Jones** acts as global head of insurance at the firm. He defends insurers against complex catastrophic and fatal injury claims. He is also adept at advising on insurance policy matters. **Derek Adamson** assists major insurers with insurance policy interpretation. He has deep expertise in disease-related claims, including mesothelioma and Legionnaires' disease. **Strengths:** *"Derek has a lifetime of experience and top-end knowledge but still the drive, energy and enthusiasm of a student."* *"He's helpful, available and provides strong advice."*

Claire Bowler heads the firm's international claims team, frequently handling big-ticket claims for insurers in both the UK and the EU. She has particular experience handling personal injury claims arising from motor accidents. **Strengths:** *"Claire Bowler is a good lawyer and clients like her."* Leeds-based **Owen Rees** frequently acts for motor insurers in connection with coverage disputes. He is particularly well versed in handling cases involving catastrophic injuries, particularly those arising from RTAs. **Strengths:** *"In the catastrophic injury area, he is very knowledgeable. He has a very good manner and is good in terms of helping clients in difficult situations."* **David Young** is highly experienced in a range of catastrophic injury claims, frequently acting on behalf of the insurers of motorists, employers and public bodies. He has particular expertise in cases involving serious brain injuries, amputations and paralysis.

Kennedys

What the team is known for Kennedys is a market-leading defence practice skilled in representing major insurers and corporations. The team advises on a broad range of personal injury claims arising from workplace accident to motor cases and offers notable expertise in international claims. Kennedys continues to grow its international presence, offering a strong network of 44 offices worldwide.

Strengths

"One of their great strengths is that they know how to contrive full strategy for clients."

"The Kennedys team we work with is well staffed and turns matters around very quickly. Their letters and updates are timely, comprehensive and well structured."

"They have a quick turnaround with advice and are always available to discuss a case."

"Kennedys is a safe pair of hands; it gets the claim to the right people."

Notable practitioners

Mark Burton chairs the firm's UK catastrophic injury team and handles big-ticket claims for insurers, including severe brain injury claims. He has significant expertise in handling claims arising from motor accidents. **Strengths:** *"He is a very organised advocate and is well prepared. Everything is in order. He has a very sound evidential analysis technique too."* **Richard West** regularly advises insurers in connection with catastrophic injury claims and motor insurance coverage disputes. He has handled many high-value claims in this area. **Strengths:** *"He excels at client care and tactical decisions."* *"He is a really good lawyer and a thought-provoking lawyer. He's talented, with a big insurer client following."* **Richard** is a well-regarded personal injury specialist and provides an excellent service. **David Thompson** acts for insurers in catastrophic injury claims. He is particularly adept at handling cases arising from workplace accidents. **Strengths:** *"David has a real awareness of client needs and isn't afraid to challenge things if he thinks the customer is going down a wrong route."* *"He is technically a very good solicitor. He's very accessible and client-facing. He is very thorough and achieves good results."*

Keoghs LLP

What the team is known for Keoghs has a stellar reputation for defending insurers and self-insured clients in catastrophic injury and occupational disease claims. Clients also rely on the firm's outstanding counter-fraud team for advice in cases of suspected fraud and exaggeration. The team is particularly well established in the motor insurance industry, with further notable experience in advising public sector bodies in abuse cases.

Strengths

"The team's approach is highly detailed and forensic. They have particular expertise in the most complex and catastrophic injury claims."

"Keoghs provide prompt but detailed responses to queries. They are always keen and willing to assist with strategic input of high quality."

"Keoghs is a leader in the field for sex abuse defendant work. They know everything about their area and have all the cases. They're right at the forefront acting in the big cases."

Notable practitioners

Jamie McCabe is a leading catastrophic injury specialist, frequently defending insurers against complex brain, spinal and fatal injury claims. He also advises insurers on market and policy strategy. **Strengths:** *"Jamie McCabe is a very strong personal injury solicitor."* *"Jamie is highly technical and detailed. There's no one better in closing out a deal. He's approachable and truly understands the needs of our business."* *"Jamie offers regular insights on market developments and levers bespoke training."* **David Pugh** has much experience advising on strategic and sometimes test litigation, with an emphasis on legacy and industrial disease cases. He represents an impressive roster of clients, including governments, international insurers and multinationals. **Ken Young** comes recommended for his experience advising on cases of catastrophic injury arising from motor accidents, including amputations, brain and spinal injuries. **Strengths:** *"Ken is an exceptional solicitor with a great depth of knowledge balanced with commercial awareness and a strategic head."* *"He's decisive, which is an enormous quality and is highly recommended."* **Emma Spencer** frequently defends major insurers against a wide range of complex catastrophic injury claims. **Strengths:** *"She sees the bigger picture, is tough but reasonable and helps in circumstances where people really need help from insurers."* *"Emma is a catastrophic injury lawyer who is absolutely brilliant. She is hugely knowledgeable, she has a great grasp of cases and she understands the various dynamics at play."*

Band 2

HF

What the team is known for HF is a considerable defendant-side personal injury offering with the ability to handle a significant range of employers', public and motor liability matters. The team is highly respected for its expertise in handling catastrophic injury claims, including those involving brain and spinal cord injuries. HF's experience also covers injury arising from motor accidents as well as cases of suspected motor insurance fraud.

Notable practitioners

Malcolm Henké specialises in complex large-loss claims arising from motor accidents and is highly skilled in representing clients in litigation across the UK, Europe and the USA. He is especially adept in cases concerning brain and spinal cord injuries. **Strengths:** *"He sees the bigger picture on cases and looks after clients. He builds relationships and trust with claimants too."* *"He is very respected in the insurance market."* **Raouf Achour** has a broad-defence personal injury practice where he regularly acts for insurers. He advises on a range of matters including employers' and public liability cases. **Strengths:** *"He is very hard-working and has a big future ahead of him."* *"He is tactically astute and always has a keen eye on the commercial realities of litigation."* **Paul Chadder** has particularly acute expertise in employers' and also public liability claims, including those concerning industrial disease. He is also experienced in Health and Safety Executive prosecutions and

professional indemnity matters relating to personal injury.

Weightmans

What the team is known for Weightmans has a highly regarded personal injury team instructed by major insurers and local authorities to defend the full range of injury and disease cases. Other areas of activity within the team include the investigation and litigation of claims for fraud and exaggeration. Weightmans advises on the full span of catastrophic injury claims as well as injuries arising from alleged negligence and abuse. Clients benefit from the firm's international capabilities via its international law group.

Strengths

"What sets them apart is their client care: they get to know their clients and get the best deal possible for their clients."

"A hugely knowledgeable and experienced team. They're very experienced in high-value catastrophic injury claims and provide a very good service to their numerous insurer clients."

"A superb team. Their instructions are always impeccable and are always in good time."

Notable practitioners

David Holt regularly receives instruction in high-value catastrophic personal injury claims, including serious head trauma and paralysis cases. He is particularly well versed in injuries arising from motor accidents, and also cases involving the Motor Insurers' Bureau. **Strengths:** *"His knowledge and expertise in indemnity issues is second to none. He's at the top of his game."*

Band 3

Browne Jacobson LLP

What the team is known for Browne Jacobson regularly defends public sector clients against employers' and public liability claims, with a particular focus on the healthcare, charity and education sectors. Historic abuse claims form a significant part of the group's practice, as does its expertise in claims of injury and neglect concerning children.

Strengths

"Browne Jacobson's staff are extremely experienced and are often handling complex claims which can be extremely sensitive. The team is dedicated and always professional with its approach."

"The solicitors respond quickly."

"The firm provides good communications."

Notable practitioners

James Arrowsmith and Kevin Lawson are key contacts.

CMS

What the team is known for CMS routinely acts for the defendant in a range of personal injury matters including vicarious liability claims and complex collective actions. The team has extensive expertise in representing the insurers and self-insured from a range of sectors in civil claims and fundamental dishonesty proceedings. The

firm offers an experienced group of practitioners based in offices across the UK.

Strengths

"The CMS team are nice to work with. They are very organised and have very good knowledge of the sector. They anticipate issues and are very efficient and pragmatic."

"CMS is a very trusted partner due to the quality of the lawyers there; they get great results and give good commercial advice."

Notable practitioners

Gregor Woods and Timothy Riordan are key contacts.

Forbes

What the team is known for Forbes routinely advises defendants on a wide range of personal injury claims and often act for local authorities. Known for strong capabilities in CSE group claims and complex inquests linked to civil matters, Forbes also provides extensive support on fast-track employers' liability and public liability. The team also has notable experience in fundamental dishonesty findings.

Strengths

"Forbes provides prompt detailed responses; the lawyers are always available to discuss and offer advice if and when needed. They provide an excellent service."

"A very experienced, knowledgeable and friendly team."

"Forbes can explain the most complex of legal matters in easy to understand terms everyone can understand. They all really excel in this particular technique."

Notable practitioners

Kella Bowers heads the firm's social services and abuse claims team. She has particular experience handling litigation arising from significant abuse and CSE claims. **Strengths:** *"Kella Bowers stands out for her expertise in social care."* *"Kella is very experienced and is able to explain complex areas in a straightforward manner."* *"Kella always provides sound advice and guidance on the cases she deals with. Her expertise and advice is invaluable."*

Other Ranked Lawyers

Bethany Blamire acts for domestic and international insurers on the full range of personal injury claims. She is especially well versed in motor accidents.

Strengths:

"She is very robust and technical. Bethany is really approachable and helps us to get to nub of issues really quickly."

"Her levels of organisation, case preparation and forward planning mean she's always two steps ahead of opponents."

"She's popular with professional and lay clients, and her ability to communicate both empathetically and realistically is reciprocated with an optimum level of cooperation which can be so valuable when defending claims. She consistently secures outstanding results for clients, but with the minimum

fuss."

John Caddies of Hill Dickinson is recognised for his personal injury practice predominantly in the marine industry.

Strengths:

"His specialist knowledge and understanding of the shipping industry and his clients enables him to provide overviews quickly."

"John's advice is always commercially aware and he provides us with commercial options in each case so that we can factor this into our strategic decisions."

"He has excellent knowledge of our business. He's also very diligent and leaves no stone unturned when investigating."

Kelvin Farmaner leads Trethowan's personal injury department. He is skilled at defending catastrophic injury claims arising from motor accidents, as well as personal injury as a result of animal-related incidents. He is also experienced with regard to cross-border matters.

Strengths:

"A hugely experienced practitioner who's determined to leave no stone unturned."

"He's able to draw on his experience as a solicitor advocate to realistically advise clients of the risks and benefits of litigation at each stage."

"We go to him for unusual technical claims that we don't come across often. He is really approachable and picks up the phone after one ring."

Fiona Hahlo of RPC is noted for her strong broad-defence practice including personal injury claims arising from work accidents and motor accidents.

Strengths:

"She litigates cases with determination and no fear; she always has her eye on achieving commercial results, which is very much appreciated by her clients."

"She sees through the trees and creates commercial solutions for the client. She is very pragmatic and commercially minded. She is on top of things."

"Fiona is an absolute delight to work for. She comes across very politely, is quite steely and has her own views about cases, so she always brings value."

Claire Jones of Bevan Brittan wins recognition for her work on public liability claims, with particular strength in handling cases involving brain and spinal injuries. She has further experience advising on claims involving the Animals Act.

Strengths:

"Claire Jones provides great client service and is very knowledgeable."

"She is self-confident and comes through with excellent instructions, identifying the issues and background well without including the irrelevant fluff. She has good judgement and good commercial nous."

Paul Taverner heads Bevan Brittan's insurance team and defends big-ticket personal injury claims, with a particular focus on serious spinal and head injury cases. His clients include major insurers as well as public and private sector companies.

Strengths:

"Paul is excellent to work with—he's very supportive, he's always on hand to help and he always listens."

South West Mainly Claimant

Personal Injury: Mainly Claimant	
Leading Firms	
Band 1	
Clarke Willmott LLP	
Enable Law (part of the Foot Anstey Group)	
Irwin Mitchell	
RWK Goodman	
VWV	
Band 2	
Novum Law	
Thompsons	
Band 3	
Barcan+Kirby	
GA Solicitors	
Lester Aldridge LLP	
Wolferstans LLP	
Leading Individuals	
Band 1	
Brazington Stuart	RWK Goodman
Davies James P	Irwin Mitchell *
Hart Lee	Clarke Willmott LLP
McCluskey Kay	Enable Law (part of the Foot Anstey Group)
Peacock Jonathan	VWV
Band 2	
Castle Samantha	Barcan+Kirby
Cole Anna	Novum Law
Gunner Lisa	Thompsons *
Sheather Matthew	GA Solicitors
Band 3	
Bickham Nicola	VWV
Buckeridge Myfanwy	Barcan+Kirby
Hambleton Mark	RWK Goodman
Hart Louise	RWK Goodman
Healy David	Lester Aldridge LLP
Ponting Huw	Enable Law (part of the Foot Anstey Group)
Rose Deborah	Irwin Mitchell *
Seymour Nick	Thompsons *
Up-and-coming individuals	
Gardner Louise	Novum Law
Associates to watch	
Riley Pamela-Jane	Foot Anstey LLP
Thompson Dan	VWV
* Indicates individual with profile.	
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.	

Band 1

Clarke Willmott LLP

What the team is known for Clarke Willmott's practitioners work with adults and children on life-changing and serious injury cases. The team is noted for its experience acting on cases concerning severe brain injuries resulting from workplace incidents and RTAs. The firm also represents dependants and estates in claims following fatal accidents. Additional areas of expertise of the team include cases relating to complex spinal cord and amputation injuries, as well as those involving psychiatric disorders. The group also handles disputed liability claims.

Strengths

"It's a highly knowledgeable and efficient firm that I always have confidence in to handle any issues that arise."

"Everyone we dealt with at the firm was incredibly

helpful and professional."

"The team has a very good appreciation of the commercial realities of litigation and they're proactive in obtaining and marshalling expert evidence at an early stage to ensure prompt outcomes and settlements."

Notable practitioners

Lee Hart excels at advising clients on brain and spinal injuries, including those resulting from RTAs and accidents at work. **Strengths:** "Lee Hart is an incredibly experienced, personable, efficient and skilled solicitor. I always have complete confidence in his skills and his ability to go the extra mile." "Lee is exceptional in his field." "He is a first-class practitioner who commands immediate respect from opponents. He is calm and measured in his approach and will always go the extra mile for his clients."

Enable Law (part of the Foot Anstey Group)

What the team is known for Foot Anstey is noted for its expertise in serious injury claims, including spinal injuries and amputations. The firm frequently acts on cases concerning sports injuries, in addition to injuries incurred in the workplace and RTAs. It is a strong practice that works on acquired brain injury cases and frequently represents clients who have suffered falls.

Strengths

"Foot Anstey is a go-to firm for catastrophic injury. They know the field very well and they're always quick to respond and deal with things."

"The Foot Anstey team have good depth and strength and they have an excellent reputation in the South West for personal injury."

Notable practitioners

Kay McCluskey is adroit in undertaking workplace accident cases and RTAs, including acting for young adults. Her practice also covers brain and psychological injuries. **Huw Ponting** is well practised in personal injury cases, with particular expertise in those relating to brain injuries.

Strengths: "He is an experienced lawyer." **Pamela-Jane Riley** is a senior associate in the firm's personal injury team. She has notable experience advising on brain injury claims. **Strengths:** "She is really pragmatic, empathetic but knows how to be tough if needed."

Irwin Mitchell

What the team is known for Irwin Mitchell is a substantial nationwide practice fielding deep expertise in workplace accident claims, RTAs, brain injuries and psychological damage, including PTSD. The group also acts on cases relating to traumatic amputations and offers specialist support in Court of Protection matters and rehabilitation.

Strengths

"The firm demonstrated great empathy and professionalism throughout the claim."

"The team worked seamlessly together and were always on the same page, there was no conflicting information or timing issues. The team were knowledgeable, supportive and empathetic to us

throughout the process."

"The catastrophic team at Irwin Mitchell is at the top of the tree in terms of experience and resources. There is vast support within the firm for every aspect of the claim."

Notable practitioners

James Davies (see p.1147) ' work portfolio covers RTAs and accidents at work, often acting on high-stakes amputations and brain injuries.

Strengths: "James is technically brilliant and he's a very effective litigator." **Deborah Rose** (see p.1151) regularly assists with significant RTA claims, including those arising from motorcycle collisions. **Strengths:** "Deborah has a very good manner with clients and excellent judgement. She has significant experience of catastrophic personal injury claims and is a joy to work with." "She's a very good, thorough and caring solicitor who absolutely works for her clients."

RWK Goodman

What the team is known for RWK Goodman boasts a skilful team with a track record in RTA claims involving spinal cord and brain injuries. The group also offers niche expertise in areas such as fatal accidents and animal cases. Additional expertise of RWK Goodman includes claims regarding chronic pain, complex regional pain syndrome and amputations.

Strengths

"The team is experienced, highly skilled and professional. Importantly, they're empathetic and practical while always keeping their focus on the client."

"RWK Goodman has excellent solicitors. They are very efficient and clear communicators."

"The personal injury team has a good and practical working knowledge of each client's needs. They are also effective in delivering appropriate support and solutions to the client."

Notable practitioners

Stuart Brazington regularly assists with high-value catastrophic injury claims, including those involving head, back and neck injuries. **Strengths:** "Stuart is experienced and works on a lot of complex brain litigation." **Mark Hambleton** offers specialist expertise on cases arising from RTAs, particularly bicycle and motorcycle accidents.

Strengths: "Mark is very knowledgeable and is a team player. His clients love him." **Louise Hart**'s caseload includes those involving accidents at work and RTAs. She is particularly well placed to handle claims arising from motorcycle collisions.

Strengths: "Louise specialises in chronic pain claims and has an eye for detail."

VWV

What the team is known for VWV has a strong practice that is noted for its expertise in multi-track claims. The team offers impressive expertise in acting on employers' liability claims and cases involving catastrophic injuries, as well as childhood injuries. The group also handles cases relating to RTAs, in addition to representing dependants and estates in fatal accident claims. It demonstrates significant experience in brain injury claims.

Strengths

"VWV provided excellent knowledge and advice, as well as immediate and prompt efficient communication."

"It's a very experienced team that understood complex issues and communicated their instructions very clearly."

"The solicitors are extremely detailed and diligent and really work hard for their clients."

Notable practitioners

Jonathan Peacock assists with catastrophic injury claims, including those related to incidents occurring abroad. **Strengths:** "Jonathan is one of the most tactically astute lawyers I have ever come across. He's got a fine commercial head on him and he is utterly unfazed by difficulties." "He is very experienced and brings a wealth of industry knowledge to his cases." "He is a leading figure." Head of the PI department, **Nicola Bickham** has extensive experience of handling cases arising from RTAs. She demonstrates notable strength in advising on matters related to catastrophic injuries. **Strengths:** "Her ability to deal with complex medical evidence and liaise with experts without recourse to counsel is excellent. She has excellent insight into how a claim should be run and is empathetic with clients, but willing to give straightforward and robust advice." "Nicola is extremely detailed and tenacious in her work." "She's very impressive, conscientious and responsive." "She is incredibly professional, emphatic and supportive throughout." **Dan Thompson** acts for claimants on personal injury claims stretching from RTAs to workplace accidents. **Strengths:** "Dan is very conscientious and client-focused."

Band 2**Novum Law**

What the team is known for Novum Law boasts a considerable presence across the South West, offering notable activity in catastrophic injury claims arising from RTAs and clinical negligence cases. The team is particularly adroit in assisting with complex neurological injuries.

Strengths

"The team is always very prompt."

"The firm provides an excellent personalised service and they're very good at handling complex cases."

"Novum Law has an extensive team with wide experience. They're also incredibly responsive."

"Their ability to respond and turn on a pinhead is remarkable. They also show outstanding commitment to each client and provide a truly bespoke service."

"The team shows strong expertise in managing complex brain injury and pain cases."

Notable practitioners

Anna Cole advises on workplace accidents resulting in catastrophic injuries. She frequently acts for vulnerable clients on complex injury claims. **Strengths:** "Anna is very knowledgeable and experienced." "She is an excellent lawyer and goes the extra mile for her clients." "Anna is the full package. She's unflappable, astute with a laser focus and she delivers for her client." **Louise Gardner** advises clients on complex personal

injury claims. Her practice includes traumatic brain injury cases, often resulting from road traffic incidents. **Strengths:** "She's got an awful lot of technical knowledge and skills."

Thompsons

What the team is known for Thompsons has a dedicated claimant practice that acts on high-value and lower-value RTA and occupational injury claims across the South West. The firm's specialist expertise includes fatal accidents and serious injury cases, such as brain injuries and psychological injuries. The team is well regarded for its representation of trade unions, as well as acting for private individuals. It is experienced in setting up rehabilitation packages for clients.

Strengths

"Thompsons always have a clear, client-focused and comprehensive approach to cases. They are responsive and extremely helpful."

"Thompsons have the resources to run the most complex of cases and they have a very experienced team of solicitors."

"Thompsons provided a first-class service. They show great client empathy, a willingness to fight difficult cases and a strong focus on building relationships with their clients."

Notable practitioners

Lisa Gunner (see p.1147) maintains a varied practice spanning RTA and workplace accident cases. She is highly adept in assisting with significant psychiatric and brain injury claims. **Strengths:** "Lisa is always professional and keen to understand the client's position. She is always clear in her approach." "She's a very good catastrophic personal injury lawyer. She's very detailed, precise and communicates well. Lisa is a standout performer." "Lisa is not afraid to pursue difficult challenges and has a proven track record of success. She has excellent client skills and a passion for securing the best outcomes." **Nick Seymour** (see p.1151) regularly provides advice on workplace accident and RTA claims, with resultant injuries including PTSD and chronic pain. **Strengths:** "Nick is very good and well known in this space."

Band 3**Barcan+Kirby**

What the team is known for Barcan+Kirby's practitioners handle a range of cases, including catastrophic injury claims involving brain damage, amputations and orthopaedic injuries. The team regularly represents clients on workplace accidents and RTAs, as well as representing claimants in disputes regarding quantum and liability.

Strengths

"The team has great attention to detail and they approach cases with skill and care. They are particularly robust in ensuring that clients achieve favourable settlements and outcomes. The team also has an expansive knowledge spanning the breadth of personal injury."

"Barcan+Kirby's expertise is very strong. They're highly professional and they provide great communication."

"They kept me informed all the way through my case and provided an excellent service."

Notable practitioners

Samantha Castle advises on cases surrounding trips and slips, as well as RTAs. **Strengths:** "I found Samantha to be extremely helpful, knowledgeable and efficient." "She has a robust awareness of the commercial world." "Samantha is extremely well organised and very knowledgeable. She is very empathetic and thorough in her approach." **Myfanwy Buckeridge** regularly advises on significant cases arising from accidents at work and RTAs, often encompassing brain and orthopaedic injuries. **Strengths:** "She's very hard-working and very good at client relationships." "She is an experienced solicitor who is easy to work with and brings good outcomes for her clients."

GA Solicitors

What the team is known for GA Solicitors represents clients in a range of personal injury matters, including workplace accidents, public and occupiers' liability claims and sport-related cases. The firm frequently acts on cases relating to chronic pain following occupational injuries. The practitioners additionally handle Animals Act claims.

Strengths

"There is a good spread of experience in the team. GA Solicitors has some excellent senior solicitors and they're bringing through some talented solicitors behind them."

Notable practitioners

Matthew Sheather's practice encompasses issues surrounding employers' liability claims and fatal accident cases. **Strengths:** "Matthew is an excellent lawyer with an eye for detail. He is excellent with figures and delivers exceptional results." "Matthew is empathetic, professional, tenacious and always kept me up to date with the case."

Lester Aldridge LLP

What the team is known for Lester Aldridge offers expertise across a range of personal injury claims arising out of RTAs and accidents at work. The team has considerable experience handling brain injuries, spinal injuries and amputations, with additional knowledge of industrial disease cases.

Strengths

"I have been impressed with the skills and professionalism across the team."

"Lester Aldridge provides great support, excellent communication and prompt, timely responses."

Notable practitioners

David Healy is well equipped to assist clients with a range of personal injury matters. He has experience with RTAs and injuries suffered in the workplace including very serious brain and spinal cord injuries. **Strengths:** "David is very experienced and gets on incredibly well with clients and experts." "David's communication with his clients is not only informative, but he shows a high level of compassion for their situation and reassures them." "He can superbly manage his team and the litigation."

Wolferstans LLP

What the team is known for Wolferstans has a notable personal injury practice based in Plymouth. The firm is adept at handling a wide range of claims, including traumatic brain injury and RTAs. The team is particularly well versed advising on

claims arising from disease caused by exposure to asbestos. *part of the process was carefully explained.*
"The legal knowledge from top to bottom is excellent."
Strengths *"The team was extremely thorough in their approach."*
"The team is very professional and has a caring approach."
"Their client service was exemplary throughout. All issues raised were dealt with very quickly and every **Notable practitioners** *Jill Burrows is a key contact at the firm.*

PERSONAL INJURY: Mainly Claimant: An Introduction to The South

Contributed by Bennett Griffin & Partners

I can think of few other industries that have been more impacted by the political whim of a sitting government than the one that involves injured parties claiming compensation. In nearly 20 years of practice, I cannot recall many years without some sort of consultation or future challenge to vex the comments section of the Law Gazette.

And of course, yet again we find ourselves about to tiptoe into/ embrace/(delete as per your preference) a major change in this area of law.

In May of this year, the government announced that the current Fixed Costs Regime (FRC) was to be extended with effect from 1 October 2023. This would apply to all newly issued claims worth up to GBP100,000 (save for an exception here or there), but for cases involving injury it would apply only where the cause of action arose after 1 October 2023.

If, on the off-chance, you have been hiding behind the sofa for the last six months, FRC is a set amount that a successful party is entitled to recover in litigation from the losing party. The rationale seems simple enough. Whatever side you are on in a dispute covered by the rules, there are no nasty surprises and both sides know what they expect to receive or what they are in for.

What Are The Basics?

FRCs will apply to the majority of civil litigation claims with a value of up to GBP100,000 from 1 October 2023. An intermediate track will be introduced, and FRCs will apply to all claims allocated to this track. It is envisaged that it will catch some clinical negligence claims where breach of duty and causation are admitted. Just to add a touch of late drama, APIL have commenced a judicial review, part of which seeks to provide further clarity on this. Complexity bands in the fast and intermediate tracks will be introduced, which in turn will impact on what FRCs are claimable. The court will assign a case to a complexity band under CPR 26.14. Practitioners need to be aware of the minor tweaks in how these cases proceed. For example, witness statements will need to be limited to 30 pages, and expert reports, 20 pages. Where there has been "unreasonable" behaviour, the receiving party's costs can either be reduced or increased by 50% of the FRC. If a Part 36 offer is beaten, an extra 35% of the FRC is payable in addition to enhanced interest and the additional damages. It is envisaged that the new track will capture cases which can be tried in three days or less, with no more than two expert witnesses giving oral evidence on each side. Only where it is in the interest of justice to do so will a court allocate a claim including non-monetary relief to the intermediate track. Finally, in the Oliver Twist-themed escape room that will be CPR45.9, practitioners can potentially

avoid FRCs if there are found to be "exceptional circumstances". As to what will constitute exceptional circumstances and unreasonable behaviour will surely be determined swiftly and proportionately with some useful satellite litigation.

Any Action to be Taken?

As at the time of writing, non-injury practitioners should certainly look at their caseload to see if it is in the best interests of the client to issue proceedings prior to 1 October 2023. After this date, it will be too late.

All practitioners would be best advised to ensure that their client care and retainer documents address the changes to include the recovery of shortfalls arising from the FRC, taking into account the learning points from Belsner, Karatysz and Menzies.

Keep asking yourself how can you conduct the litigation in a more efficient manner. Are you utilising IT fully? Is the correct lawyer conducting the litigation? Can you delegate more effectively?

It will be really important for all practitioners to know how their client's case is likely to be impacted by FRCs from the outset. Get to know the tables of PD45. How will it be likely allocated and assigned? Is there likely to be an argument over complexity? Highlight any behaviour you think is unreasonable to the opposing party at an early stage. Do you have a client/witness who is likely to be vulnerable?

Conclusions

So who wins from all of this? Injured clients? Insurers? Courts? Access to justice warriors? If solicitors are forced to recover further shortfalls from damages, then it is difficult to see it is the injured party (albeit it is important to state that efficient solicitors working in a manner which is proportionate to the issues at hand is never ever a bad thing, and this may focus minds even further). With long delays in the justice system already baked in (how long does it take to list a CCMC these days?) and the additional risk of arguments over complexity bands, appropriate tracks, etc, surely it can't be the courts. Which leaves access to justice and insurers. It is a tricky argument to maintain that making it harder for smaller firms to carry out work for smaller clients results in increasing access to justice. Similarly, it is a reasonable assumption to make that fixing costs is very much not the same thing as fixing actual costs. So who is left? It is easy for claimant solicitors like me to reach the inevitable conclusion that this is all just a ploy to save large insurers money. Maybe, maybe not, but one thing is for sure, the extension of fixed costs in litigation is not going away any time soon.

The South Mainly Claimant

Personal Injury: Mainly Claimant	
Leading Firms	
Band 1	
Dean Wilson LLP	
Irwin Mitchell	
Moore Barlow LLP	
Thomson Snell & Passmore	
Trethowans LLP	
Band 2	
Clarkson Wright & Jakes Ltd	
CL Medilaw	
DMH Stallard LLP	
Enable Law (part of the Foot Anstey Group)	
Furley Page Solicitors	
George Ide LLP	
Penningtons Manches Cooper LLP	
Senior Statespeople	
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners	
Whiteley Chris	Trethowans LLP
Leading Individuals	
Band 1	
Fretwell Paul	George Ide LLP
Goatley Helen	Moore Barlow LLP
Horan Damian	Moore Barlow LLP
Howard Claire	Irwin Mitchell *
Luscombe Philippa	Penningtons Manches Cooper LLP
Sterling Trevor	Moore Barlow LLP
Band 2	
Bell Graham	Thomson Snell & Passmore
Brown Alex	Dean Wilson LLP *
Chapman Oliver	Thomson Snell & Passmore
Claxson Matthew	Moore Barlow LLP
Clement Jonathan	CL Medilaw
Clifford Helen	Helen Clifford Law (ORL) ◇
Grayson Tessa	DMH Stallard LLP
Greenhalgh David	Clarkson Wright & Jakes Ltd
Lane Gavin	Trethowans LLP
Pierce Frances	Dean Wilson LLP *
Ryan Neille	Furley Page Solicitors
Band 3	
Blackwell Tim	Novum Law (ORL) ◇
Braund James	Trethowans LLP
Prior Julia	Enable Law (part of the Foot Anstey Group)
Ransley Tim	Bennett Griffin LLP (ORL) ◇
Rees-Knowlden Charlotte	Morr & Co (ORL) ◇
Wood James	Enable Law (part of the Foot Anstey Group)
Wormald Alex	Clarkson Wright & Jakes Ltd
Up-and-coming individuals	
Khasriya Amandeep	Moore Barlow LLP
Star associates	
Davey Ben	Dean Wilson LLP *
Associates to watch	
Herbert Jonathan	Thomson Snell & Passmore
King Charlene	Penningtons Manches Cooper LLP
Kirfield Tim	Moore Barlow LLP
* Indicates individual with profile.	
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.	
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.	

Band 1

Dean Wilson LLP

What the team is known for Dean Wilson boasts a highly regarded personal injury team that handles complex claims resulting from RTAs and

accidents at work. Lawyers in the group are experienced in all types of trauma including amputations and eye, brain, orthopaedic and spinal cord injuries. The team also handles abuse cases relating to care establishments and offers ancillary services to catastrophically injured clients through its Court of Protection department.

Strengths

"All the lawyers I have worked with at Dean Wilson are well organised and thorough in their approach."

"They are the complete package. They're always ahead of the game."

"The guidance from Dean Wilson is very comprehensive and the wider team is always willing to help."

"The team is very knowledgeable and always available for questions and advice."

"A wonderful firm that has helped me from beginning to end of my case."

Notable practitioners

Alex Brown (see p.1146) has particular experience in brain and spinal injury cases stemming from RTAs and accidents at work. He also advises on claims involving psychiatric injury. **Strengths:** "Alex has an exceptional level of understanding of his client's cases and a desire to provide them with a high level of service." "He doesn't just see the initial problem he sees the whole picture with compassion. Nothing is too much trouble for him." "Alex is very knowledgeable and is a pleasure to have on my side." **Frances Pierce** (see p.1151) handles cases arising from RTAs and accidents at work, specialising in brain and spinal cord injury, with additional strength in PTSD matters. **Strengths:** "Frances Pierce is an excellent solicitor." **Ben Davey** (see p.1147) acts on spinal and brain injury claims, with further experience in PTSD cases. He also assists with fatal injury cases involving RTAs. **Strengths:** "I have been impressed by Ben's attention to detail in order to deliver the best service possible to his clients." "He provides excellent service and communication."

Irwin Mitchell

What the team is known for Irwin Mitchell is a leading national firm with a standout offering on the South Coast. The team regularly handles a wide variety of high-value personal injury matters, including complex spinal cord, orthopaedic and head injury claims, often arising from RTAs. The practitioners also work closely with the Court of Protection team to provide a holistic rehabilitation programme for injured claimants.

Strengths

"They were extremely knowledgeable on all aspects of my claim and showed consideration and compassion throughout."

"The level of knowledge and weight of experience brought to my case has been outstanding from the start."

"They have always been there for us whenever we have had any questions or problems."

Notable practitioners

Claire Howard (see p.1148) possesses significant expertise in serious head injuries and spinal damage claims connected to RTAs. She has fur-

ther strength handling amputation and orthopaedic injury cases. **Strengths:** "Claire has got bags of experience and she's very empathetic with her clients." "She has an unerring ability to get on with clients and their families even when they are going through incredible pain. She is really good at working in chaotic situations and bringing real optimism and a positive approach."

Moore Barlow LLP

What the team is known for Moore Barlow has an impressive team frequently advising on accidents at work and RTAs. The firm houses a broad span of expertise, including brain damage, spinal injuries, chronic pain claims and amputation cases. The practitioners are able to effectively manage cases that intersect the areas of personal injury and clinical negligence. The firm offers strength across the region, with offices in Southampton, Guildford and Richmond and collaborates with other firms in the region as part of the Major Trauma Group.

Strengths

"I cannot fault their level of customer service, responsiveness and the quality of documents and preparation."

"They are always on hand to support and answer any questions."

"Moore Barlow has a superlative team with many talented individual who do much to secure swift and ample damages for their clients. They are all empathetic, extremely hard-working and efficient."

Notable practitioners

Helen Goatley specialises in acquired brain injury cases, such as those arising from workplace injuries and road traffic accidents. **Strengths:** "Helen is an extremely capable lawyer with years of experience. She has a deft and sophisticated manner and is excellent in getting through issues with clients. She leaves no stone unturned." "She's an extremely good, technical lawyer but she's also all about the clients." **Damian Horan** acts on catastrophic injury cases stemming from RTAs, with particular strength in brain, spinal and orthopaedic injury claims. **Strengths:** "Damian Horan is a proven personal injury claims professional of the highest standard." **Trevor Sterling** is senior partner at Moore Barlow and chairs the personal injury and clinical division. He is particularly active in cases stemming from RTAs, especially those concerning severe brain injury and amputations. **Strengths:** "Trevor has an amazing bedside manner. When he comes into the hospital to meet patients, he makes them feel at ease and gives them all the information without any pressure." "Trevor is admired for his deft, realistic and timely handling of heavy cases and he will never let a client down." "He is a true leader to his team and always striving to do the very best for his clients." "He's innovative, he's a doer, he doesn't shy away from difficult cases or situations."

Matthew Claxson has experience acting for clients who have suffered brain injuries as a result of road traffic accidents and workplace incidents. He is noted for his expert knowledge of cases involving amputations, as well as significant brain and spinal cord injuries. **Strengths:** "He is brilliant

and his commitment to the work is unparalleled. He genuinely cares about getting best possible outcome for his client, is tenacious and a good fighter who isn't afraid of taking on risky cases."

Amandeep Khasriya has notable experience of handling complex matters related to traumatic and life-changing injuries. Her wide experience includes cases arising from RTAs and fatal accident claims. **Strengths:** "Amandeep is a fantastic lawyer who has a fabulous bedside manner. She is able to talk to the patients with care and compassion, making sure they understand everything she is saying." **Tim Kirfield** is an associate in the personal injury team at Moore Barlow. He regularly assists clients with claims arising out of road traffic accidents that have caused brain and orthopaedic injuries. **Strengths:** "Tim really is one to watch. He's clever, determined and capable."

Thomson Snell & Passmore

What the team is known for Thompson Snell & Passmore regularly represents clients in catastrophic brain injury claims and orthopaedic injury cases. The team undertakes an array of complex RTA and workplace accident cases and is also particularly noted for its expertise in industrial disease claims such as mesothelioma and asbesto-related litigation. It provides complementary services to clients through close collaboration with its private client and Court of Protection departments.

Strengths

"Everyone I have been in contact with at Thomson Snell & Passmore always gets back to me promptly and has good knowledge of my personal case. It is clear they work well as a team."

"The team with which I work has a wide area of knowledge and experience."

"I have always found the lawyers to be understanding, knowledgeable and focused on the task at hand."

Notable practitioners

Graham Bell has a significant practice in RTA and workplace accident cases involving amputations and spine and brain injury. **Strengths:** "Graham is a very diligent litigator." "His attention to detail is impeccable." "Graham prepared my case and guided me through the entire process in an unbelievably diligent manner." **Oliver Chapman** advises on claims concerning brain and spinal injury, with further experience handling psychiatric injury cases. He also acts on industrial disease claims. **Strengths:** "Oliver really cares about his clients. His supportiveness, sensitivity and kindness make a very stressful process significantly easier to cope with." "He's someone who takes really detailed care of his cases." "He's shown very strong analytical skills and very hard work and determination to get the best for his clients." **Jonathan Herbert** is a senior associate in the personal injury and clinical negligence teams at Thomson Snell & Passmore. He is routinely called upon to provide counsel on issues arising from workplace accidents and has further experience of handling matters concerning psychiatric injuries. **Strengths:** "Jonathan is very sensitive to his client's requirements and exceptional needs in this difficult area of law." "He is a diligent and thorough solicitor." "He has an excellent attention to detail."

Trethowans LLP

What the team is known for Trethowans has a leading personal injury practice specialising in high-value claims. The group acts for clients who have suffered traumatic and catastrophic injuries, most notably head and spinal injuries, as well as multiple orthopaedic injuries. Its practitioners act for claimants who have suffered life-changing injuries at work as well as claims concerning fatal accidents, public liability and occupiers' liability.

Strengths

"The team at Trethowans is very organised and thorough in its approach. The lawyers are always analytical and efficient in their handling of complex matters."

"They are an extremely knowledgeable bunch who are always on top of all issues."

Notable practitioners

Chris Whiteley is senior partner at Trethowans and has over 30 years' experience in the personal injury space. He offers clients the benefit of his considerable expertise in catastrophic injury cases, including brain and spinal injury claims. **Strengths:** "Chris is hugely experienced and calm. He sees cases and their strengths and weaknesses clearly, he's good with the other side and great with clients as well."

Gavin Lane has extensive experience in personal injury mandates, with particular knowledge of catastrophic injury and employers' liability claims. **Strengths:** "Gavin is very seasoned and experienced - he has seen it all before. He will run challenging cases as hard as he can but is also commercially aware and will think through the consequences." "He is collaborative in the way he works with clients and is invested in their claims." **James Braund** has particular strength in spinal cord injury claims, with further experience handling cases following accidents abroad. **Strengths:** "James is relaxed and calm in his approach, extremely knowledgeable and knows the law inside and out." "He is an incredibly bright lawyer."

Band 2

Clarkson Wright & Jakes Ltd

What the team is known for Clarkson Wright & Jakes has a standout local offering in the South East, with the team advising claimants on a broad range of matters including traffic accidents and occupiers' and public liability claims. Cases handled by the team include multi-track head and spinal injury claims, as well as amputation cases. The firm is notable for its cooperation with the brain injury charity Headway.

Strengths

"The team takes a sound approach with all matters and never loses sight of the complexity of a claim. They achieve excellent results in the face of often obstinate opposition."

"The service they have provided has been very professional and reassuring."

"They have been exceptionally good in helping me with my case and very thorough in their work."

Notable practitioners

David Greenhalgh has notable experience of road and workplace accident cases involving orthopaedic and neurological injury claims. **Strengths:**

"David is extremely experienced and a great operator who is not fazed by complexities and has a great sense for a case." "David is approachable and easy to work with." "We had complete confidence in David from our first meeting. He guided us through the case with great skill and his advice was always gratefully received." **Alex Wormald** has particular experience in catastrophic injury work. He offers expertise in brain injury and spinal cord injury cases. **Strengths:** "Alex Wormald is a great litigator who fights very hard and is not afraid to take on a difficult case." "Alex helped me understand the procedure and answered any questions I had in a very professional manner." "Alex has a very good eye on the law and knows when there is a case to be made."

CL Medilaw

What the team is known for CL Medilaw has a team that is held in high regard for its standout expertise in catastrophic brain injuries. The group is experienced in handling litigation arising from serious RTAs, including cases with international elements. The practitioners' additional areas of expertise include orthopaedic and spinal injuries. They are actively involved in local brain injury charities and run an annual brain injury conference. The team offers extensive rehabilitation assistance to clients and often works in conjunction with a range of case management and medical experts.

Notable practitioners

Jonathan Clement receives plaudits for his expertise in brain injury mandates. He focuses on complex head and orthopaedic injuries connected to RTAs. **Strengths:** "Jonathan has a wonderful way with people and really gives confidence to clients." "He sees where the issues are rapidly and has a trusted coterie of experts he can draw on."

DMH Stallard LLP

What the team is known for DMH Stallard's team has particular strength in RTA cases as well as those involving employers' and occupiers' liability. The group often advises on spinal and orthopaedic claims. Lawyers in the team have additional experience in handling cases with cross-border implications.

Strengths

"The team is very knowledgeable, approachable, helpful and efficient, with an excellent level of expertise."

"They are extremely efficient and provide excellent communication."

"The lawyers from DMH Stallard have deep knowledge of the field."

"They have worked tirelessly on my case - I could not have asked for more guidance or support throughout this process."

Notable practitioners

Tessa Grayson has particular strength advising on RTA cases in which clients have sustained orthopaedic and psychological injury. She also acts on workplace accident and occupational disease claims. **Strengths:** "Tessa has a client-centred and empathetic approach. She has a real breadth of knowledge in personal injury work, which greatly assists her in her case preparation." "She's very easy to talk to, knowledgeable and reassuring." "She's always very efficient and lovely to deal with."

Enable Law (part of the Foot Anstey Group)

What the team is known for Enable Law, part of the Foot Anstey group, is a well-regarded outfit advising clients on the full gamut of personal injury work, including RTAs and accidents at work. The team regularly handles traumatic and catastrophic injury claims such as brain and spinal injuries and is also noted for its expertise in asbesto-related disease.

Strengths

"The lawyers at Enable Law are knowledgeable and courteous at all times. Their communication is prompt and they always respond to questions quickly."

"They have a good depth of knowledge."

"The team is very supportive."

Notable practitioners

Julia Prior handles a range of personal injury claims including those that arise from RTAs and in the workplace. She has particular experience with brain injuries. **Strengths:** *"Julia is really good with clients and her cases are very well prepared. She has her clients' interests at heart."* **She's a safe pair of hands."** **James Wood** has particular experience with injuries suffered at work, including chronic pain and RSI. He also advises on head injury claims. **Strengths:** *"James stands out for his level of patience and care for his clients."* *"He is a very tenacious solicitor but does it with experience and common sense. His client care is fantastic."*

Furley Page Solicitors

What the team is known for Furley Page Solicitors regularly represents clients in complex public and employers' liability cases as well as RTAs. The team's work covers all types of claims including brain and spinal trauma and psychological injuries. The practitioners also advise clients on fatal accident cases.

Notable practitioners

Neille Ryan offers experience handling RTA cases involving brain injury, fatalities and amputations. He has further strength in workplace accident claims. **Strengths:** *"Neille is super hard-working and very patient with demanding parties on a case."*

George Ide LLP

What the team is known for George Ide is an established West Sussex firm with an exceptional personal injury offering, mostly handling claims connected to RTAs. The team specialises in severe brain and spinal injury matters, as well as fatal accidents, amputation claims and orthopaedic injury cases. The practitioners particularly assist clients with rehabilitation procedures. The group also cooperates with the firm's Court of Protection department to provide a comprehensive service to vulnerable individuals.

Strengths

"The team is thorough and knowledgeable."

"George Ide provides very good advice for personal injury clients and has a wide scope of expertise."

"They go the extra mile for their clients and care about them beyond just the mechanics of the case."

Notable practitioners

Paul Fretwell is a highly respected practitioner with expertise in catastrophic brain and spinal injuries as well as amputation cases resulting from RTAs. **Strengths:** *"Paul Fretwell is an exceptionally thorough, professional and caring lawyer."* *"Paul is brilliant and always goes the extra mile."* *"Paul led me on paths that I would never have taken without his advice but that were absolutely valuable to both the case and my personal well-being."* *"I have always found Paul to be very knowledgeable about his clients and to have realistic expectations about what his experts can provide."*

Penningtons Manches Cooper LLP

What the team is known for Penningtons Manches Cooper is well known for its expertise in catastrophic injury cases, particularly matters arising from RTAs. The group handles a range of claims pertaining to fatal accidents, head and spinal injuries and amputations. Its practitioners are experienced in occupiers' liability cases and the team also houses product liability expertise, working closely with its clinical negligence team on cosmetic treatment claims. The team works on domestic cases as well as claims brought abroad.

Strengths

"The whole team is superb and works well together. The level of expertise is excellent."

"I cannot fault the service I received at all – it's an exceptional team."

"The work they did for me was absolutely fantastic."

Notable practitioners

Philippa Luscombe has notable strength in the personal injury field, acting for clients on brain injury and amputation cases as well as advising on fatal accident claims. **Strengths:** *"She provides very good advice with a high level of empathy."* *"Philippa is evidently very good at her role and excellent at remaining client-centred."* *"I really couldn't have asked for anything more from Philippa – she is absolutely first-class."* **Charlene King** is a personal injury lawyer who acts for claimants who have been injured as a result of road traffic accidents and workplace incidents. She has significant experience handling brain injury and amputation cases. **Strengths:** *"I would recommend Charlene King one hundred times over. She is knowledgeable and always happy to communicate and explain. I trusted her completely and always felt she put my best interests first."* *"She's very clear and with a good level of empathy."*

Other Ranked Lawyers

Tim Blackwell heads the team in Novum Law's Southampton office. He has a broad practice covering traumatic brain and orthopaedic injuries as well as industrial disease cases.

Helen Clifford of Helen Clifford Law handles a wide spectrum of cases arising from accidents at work, RTAs and construction accidents.

Strengths:

"Helen will go out of her way to help in whatever way she can. This is more than a job to Helen and she always demonstrates how she truly cares for her clients and is constantly fighting so hard for what is right."

"Helen Clifford is a superb lawyer. She's experienced, thorough and has a good understanding of the strengths and limitations of any given claim."

"Helen is extremely proactive and will examine a case in considerable depth to find the evidence to support her client's claim."

Tim Ransley heads the personal injury department at Bennett Griffin & Partners. He handles a variety of personal injury claims with a particular expertise in accidents involving cyclists and other road users.

Strengths:

"Tim is very professional, knowledgeable and supportive. I was happy to have him representing me and trusted him to give me the information I needed when proceeding with my claim."

"He works very hard on behalf of his clients."

"Tim is very good at focusing the client on the issues that are relevant in a case."

Charlotte Rees-Knowlden is head of the department at Morr & Co and covers the full breadth of personal injury claims. She has notable experience in catastrophic and traumatic injuries resulting from RTAs and accidents in the workplace.

Strengths:

"Charlotte has been very detailed and attentive in handling my case at all times and she has been adept at making me feel comfortable through all proceedings."

"She builds an incredible rapport with clients."

"She's always so responsive with emails and calls and very helpful with explaining and answering my questions."

"Charlotte makes me feel everything is going to be okay. She has kept me abreast with every part of my case and explained what would happen at every stage."

Thames Valley Mainly Claimant

Personal Injury: Mainly Claimant
Leading Firms
Band 1
Boyes Turner
RWK Goodman
Band 2
Geoffrey Leaver Solicitors
IBB Law
Shoosmiths LLP
White Dalton Motorcycle Solicitors
Band 3
Collins Solicitors
Lennons Solicitors
Senior Statespeople
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners
Underhill Malcolm IBB Law
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Carrier Ian RWK Goodman
Collins Des Collins Solicitors
Dalton Andrew White Dalton Motorcycle Solicitors
Gill Navdip Geoffrey Leaver Solicitors
Milan Kim Boyes Turner
Norris-Evans Tracy RWK Goodman
Roantree Claire Boyes Turner
Band 2
Ashurst Paul Shoosmiths LLP
Childs Helen RWK Goodman
Holliday Danielle Collins Solicitors
King Andrew Lennons Solicitors
Pimlott Simon Shakespeare Martineau (ORL) ◇
Prendergast Andrew White Dalton Motorcycle Solicitors
Associates to watch
Hughes David RWK Goodman
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

Band 1

Boyes Turner

What the team is known for Boyes Turner is a highly experienced personal injury practice fielding leading capabilities in catastrophic and fatal injury claims. The team has particular strength in spinal and head injury cases, including those arising from accidents at work and RTAs, often acting for pedestrians and motorcyclists. The team regularly works with rehabilitation charities across the UK, and represents secondary victims in PTSD and other psychological injury claims. The team offers wider support with the firm's Court of Protection team in order to provide clients with a holistic service.

Strengths

"The Boyes Turner team is very responsive and supportive."

"Boyes Turner is an excellent firm."

"The Boyes Turner team is extremely kind, knowledgeable and professional."

Notable practitioners

Kim Milan is recognised by market commentators for her experience in brain injury cases. She is particularly well placed to handle claims arising from a wide range of RTAs, including those involving motorbikes and bicycles. **Strengths:** "Kim always

engages with her clients and their cases, she builds excellent client relationships." "Kim is very, very knowledgeable about brain injury." "Kim instils confidence instantly, she has huge compassion and places her clients at the very centre of the process."

Claire Roantree is adroit across the spectrum of claims, from brain and spinal injuries to PTSD and amputation cases. **Strengths:** "Claire takes a thoughtful and intelligent approach to her work. She is empathetic but pragmatic and easy to work with." "Claire is very knowledgeable and professional." "I am impressed by Claire's professionalism and measured empathy. She explains the law and possible outcomes effectively at every stage."

RWK Goodman

What the team is known for RWK Goodman's team is adept at handling an impressive breadth of claims, including RTAs and occupational health matters. The group is also active on personal injury cases involving travel and foreign jurisdictions. The practitioners also represent clients in a range of physical and psychological injury claims.

Strengths

"RWK Goodman has a group of strong and experienced performers. Its level of communication with families is outstanding."

"The firm responds at all times in a prompt manner and explains matters clearly and concisely. Truly exceptional."

"RWK offers highly skilled specialists who hold expert knowledge in their respective fields."

Notable practitioners

Ian Carrier frequently advises on catastrophic injury cases, with claims encompassing RTAs and accidents at work. **Strengths:** "Ian is highly professional, knowledgeable and personable." "Ian is calm, quietly formidable and determined to seek the most positive outcomes for his clients." "Ian is professional, approachable and understanding. He continually keeps clients updated on the situation and proceedings." **Tracy Norris-Evans** assists with claims encompassing brain and orthopaedic injuries, as well as psychological damage. **Strengths:** "Tracy is deeply experienced and committed to her clients." "Tracy is utterly committed to improving the lives of her clients and their families." "Tracy is excellent. She has an astute understanding of the needs of the client, she is personal yet professional and always responsive." **Helen Childs** is well practised in assisting with a range of claims, particularly those relating to asbestos. Helen Serves as head of the firm's industrial disease practice group. **Strengths:** "Helen Childs is the complete package. She is extremely experienced and she has an extremely good manner with clients." "Helen is brilliant." **David Hughes** is highly valued for his work advising on industrial disease matters. He frequently supports mesothelioma and asbestosis claims. **Strengths:** "David is clearly someone who is an arriving star. He is very thorough, he always makes sure he gets everything right." "David Hughes provides exemplary service." "David's communication skills are excellent."

Band 2

Geoffrey Leaver Solicitors

What the team is known for Geoffrey Leaver Solicitors is a highly regarded personal injury practice offering expertise in a broad range of disputed liability cases. The team is equally adept at handling cases resulting from RTAs, acting for passengers, pedestrians and cyclists. Their expertise includes severe spinal cord and brain injuries, as well as PTSD.

Strengths

"Geoffrey Leaver offers excellent client care with the added benefit of experienced staff."

Notable practitioners

Navdip Gill's practice spans claims involving catastrophic injuries sustained in RTAs and accidents at work. **Strengths:** "Navdip has an excellent understanding of the cases he takes on to provide a bespoke service for clients." "Navdip is exceptionally good at client care." "Navdip is a very experienced litigator. He is very approachable and very good with clients."

IBB Law

What the team is known for IBB Law is adept at working on complex contested liability matters. The firm houses particular strength in brain injury litigation, with further experience acting for cyclists and passengers on RTA claims. The group has been active across an enviable breadth of cases, with particular visibility on historic abuse cases. They have further experience of acting on group litigation.

Notable practitioners

Malcolm Underhill's deep experience within personal injury covers brain injury and sexual abuse cases, in addition to accidents at work and RTAs.

Shoosmiths LLP

What the team is known for Shoosmiths is a well-known firm with notable experience in brain and spinal injury cases arising from RTAs, as well as public and employers' liability cases.

Strengths

"The Shoosmiths team is very knowledgeable on all relevant issues and communicates issues very well."

"The firm offers prompt, professional guidance and representation."

Notable practitioners

Paul Ashurst is adept at advising clients on personal injury claims arising from RTAs. He has notable experience of providing counsel on matters related to brain injuries and amputations.

Strengths: "He is knowledgeable, professional, and prompt with his guidance." "We are very satisfied and impressed with Mr Ashurst's knowledge of the procedure and of his negotiations with defence counsel."

White Dalton Motorcycle Solicitors

What the team is known for White Dalton Motorcycle Solicitors is a boutique firm exclusively advising on claims arising from motorcycle incidents. The group demonstrates strength in handling issues concerning fatal and catastrophic

injuries, including amputations, paraplegia and cases with serious psychological repercussions. The team represents claimants in contested liability cases, complex quantum cases and cases under the MIB Uninsured Drivers Agreement.

Notable practitioners

Andrew Dalton advises on an array of claims arising from motorcycle collisions, including fatalities, paraplegia, amputations, chronic pain and psychological trauma. **Strengths:** "Andrew is very good technically." "Andrew Dalton is very knowledgeable." **Andrew Prendergast** advises on RTAs, including those resulting in spinal cord injuries, amputations and psychological injuries.

Band 3

Collins Solicitors

What the team is known for Collins Solicitors has a broad practice with notable niche expertise in personal injury claims arising from contaminated land. The team frequently advises on complex multiparty cases of industrial diseases, clinical negligence and fatal accidents. The practitioners additionally represent clients injured in RTAs and cases involving children, as well as acting on psychiatric claims.

Strengths

"All of the team have always been helpful, kind and patient and able to answer all questions with understanding."

"The team is dedicated and thorough."

"If you need to speak to a Collins solicitor, they will always find time to speak to you, and they will talk to you as a friend."

Notable practitioners

Des Collins advises on group litigation and acts for clients on RTA cases, with injuries encompassing chronic pain, spinal injury and psychological symptoms. **Strengths:** "Des is a class act and astute strategic thinker on case matters." **Danielle Holliday**'s practice encompasses group litigation, childhood injuries and liability issues. **Strengths:** "Danielle is always highly professional, supportive and responsive." "She is dedicated and adversarial on behalf of clients – absolutely fights their corner." "She is very professional and approachable. No question is too small for Danielle to answer."

Lennons Solicitors

What the team is known for Operating out of its Chesham office, Lennons Solicitors has a strong local reputation for handling a range of personal injury cases. Among the matters the team has acted on are fatal accidents, RTAs, particularly

those involving cyclists and public liability cases.

Strengths

"The team is very knowledgeable and is always able to address any questions with well-structured, clear and concise responses."

"Lennons Solicitors cannot do enough for you, its lawyers are exceptionally helpful."

"Lennons' service is very impressive, all of my questions are answered quickly."

Notable practitioners

Head of Lennons Solicitors' personal injury and medical negligence group, **Andrew King** advises on a wide spectrum of personal injury claims arising from both workplace accidents and RTAs. **Strengths:** "He is always a pleasure to deal with, I have every confidence in Andrew." "Andrew King is professional and approachable." "Andrew's explanations of the processes are very clear and demonstrate his vast experience in this field."

Other Ranked Lawyers

Simon Pimlott is a legal director at Lime Solicitors, part of the Shakespeare Martineau group. He advises on significant brain injury claims arising from RTAs, in addition to chronic pain cases.

East Anglia Mainly Claimant

Personal Injury: Mainly Claimant	Personal Injury: Mainly Claimant
Leading Firms	Leading Individuals
Band 1	Band 1
Ashtons Legal	Beric Angela Slater and Gordon Lawyers
Irwin Mitchell	Booy Ruth Irwin Mitchell *
Slater and Gordon Lawyers	Clarke Hannah Serious Injury Law (ORL) ◇
Band 2	Foyster Richard Ashtons Legal
Barr Ellison	Gaffney Richard D T Slater and Gordon Lawyers
CFG Law	Moon Richard Moons Solicitors
Moons Solicitors	Tapner Paul Slater and Gordon Lawyers
Band 3	Truin Emma Barr Ellison
Hatch Brenner	Band 2
Nockolds Solicitors	Ameer Yasmin Nockolds Solicitors
* Indicates individual with profile.	Harrington Simon Irwin Mitchell *
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.	Ranson Tom Ashtons Legal
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.	Thacker Siobhan CFG Law
	Wangermann Michael Ashtons Legal
	Star associates
	Copley Mark Barr Ellison
	Associates to watch
	Eaton Crystal Slater and Gordon Lawyers
	Upton Mick Ashtons Legal

Band 1

Ashtons Legal

What the team is known for Ashtons Legal has impressive strength in handling catastrophic injury claims, including a focus on brain and spinal injuries. The firm has notable expertise in claims resulting from RTAs involving motorcycles, pedestrians and passengers. The Ashtons Legal team is active on claims arising from fatal accidents and amputations.

Strengths

"Ashtons is absolutely brilliant, fighting cases with real conviction and passion."

"Ashtons is very professional and responsive. I am

very confident in its ability to instruct and coordinate expert witnesses."

"I cannot speak highly enough of the team at Ashtons, which always goes above and beyond."

Notable practitioners

Richard Foyster heads Ashtons' personal injury team and frequently acts on catastrophic injury claims arising from RTAs, particularly those involving contested liability issues. **Strengths:**

"Richard is calm and considered whilst nonetheless being a fighter with a good commercial mind."

"Richard is a leading practitioner in this area."

Tom Ranson is a partner at Ashtons Legal who is well versed in physical and psychiatric injury claims arising from RTAs and accidents at work.

Strengths: "Tom fiercely pursues claims in the best interests of his clients. If you need a solicitor to fight for you, Tom is that solicitor."

Michael Wangermann is head of injury services at Ashtons Legal. His broad personal injury caseload covers a range of injuries, with a focus on those stemming from RTAs. He has a particular specialism in cases which involve chronic pain and brain injuries.

Strengths: "Michael is an excellent litigator."

"Michael is really excellent with clients and he has a broad range of personal injury experience."

Mick Upton is a senior associate at Ashtons Legal where he regularly handles claims including fatal accidents and catastrophic injury.

Strengths: "Mick leaves no stone unturned." "Mick is very conscientious with very good attention to detail."

Irwin Mitchell

What the team is known for Irwin Mitchell has an experienced team that is highlighted for its expertise in complex injury claims, including amputations and spinal and brain injuries. The team is also noted for its dedicated military injury and mesothelioma specialists. Further expertise covers catastrophic RTA injuries, with notable experience acting for pedestrians.

Strengths

"Irwin Mitchell is a team of brilliant local lawyers." "Irwin Mitchell is very personal and compassionate with a great deal of understanding of what I am going through with my claim."

Notable practitioners

Ruth Booy (see p.1145) is head of the catastrophic injury team at Irwin Mitchell in Cambridge. She acts on high-value RTA claims that have resulted in brain injuries and amputations.

Strengths: *"Ruth is hugely experienced and a real tough cookie who fights hard for her clients." "Ruth does an outstanding job of keeping us up to date with everything."* **Simon Harrington** (see p.1148) is head of the Ministry of Defence team at Irwin Mitchell's Cambridge office. He is well reputed for his work undertaking personal injury claims against the MoD. **Strengths:** *"Simon provides excellent service that keeps me at ease." "Simon is a knowledgeable solicitor providing quality advice relating to military personal injury." "Simon is very impressive and always on top of the brief." "He is excellent and thorough with good communication."*

Slater and Gordon Lawyers

What the team is known for Slater and Gordon's practitioners demonstrate expert strength in serious brain injury cases. The team frequently acts on multi-track claims, including complex spinal injury and fatal accident cases. It offers further expertise in injuries stemming from RTAs, with a particular focus on motorcycle collisions. The team is also active on claims stemming from sporting injuries, including concussion.

Strengths

"The Slater and Gordon team is client-focused whilst retaining the ethos of fighting for their clients."

Notable practitioners

Angela Beric is a principal lawyer at Slater and Gordon in Cambridge where she regularly acts on RTA claims for both passengers and pedestrians. **Strengths:** *"Angela is extremely diligent at looking after her clients, being highly empathetic whilst still handling the case effectively." "She is very experienced and committed to clients." "Angela is thorough and highly able in brain injury cases."* **Richard Gaffney** is a Cambridge-based principal lawyer at Slater and Gordon. He regularly advises on catastrophic injury cases, as well as those involving amputations and brain injuries. **Strengths:** *"Richard is responsive, clear and prompt. He is a pleasure to work with." "Richard is very experienced and handles cases with great vigour." "Richard brings a reassuring depth of knowledge and a very strong skill base in the area of serious injury."* **Paul Tapner** is a senior principal lawyer at Slater and Gordon where he advises on a broad array of claims, from injuries sustained during rugby matches to motorcycle accidents.

Strengths: *"Paul is a go-to for a difficult case. He thinks laterally and will find a way around problems. He knows his cases inside-out and tries very hard to get the best possible result for his clients." "Paul is absolutely first-class."* **Crystal Eaton** is a senior associate based out of Slater and Gordon's Cambridge office. She specialises in catastrophic and serious injury, assisting clients with their rehabilitation and financial needs. **Strengths:** *"Crystal*

has the most amazing manner which puts clients at ease whilst fighting to the end for them. Against opponents, she is polite whilst robust and feisty, achieving great outcomes." "Crystal is a pleasure to work with and good with clients."

Band 2

Barr Ellison

What the team is known for Barr Ellison is a strong Cambridge firm that acts for clients on a variety of catastrophic and fatal injury claims, including RTAs, brain injury, orthopaedic injuries and amputation cases. The team offers notable expertise advising on cases concerning children and young adults.

Strengths

"Barr Ellison brings a personal touch and genuine concern for doing the best for its clients."

"Every concern brought up is dealt with and explained professionally, including the reasoning behind everything."

"All complicated matters are dealt with seamlessly, leaving us able to concentrate on rebuilding our lives."

Notable practitioners

Emma Truin leads Barr Ellison's catastrophic personal injury team as their managing partner. She is adept across the spectrum of claims, from amputations to brain and orthopaedic injuries.

Strengths: *"Emma will always go out of her way for her clients. She puts their needs first at all times and is very transparent in the way she works and approaches cases." "I cannot fault Emma. She is an extremely helpful and approachable person who quite simply gets the work done, making our life much easier." "Emma is extremely professional, hard-working, friendly, caring and conscientious."*

Mark Copley is a catastrophic personal injury associate at Barr Ellison. He is able to assist with a wide range of complex personal injury claims including brain and spinal injuries arising from RTAs. **Strengths:** *"Mark is very responsive and approachable whilst being respectful to clients and families. He is professional as well as straightforward in his talking, doing everything he can for clients." "Mark is very clear and thorough, he explains everything that happens through the process in detail." "His care and devotion for his clients is highly admirable."*

CFG Law

What the team is known for CFG Law's team is held in high regard for its ability to handle issues related to catastrophic injuries, including brain and spinal injuries and amputations. The group is renowned for its ability to advise clients on matters arising from a broad spectrum of incidents, ranging from RTAs to workplace accidents.

Strengths

"The team at CFG is amazing from start to finish. Its solicitors really are experts in what they do, acting as one unit with impressive knowledge of my claim."

"CFG has a sound structure of experience from in-house clinical advisers to senior partners."

Notable practitioners

Siobhan Thacker is a partner at CFG's Bury St Edmunds office. She offers a diverse caseload

spanning brain and spinal cord injuries, in addition to amputation-related claims. She is well versed in matters arising from workplace and road traffic incidents. **Strengths:** *"Siobhan is the most caring, friendly yet professional person you will ever meet." "Siobhan always works to her maximum potential to ensure her clients are adequately compensated. She is wholly empathetic to her clients' needs and is determined to not allow her clients to go without."*

Moons Solicitors

What the team is known for Moons Solicitors is a boutique personal injury practice that is able to handle a wide scope of claims, with particular expertise in chronic pain conditions and head injuries arising from RTAs. The team has further strength advising on work accident claims.

Strengths

"Moons Solicitors is always very good at considering, discussing and dealing with complex matters in cases."

"The team at Moons is thoroughly professional and always available."

"An excellent level of service is provided at Moons. The team delivers good expertise and a high standard of work."

Notable practitioners

Richard Moon is the founder of Moons Solicitors where he assists clients with a range of serious injuries resulting from RTAs. He has particular strength in claims involving psychiatric and serious orthopaedic injuries. **Strengths:** *"Richard is always insightful and considerate of clients' needs and areas of complexity surrounding cases." "Richard provides a first-class service." "Richard is an experienced litigator with a meticulously high attention to detail. His customer relationship skills are also second to none."*

Band 3

Hatch Brenner

What the team is known for Hatch Brenner has a solid team that handles a range of claims, with particular expertise in workplace injury cases. The team also advises on RTAs, as well as trips and slips.

Strengths

"Hatch Brenner is very knowledgeable about my condition and the law."

Notable practitioners

Colin Cook is a key contact.

Nockolds Solicitors

What the team is known for Nockolds Solicitors demonstrates impressive expertise advising on catastrophic injury claims. The team frequently advises on RTA claims, often on behalf of clients suffering brain injuries. The team is further experienced at advising on employers liability matters.

Strengths

"Nockolds is exceptionally competent and responds in a timely fashion to concerns raised."

"Nockolds is a tight-knit team and focused on doing the right thing for its clients."

Notable practitioners

Yasmin Ameer of Nockolds Solicitors advises on RTAs resulting in catastrophic injuries, acting

for pedestrians, cyclists and passengers. She is also experienced in acting on medical negligence claims. **Strengths:** "Yasmin has a real understanding of her clients and their needs. Her decision-making, conduct and work are high-quality." "Yasmin is a professional, versatile and caring solicitor. She is able to look at the wider picture and provide a wealth of experience when dealing with complex scenarios." "She is very conscientious,

detailed and efficient. She is not happy to accept quick fixes."

Other Ranked Lawyers

Hannah Clarke is catastrophic injury lead at Serious Injury Law in Cambridge. She advises on cases relating to brain and spinal injuries resulting

from RTAs, including those involving motorcycles. She is also active on amputation claims.

Strengths:

"Hannah is an expert in her field and someone you can tell is passionate about her job."

"Hannah is a highly knowledgeable personal injury lawyer. She is empathetic to her clients' needs following life-changing injuries and works hard to fight their corner and resolve issues."

Midlands Mainly Claimant

Personal Injury: Mainly Claimant	
Leading Firms	
Band 1	
Barratts Solicitors	
Freeths LLP	
Higgs LLP	
Irwin Mitchell	
Lanyon Bowdler Solicitors	
Shoosmiths LLP	
Band 2	
Anthony Collins Solicitors LLP	
Brethertons LLP	
Nelsons Solicitors	
Rotheras	
Shakespeare Martineau	
Slater and Gordon Lawyers	
Thompsons	
Waldrons Solicitors	
Senior Statespeople	
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners	
Myers Ed Barratts Solicitors	
Leading Individuals	
Band 1	
Batta Rankeshwar Anthony Collins Solicitors LLP *	
Edwards Philip Clarke Willmott LLP (ORL) ◇	
Goulding Jane Freeths LLP	
McKinney Christopher Shoosmiths LLP	
Nye Stephen Irwin Mitchell *	
Rees Jonathan Brethertons LLP	
Shaw Andy Higgs LLP	
Wetherell Hilary Irwin Mitchell *	
Band 2	
Almond Greg Rothera Bray	
Burgess Sharine Shoosmiths LLP	
Coates Alida Irwin Mitchell	
Daniels Luke Irwin Mitchell *	
de-Loyde Karl Thompsons *	
Edwards Lesley Barratts Solicitors	
Humphries Dawn Lanyon Bowdler Solicitors	
Humphries Debbie Lanyon Bowdler Solicitors	
McDonnell John Waldrons Solicitors	
O'Brien Gerry Waldrons Solicitors	
Preece Lisa Nelsons Solicitors	
Todhunter Susan FBC Manby Bowdler LLP (ORL) ◇	
Tomlinson David Barratts Solicitors	
Up-and-coming individuals	
Jones Peter Shakespeare Martineau	
Associates to watch	
Fullilove Victoria Anthony Collins Solicitors LLP *	
Paul Jatinder Irwin Mitchell *	
* Indicates individual with profile.	
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.	
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.	

Band 1

Barratts Solicitors

What the team is known for Barratts Solicitors is a boutique firm highlighted for its high-level representation of claimants, particularly in RTA claims. The firm's expertise includes litigation arising from complex brain and head injuries, as well as spinal injury and fatal accident claims. The team demonstrates particular skill in cross-border litigation and representing non-native speakers. It is also active on CICA claims.

Strengths

"The Barratts team are knowledgeable at all levels and provide excellent service."

"It's a really impressive outfit with a great team of individuals who are really dedicated to their cases."

"Barratts' members always provide an excellent and prompt service."

Notable practitioners

Ed Myers advises on brain injury cases, including those arising from RTAs. He also assists with CICA claims involving head injuries. **Lesley Edwards** regularly advises clients on matters relating to severe and traumatic injuries including brain and spinal issues. **Strengths:** "Lesley is absolutely brilliant. Her expertise is excellent and she is incredibly understanding and supportive." "She is great with clients and gets excellent results in the trickiest of cases." **David Tomlinson** assists with significant claims arising from RTAs resulting in brain and orthopaedic injuries. He often advises victims of bus and motorcycle collisions.

Freeths LLP

What the team is known for Freeths has an expert catastrophic injury group that operates within a strong nationwide practice. The team is highlighted for its specialist knowledge in brain and spinal injury cases, including those impacting children, and for RTA and CICA claims. The lawyers also advise clients on liability and causation disputes.

Strengths

"The Freeths team has a well-balanced range of expertise."

"The personal injury team are very professional and act in their clients' best interests with expertise."

"Freeths is a strong firm."

Notable practitioners

Jane Goulding frequently advises on cases arising from RTAs, often involving brain and orthopaedic injuries. **Strengths:** "Jane has excellent attention to detail." "She is dedicated to her clients and has a

high level of expert knowledge." "She understands the problems her clients face and how complex the world of litigation is to them."

Higgs LLP

What the team is known for Higgs is a well-known Black Country firm that frequently acts on severe and fatal personal injury cases. The firm is noted for its expert handling of head injury claims, burns and spinal cases, including those arising from RTAs, accidents at work and trips. The team is also recognised for its expertise in clinical negligence.

Notable practitioners

Andy Shaw advises on significant RTA claims, with notable strength in orthopaedic, brain and spinal injury cases. **Strengths:** "He will absolutely do the best for his clients."

Irwin Mitchell

What the team is known for Irwin Mitchell is a nationwide firm noted for its handling of major domestic and international personal injury claims. The firm has an impressive breadth of expertise, fielding specialist capabilities in areas such as brain and spinal injuries, and child abuse claims. The team is also skilled in workplace illness cases relating to mesothelioma and lung cancer, as well as psychiatric injuries such as PTSD. The lawyers also represent families and victims in claims arising from aviation disasters and terror attacks.

Strengths

"An excellent team of lawyers with an abundance of knowledge and experience in a very specialist field."

"The group is a force to be reckoned with."

"Irwin Mitchell's team are extremely attentive and caring."

Notable practitioners

Stephen Nye (see p.1151) is active on a wide array of high-value claims covering spinal and brain injuries, including those resulting from RTAs.

Strengths: "Stephen is a highly capable and skilled lawyer." **Hilary Wetherell** (see p.1153) advises on high-value RTAs, including those resulting in fatalities, in addition to employers' liability claims.

Strengths: "Hilary is an absolutely superb lawyer."

Alida Coates is particularly active in handling occupational disease cases, with a track record in asbestos-related claims. **Strengths:** "Alida is very professional, extremely caring and supportive."

Luke Daniels (see p.1146) regularly assists with complex abuse claims, often against local authorities. **Strengths:** "Luke is a superb lawyer in a difficult area of law." **Jatinder Paul** (see p.1554)

is a highly regarded associate with experience advising clients in matters relating to serious illness. He has notable strength in handling issues containing cross-border elements. **Strengths:** *"Jatinder is a hard-working lawyer."*

Lanyon Bowdler Solicitors

What the team is known for Lanyon Bowdler Solicitors is a leading Shropshire firm advising on an extensive breadth of personal injury cases, including high-value RTA and accident-at-work claims. The firm is particularly experienced in acting for clients with spinal and cerebral injuries. The team is skilled in handling military cases and accidents abroad. It also works alongside clinical negligence and Court of Protection teams to fully support clients.

Strengths

"The Lanyon Bowdler team are very competent at handling complex cases."

"A dedicated team who are all specialists in their field."

"The group does brilliant work for their clients."

Notable practitioners

Dawn Humphries handles a wide range of orthopaedic and spinal injury claims. She is active on an array of personal injury cases, including those relating to workplace accidents and RTAs.

Strengths: *"She is very thorough, extremely welcoming and understanding."* *"Dawn is knowledgeable, experienced and good with claimants."*

Debbie Humphries is highlighted for her experience in handling a full range of severe injury matters, including motor incidents and accidents at work.

Strengths: *"She has an excellent reputation."*

Shoosmiths LLP

What the team is known for Shoosmiths is a nationwide firm with strong personal injury capabilities in the Midlands. The team handles the full spectrum of claims, including those relating to catastrophic brain injuries, severe psychological trauma and spinal cord injuries. It also advises clients on claims resulting from RTAs, fires, falls and workplace injuries, as well as handling amputation and chronic pain cases.

Strengths

"The team's ability to handle complex needs is impeccable."

"Shoosmiths' team always provides timely and excellent communications."

"It is a brilliant and efficient firm – they are compassionate while retaining a professional attitude."

Notable practitioners

Christopher McKinney acts for claimants in catastrophic injury cases including spinal and brain injuries. He also handles claims arising from RTAs and workplace injuries. **Strengths:** *"Chris is very professional."* *"He's one of the best lawyers in the country for claimant work."* **Sharine Burgess** supports clients across the spectrum of personal injury claims, including occupational stress, abuse and industrial disease claims. She has additional expertise in military-related cases.

Band 2

Anthony Collins Solicitors LLP

What the team is known for Anthony Collins Solicitors has a Birmingham-based team fielding notable experience in representing adult and child claimants. The firm acts in a broad range of catastrophic injury claims, including brain and spinal injuries, in addition to psychological damage. The team advises on RTAs, CICA claims and occupational health matters.

Strengths

"Anthony Collins has a range of highly capable and specialised lawyers."

"A great team who are always extremely helpful and approachable. They have a huge amount of knowledge and expertise."

"The team are exceptional and put the client at the heart of every decision."

Notable practitioners

Rankeshwar Batta (see p.1145)'s expertise encompasses catastrophic and psychological injury claims arising from RTAs, including acting in cases involving children. **Strengths:** *"Rankeshwar is an absolute superstar. He has a forensic knowledge and is tactically very good."* *"Rankeshwar is a true professional. His vision and commercial awareness are at the heart of his advice."*

"Very respected, with a good commercial sense and a wealth of experience."

Victoria Fullilove (see p.207) advises on a broad array of cases including catastrophic injuries, RTAs and workplace accidents. **Strengths:** *"Victoria is fast to respond and has an excellent communication style."* *"She is very good – thorough, bright and brilliant with clients."*

Brethertons LLP

What the team is known for Brethertons' personal injury claimant practice is highly skilled in complex claims involving spinal cord and brain injuries, and offers wide-ranging experience in RTAs, falls and accident-at-work claims. The firm also handles public liability claims and claims from dependants. The team has additional experience in clinical negligence matters.

Notable practitioners

Jonathan Rees regularly advises on high-value spinal cord injury claims. He is well versed in cases arising from RTAs and workplace accidents.

Nelsons Solicitors

What the team is known for Nelsons Solicitors demonstrates broad-ranging expertise encompassing industrial disease, public liability and RTA claims. The team is well versed in cases involving severe injuries and is experienced in employers' liability mandates.

Strengths

"The Nelsons team are highly knowledgeable."

"The team are extremely effective and efficient – their responses are always timely."

Notable practitioners

Lisa Preece is noted for her experience advising clients on claims arising from RTAs and workplace incidents. **Strengths:** *"Lisa is an excellent and dedicated professional. She's also highly experienced."* *"Her professionalism, knowledge, empathy and attention to detail are outstanding."*

Rotheras

What the team is known for Rotheras handles a wide range of personal injury claims, specialising in serious RTA cases, workplace accidents and public liability claims.

Strengths

"The Rotheras team specialise and excel in handling complex matters and are highly responsive."

"They are diligent and thorough."

Notable practitioners

Greg Almond is head of personal injury claims at Rotheras and has over 15 years of litigation experience. He frequently manages high-value, complex claims arising from RTAs and all manner of tortious incidents. **Strengths:** *"Greg is diligent, thorough and tenacious."* *"He is prepared to go the extra mile to make sure he gets the best outcome for the client."* *"He is tactically astute and has very good client care skills."*

Shakespeare Martineau

What the team is known for Shakespeare Martineau's Birmingham-based group has notable strength in the personal injury space. It boasts an extensive team who are fully equipped to handle a cases arising from severe incidents, including those relating to spinal injuries, fatal accidents and brain injuries. Its members also have considerable strength in handling complex RTA claims.

Strengths

"Client care is at the forefront of Shakespeare Martineau's product."

Notable practitioners

Peter Jones is an up-and-coming partner with experience dealing with a broad range of personal injury matters. **Strengths:** *"He's excellent, I couldn't have asked for more."*

Slater and Gordon Lawyers

What the team is known for Slater and Gordon Lawyers is well regarded for its representation of the Police Federation in personal injury claims. The team is also noted for RTA cases, often arising from motorcycle collisions, and claims involving children.

Notable practitioners

Richard Langton is a key contact.

Thompsons

What the team is known for Thompsons' experienced Birmingham team handles the full range of personal injury claims. The firm's areas of focus include RTAs, claims arising from accidents at work and complex brain injuries. The team supports clients through rehabilitation by way of interim payments and is noted for its work with trade unions.

Notable practitioners

Karl de-Loyde (see p.1147) acts for claimants who suffered injuries from road traffic collisions and accidents at home and in the workplace.

Waldrons Solicitors

What the team is known for Waldrons Solicitors is a Birmingham boutique with significant experience in workplace accident and employers' liability claims. The firm also acts on complex claims arising from RTAs. It has a significant track record in serious brain and orthopaedic injury cases, as

well as psychiatric injury matters. The lawyers act for a number of professional associations, such as the Police Federation of England & Wales.

Strengths

"The team are very professional and good at what they do."

Notable practitioners

John McDonnell is well versed in catastrophic injury cases involving orthopaedic and brain injuries. His work portfolio encompasses RTAs, workplace incidents and falls. He is also experienced in psychiatric damage claims. **Strengths:** *"John is fantastic with his knowledge and he responds in a very timely manner."* *"He is a very gifted solicitor and very pragmatic. He builds a good rapport*

with experts and clients and is an effective lawyer." *"A very efficient and proficient claimant personal injury lawyer."* **Gerry O'Brien's** caseload spans RTAs, employer liability claims and Police Federation cases. He is experienced in chronic pain claims, and in orthopaedic and psychiatric injury matters. **Strengths:** *"Gerry provides excellent work and results."*

Other Ranked Lawyers

Philip Edwards of Clarke Willmott handles cases arising from RTAs and workplace accidents, and is noted for his experience with regard to amputa-

tion and catastrophic personal injury claims.

Strengths:

"A highly skilled lawyer who is dedicated to getting the best outcome for his clients."

Susan Todhunter is a partner at FBC Manby Bowdler. With 30 years of experience, she is recommended for the most complex catastrophic injury claims.

Strengths:

"Susan is very efficient, knowledgeable and great to work with."

"She is extremely knowledgeable, a great listener, sympathetic, dynamic and driven to do the best job for her clients."

North West Mainly Claimant

Personal Injury: Mainly Claimant
Leading Firms
Band 1
Fletchers Solicitors
Irwin Mitchell
JMW Solicitors LLP
Potter Rees Dolan, Serious Injury Solicitors
Band 2
Burnetts
KLS Law
Leigh Day
Simpson Millar LLP
Slater and Gordon Lawyers
Band 3
CFG Law
Farleys Solicitors LLP
Price Slater Gawne
Thompsons
<small>* Indicates individual with profile.</small>
<small>◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.</small>
<small>Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.</small>

Band 1

Fletchers Solicitors

What the team is known for Fletchers Solicitors is a specialised practice that is best known for representing claimants who have suffered serious injuries in motorcycle incidents. The team assists clients with high-value catastrophic claims, including brain, spinal cord, amputation and orthopaedic injury claims. Its also adept at representing clients in claims featuring cross-border complexities.

Strengths

"The firm has a good bench. They're all in tandem with the lead solicitor and there's never a gap in the advice given."

"All interactions are dealt with very promptly. Everyone always has a positive attitude to all tasks and always gives me clear guidance or information."

"Fletchers is excellently set up and organised. It has a great team structure that serves clients brilliantly."

Notable practitioners

Julia Eyton has a wealth of experience acting for

Personal Injury: Mainly Claimant	Personal Injury: Mainly Claimant
Eminent Practitioners	Eminent Practitioners
Betts Jonathan Irwin Mitchell *	
Leading Individuals	Leading Individuals
Band 1	Herbert Gary Potter Rees Dolan, Serious Injury Solicitors
Brown Matthew Irwin Mitchell *	Lilley Andrew JMW Solicitors LLP
Canter Jan KLS Law	Lowery Richard Express Solicitors (ORL) ◇
Eyton Julia Fletchers Solicitors	Molloy Mike Horwich Cohen Coghlan Solicitors (ORL) ◇
Healy Deirdre Irwin Mitchell *	Patel Soyab KLS Law
Hopwood Carol Carpenters Limited (ORL) ◇	Riley Louise Fletchers Solicitors
Johnson Kevin Leigh Day	Simmons Nicola Potter Rees Dolan, Serious Injury
Knaggs Spencer Burnetts	Zajac Andrew Leigh Day
Leech Catherine JMW Solicitors LLP	Band 3
Potter Hugh Potter Rees Dolan, Serious Injury Solicitors	Akerman Steven Brian Barr & Co (ORL) ◇
Scorer Richard Slater and Gordon Lawyers	Biggs Richard Irwin Mitchell *
Tomlinson Matthew Slater and Gordon Lawyers	Edwards Richard Potter Rees Dolan, Serious Injury
Band 2	Horton Gerard Fletchers Solicitors
Breen Paul JMW Solicitors LLP	Kalwak Emily CFG Law *
Bridge Jonathan Farleys Solicitors LLP	Morris Caroline Fletchers Solicitors
Cartwright Gordon JMW Solicitors LLP	Stevens Clare JMW Solicitors LLP
Clayton Matthew Simpson Millar LLP	Whitney Vicky CFG Law
Gibson-Harper Rose Shakespeare Martineau (ORL) ◇	Up-and-coming individuals
Gwyther Martyn Thompsons *	Garson Matthew Irwin Mitchell *
Hardacre Michael Slater and Gordon Lawyers	Associates to watch
Harrison Kim Slater and Gordon Lawyers	Botterill Rachel Leigh Day

claimants suffering from life-changing injuries, including spinal, brain and orthopaedic injuries. She is particularly adept at handling cases arising from motor accidents. **Strengths:** *"Julia is a pragmatist."* *"I cannot speak more highly of Julia. She's professional, talented and empathetic. Her problem-solving skills and work ethic is impressive and she knows what to do and when to do it. I'm very lucky to have her by my side."* *"Julia has a clear passion for her work. She's an authority on cases and a clear specialist in catastrophic cases. She engages clients in a professional manner, taking the time to explain the legal and medical intricacies in simple terms they can understand. She's personable and caring too."* **Louise Riley** is noted for her expertise handling personal injury claims, with a particular focus on litigation relating to catastrophic brain injuries arising from RTAs. **Strengths:** *"Louise is a model of thoroughness and caution."* **Gerard**

Horton is a well-regarded claimant solicitor in the serious injury team at Fletchers Solicitors. He regularly represents clients who have been injured as a result of motor accidents, particularly those involving motorcycles. **Strengths:** *"Gerard wants to make sure that he covers every corner and is very thorough."* *"He is a fierce advocate for his clients. His input and knowledge allows him to make balanced decisions with them and guide them through the claims process."* *"Gerard does a significant number of cases acting badly injured motorcyclists. I rate him highly because he combines good legal skills with good teamwork and has a very strong level of empathy."* **Caroline Morris** has extensive experience in handling cases arising from motor accidents. She is also well versed in matters involving catastrophic brain injuries. **Strengths:** *"Caroline goes over and above to keep me informed and nothing is a problem."* *"She has a very sound*

pragmatic judgement in cases about when to settle them, what the parameters should be in terms of settling and how to marshal the evidence to get there. She's fantastic to work with." "Caroline goes above and beyond in our case, not only professionally but personally. I always feel assured and no amount of questions are ever enough. She's patient, kind and always has time for us."

Irwin Mitchell

What the team is known for Irwin Mitchell is a standout national firm with a market-leading Manchester office that assists clients with high-value, complex personal injury claims. The team is known for its expertise in litigation against the Ministry of Defence and other employers. They are experienced in handling cases involving industrial disease as well as catastrophic injuries. They provide a wealth of expertise relating to serious brain, amputation and spinal injuries, with a strong focus on client rehabilitation. The personal injury practice works closely with the family law and Court of Protection teams to provide a full-service package for claimants.

Strengths

"They are very organised, very approachable, good communicators. They pull everything together."

"The personal injury team is hugely helpful in its sensitive handling of complex matters which carry a high emotional weight for clients."

"The team is always very skilled and approachable, with excellent knowledge and commitment to its work."

"The service Irwin Mitchell offers gets the clients the results they need to be able to go on and receive the rehabilitation required following catastrophic injuries."

Notable practitioners

Jonathan Betts (see p.1145) is a vastly experienced practitioner, frequently handling high-value personal injury claims relating to brain injury, spinal cord injury and amputation.

Strengths: "Jonathan is very professional but also very personable." "Jonathan has an encyclopedic knowledge of medical issues." **Matthew Brown** (see p.1146) is highly rated for his experience handling complex personal injury cases arising from motor accidents. He has notable expertise in catastrophic brain and spinal injuries. **Strengths:** "Matthew Brown is absolutely at the top of his game and he excels at the human and also the technical aspects of his job." "Good attention to detail, good relationships with clients and is a robust litigator He fights his corner really well." "An excellent solicitor with strong knowledge and understanding of the area of his expertise." **Deirdre Healy** (see p.1148) is highly sought after by clients and their families in a range of personal injury matters. She specialises in claims involving complex brain and spinal injuries, as well as amputations. **Strengths:** "Deirdre Healy is very passionate about her clients and her work." "Deirdre is an extremely knowledgeable leading solicitor. Her advice is fantastic and she always strives for the best for her clients."

Richard Biggs (see p.1145) acts in a range of personal injury cases, with notable expertise in high-value claims relating to brain and spinal injury as well as amputation. He regularly represents clients in claims arising from RTAs. **Strengths:**

"Richard has a very calming personality that works extremely well with ensuring clients feel at ease."

"Clients love and have absolute trust in him. They have confidence in his ability as he puts the time in with them, explaining everything so they're always fully informed." **Matthew Garson** (see p.1147) acts on behalf of clients in a range of personal injury cases, including those relating to orthopaedic, brain and spinal injuries. He often represents clients in claims arising from motor accidents. **Strengths:** "Matthew is very knowledgeable and approachable. Clients like his style and approach." "His management of client expectations is unrivalled in this field."

JMW Solicitors LLP

What the team is known for JMW Solicitors is known for its expertise in acquired traumatic brain injuries and other catastrophic injuries. They have expertise in relation to chronic pain, amputation and spinal injury cases. They act predominantly on claims arising from motor accidents, including incidents involving cyclists, and also advise on cases concerning cross-border elements.

Strengths

"The team at JMW is extremely supportive, proactively engaging with us and also responding quickly to queries and concerns. Their understanding of the case and our family means they deal with their work professionally and with amazing competence whilst never wavering in compassion and understanding."

"All the team from the front-line staff to the solicitors are incredibly professional, helpful, friendly, reliable, and respond promptly when I need support."

"They listen to everything I say and advise me with the best course of action. They always keep me updated with everything that is happening."

Notable practitioners

Catherine Leech leads the firm's catastrophic injury department. She is a highly acclaimed personal injury lawyer with a wealth of expertise acting for claimants. She is best known as a go-to lawyer for claims relating to spinal cord injuries arising out of motor accidents and workplace accidents. **Paul Breen** is well known in the market for his expertise in brain and spinal injuries. He has a particular specialism handling injuries arising from motorcycle collisions. **Strengths:**

"Paul's very experienced and is a pragmatic lawyer in the sense that he's good at getting good results and outcomes for clients. He gets from A to B as quickly and efficiently as he can for his clients."

"Paul is exceptionally strong at what he does."

"Paul Breen is a leader in this field. He provides exceptional analysis of the evidence. He sees client expectations and needs and pushes for a good outcome for them." **Gordon Cartwright** is well known for acting on personal injury matters related to catastrophic injuries, often following RTAs. He has notable expertise advising on paediatric brain injuries. **Strengths:** "An excellent, sympathetic, hard-working and well-prepared solicitor." "Gordon is an exceptional solicitor with a superb understanding of not only the types of support required following the catastrophic injuries suffered but also how to work with others to achieve those goals. I feel reassured by his knowledge, confident in his approach and confident that he's striving for the

best outcome for my family." "Gordon never falters with his knowledge, professionalism and efficiency." Head of JMW Solicitors' industrial disease team, **Andrew Lilley** is sought after to advise on mesothelioma and asbestos-related cases. He also has experience handling catastrophic brain, spinal and orthopaedic claims. **Strengths:** "I feel he understands me, ensuring I am listened to, explaining things in a lot more depth and in simpler terms, aiming to reply to my concerns and worries promptly." "Andrew is very professional and to the point, with everything explained concisely, and is easy to deal with." "Andrew is very client-focused and very dedicated to the work he does." **Clare Stevens** leads JMW's military team and acts for military claimants in a range of personal injury matters. She is noted for her experience dealing with serious and life-changing issues. **Strengths:** "Clare Stevens is not only a solicitor with a vast array of knowledge in the field of my claim, but also a solicitor who cares." "Clare is very professional and knowledgeable. She's a great asset to the team and a great help to me." "Clare is always there when I ask questions and I get the answers."

Potter Rees Dolan, Serious Injury Solicitors

What the team is known for Potter Rees Dolan, a Hugh James business, is a standout in acting for claimants on serious personal injury claims, such as amputation and spinal injuries. It has particular expertise dealing with complex brain injuries, including post-concussion syndrome and post-traumatic stress disorder. It is known for strong knowledge of claims arising from work-based accidents and RTAs. The firm also handles a variety of complex cases including CICA and MIB claims.

Strengths

"The team is very professional and responsive to all requests."

"They have a clear insight regarding a claim. They have seemingly infinite knowledge and clear insight to the clients' personal needs. They are relentless in their pursuit for a satisfactory outcome."

"The team is always there to help and answer any questions and advice needed. They are extremely helpful."

Notable practitioners

Hugh Potter is lauded as a leading practitioner for personal injury matters, with a particular focus on complex claims connected with severe brain injuries. **Strengths:** "Hugh is very human and easy to talk to. He is determined and focused." "Hugh is very calm, very laid back but always wanting to get the best for his clients, and technically is very skilled."

Gary Herbert is a prominent claimant solicitor in the personal injury team. He has significant experience advising clients on brain injury cases arising out of RTAs. **Strengths:** "Gary is extremely good at his job. His general level of service is first class and he gives us a better understanding about brain injuries. His calm manner and advice helps." "Gary is a specialist in brain injury. He takes on difficult cases and gets good results." "Gary is easy to talk to and very helpful to discuss things with during the early parts of claims." **Nicola Simmons** has experience representing claimants in cases concerning brain and orthopaedic injuries sus-

tained as a result of RTAs and incidents at work. **Strengths:** “Nicola is very competent.” **Richard Edwards** is frequently called upon to act for claimants in serious injury claims. He is especially experienced in advising on cases involving amputations and brain injuries. **Strengths:** “Richard is very knowledgeable and supportive.” “Richard is personable and well informed.”

Band 2

Burnetts

What the team is known for Burnetts is a well-respected practice that assists claimants with a wide range of high-value claims. It regularly represents clients who have suffered severe brain and spinal injuries, as well as orthopaedic injuries arising from RTAs and accidents at work. It closely cooperates with the brain injury charity Headway, while also offering assistance with mesothelioma cases.

Strengths

“Burnetts is knowledgeable and capable of advising and managing highly complex and at time challenging matters in a professional yet personal manner.”

“All the team is very helpful and very responsive to issues from both experts and claimants.”

“They have good client skills both in terms of keeping clients relaxed and well informed during the conduct of litigation, but also managing client expectations and giving sensible advice.”

Notable practitioners

Spencer Knaggs is the head of the medical negligence and serious injury team at Burnetts. He regularly acts for individuals who have suffered serious injuries as a result of motor accidents and incidents at work. He has a noted focus on spinal cord injury cases. **Strengths:** “Spencer is very conscientious. He is very good with clients and is one of the best practitioners in the North West of England.” “Spencer is a knowledgeable and fair solicitor, he offers professionalism with a personal touch and his genuine care for his clients is obvious.” “Spencer’s level of knowledge, experience and expertise throughout the process is invaluable. His professional, helpful and courteous manner helps massively along all stages of litigation.”

KLS Law

What the team is known for KLS Law is a Warrington-based firm with a noteworthy reputation for representing clients who have suffered catastrophic injuries. They primarily assist claimants in employment liability claims and cases arising from RTAs. They have expertise that spans the full range of personal injury matters, including amputations and brain and spinal cord injuries.

Strengths

“I always find them to be quick to respond to requests for further information and they are supportive.”

“The team is very experienced and well organised. They have excellent communication skills and are very quick to respond to all of my questions and concerns.”

“Their main strengths are they work very collaboratively and are always willing to get clients on calls.”

Notable practitioners

Jan Canter is a personal injury claimant lawyer with a strong reputation for representing individuals who have suffered injuries as a result of motor accidents. His expertise spans cases concerning spinal cord, brain and psychological injuries. **Strengths:** “Jan is client-centred and very knowledgeable.” “He is always very well informed, giving me clear explanations about the proceedings and how the case is progressing. I always feel reassured by Mr Canter’s knowledge and experience and feel he always has my best interests as a priority.” “Jan is knowledgeable, responsive and on time.” **Soyab Patel** is a lead partner involved in personal injury cases spanning from cycling and transportation-related incidents. **Strengths:** “He gets on well with solicitors on the other side, who know and trust him. Soyab also has great judgement.” “Soyab always has a good grasp of the case and he’s sensible in his approach.”

Leigh Day

What the team is known for Leigh Day is instructed on behalf of claimants in a range of personal injury claims. It has notable expertise acting for asbestos sufferers in actions against employers. The team frequently handles matters for injured cyclists and individuals who have been involved in accidents at work or overseas.

Strengths

“All communications are dealt with empathetically and sensitively.”

“The team is very user-friendly and extremely switched on.”

“Queries are answered quickly and responses are detailed.”

“Complete expertise and professionalism is shown by each individual throughout each case.”

Notable practitioners

Kevin Johnson specialises in advising clients in relation to personal injury claims arising from exposure to asbestos. He has particular strength in matters with cross-border elements. **Strengths:** “We are grateful for the professionalism, knowledge and empathy shown by Kevin Johnson throughout our case.” “Kevin has a very impressive legal brain.” “Kevin is totally impressive, exceeding all expectations.” **Andrew Zajac** is well versed in handling cases involving serious injuries arising from RTAs and accidents at work. He specialises in advising on claims involving brain injury and orthopaedic injury. **Strengths:** “Andrew is an excellent support. He is fully informed.” “He is the most devoted solicitor I know. He listens to any case that comes across his desk to do his absolute best for his clients and find a solution.” “Andrew finds a way to find a solution. He is fiercely intelligent and a strategist.” **Rachel Botterill** is a senior associate solicitor in the personal injury team at Leigh Day. She has a strong reputation for representing cyclists who have suffered a wide range of injuries as a result of RTAs. **Strengths:** “Rachel is client-focused and professional.” “Rachel Botterill is an excellent solicitor.”

Simpson Millar LLP

What the team is known for Simpson Millar has a growing personal injury department that acts for claimants involved in RTAs, as well as employers’

liability cases. It is regularly instructed on brain, spinal cord and chronic pain injury cases. The firm assists clients with the attainment of early rehabilitation in relation to their injuries. It also offers considerable expertise in abuse claims.

Strengths

“The whole team’s efforts are exemplary.”

“All queries and calls are answered promptly.”

Notable practitioners

Matthew Clayton is noted for his expertise in relation to catastrophic personal injury claims, including severe brain injury, amputations and spinal cord injury. He has extensive experience handling cases arising from motor accidents and accidents at work. **Strengths:** “Matthew is a passionate litigator.”

Slater and Gordon Lawyers

What the team is known for Slater and Gordon Lawyers maintains an excellent coverage of the North West and has a particularly strong presence in Manchester. The team is particularly well known for its expertise in high-value traumatic brain and spinal claims, often due to injuries sustained in RTAs. They also offer notable capability in high-value industrial injury cases, as well as child abuse claims. The team focuses on providing rehabilitation services to clients.

Strengths

“The service and care is out of this world.”

“The team is very professional and prompt. They provide excellent guidance and support. They are extremely knowledgeable.”

“They explain every step to me so I understand everything and they show professionalism to the maximum throughout.”

Notable practitioners

Richard Scorer has substantial experience in high-profile cases relating to child sexual exploitation and abuse. **Strengths:** “Richard is one of the standout lawyers in the industry doing very important work.” “Richard is a well-known figure in the North West market focusing on abuse work.” **Matthew Tomlinson** regularly handles complex, multi-track personal injury claims regarding workplace and military accidents. These include amputations and psychological injuries. **Strengths:** “Matthew is an excellent solicitor, a fearless solicitor who runs his caseload very well.” **Michael Hardacre** is hugely experienced at representing clients in complex, multi-track personal injury claims. He has particular expertise in cases arising from accidents at work. **Strengths:** “Michael’s speciality is employers’ liability and he’s very experienced, often on cases with challenging disputes.” “Michael is a hard worker and is thorough. He is all over every detail and is very meticulous.” **Kim Harrison** specialises in acting for victims and survivors of abuse in claims against organisations such as schools, social services and hospitals. She is also experienced in associated human rights issues. **Strengths:** “Kim is kind and considerate throughout. She’s honest and upfront and her communication is excellent. She goes over and above for her clients.” “Kim is very knowledgeable and highly experienced. Her instructions are excellent and always clear. She has a lovely manner with clients and is able to put people at ease in what is often a stressful situation.” “Kim is very emotion-

ally aware, compassionate and very knowledgeable. I feel in safe hands with her. Kim is a perfectionist, which means everything is done properly and professionally."

Band 3

CFG Law

What the team is known for CFG Law's respected personal injury team has significant expertise handling cases arising out of motor accidents and workplace incidents. The team frequently represents claimants who have suffered traumatic orthopaedic, brain and spinal cord injuries. The firm provides holistic support to clients through noteworthy Court of Protection and private client departments.

Strengths

"The team is proactive, very informative, supportive and sensitive to physical and psychological trauma."
"The team is very diligent and always willing to take calls or emails. They respond swiftly to any correspondence to make sure nothing is left unfinished."
"They are very knowledgeable and good at breaking down complex law in an understandable way."

Notable practitioners

Emily Kalwak (see p.1149) is noted for her expertise in relation to catastrophic personal injury claims including severe brain, spinal cord and orthopaedic injuries. She has particular experience handling cases arising from motor accidents. **Strengths:** "Emily is very down to earth, very approachable and professional." "Emily is extremely knowledgeable, professional and friendly. She really cares about the work she delivers and is committed to getting the best for her clients." **Vicky Whitney** is hugely experienced at representing clients in severe personal injury claims involving brain injuries and fatalities. She has notable strength in obtaining rehabilitation in relation to clients' injuries. **Strengths:** "Vicky works closely with her clients. She is very client-focused and engages them in their claim every step of the way." "Vicky is always professional."

Farleys Solicitors LLP

What the team is known for Farleys Solicitors has an efficient personal injury practice best known for representing claimants in cases against local authorities involving allegations of child abuse. The firm is additionally strong in a wider range of human rights and inquest-related cases. It also assists clients with a variety of litigation covering fatal accidents and serious injuries, with expertise in catastrophic brain and spinal injuries. The claims often involve motor accidents and accidents in the workplace.

Strengths

"Farleys handles my case efficiently with empathy and respect. They keep me informed along the journey and are very professional."
"The team puts clients at the centre of what they

do."

"Farleys always provide timely responses to professional queries."

Notable practitioners

Jonathan Bridge heads the firm's abuse team. He has a strong personal injury practice which focuses on abuse cases, including historical claims.

Price Slater Gawne

What the team is known for Price Slater Gawne handles a wide array of personal injury matters including catastrophic injury and psychiatric injury claims. The firm is regularly instructed for claims caused by motor accidents and accidents at work. The team also has considerable expertise handling personal injury claims arising from accidents in public places.

Strengths

"The team is excellent, efficient, and provides rapid responses to my queries."
"The team is well versed in the subjects. They are able to provide concise, well-informed instructions."
"The team is devoted to its clients' interests."

Notable practitioners

Victoria Price is a key contact.

Thompsons

What the team is known for Thompsons provides high-quality advice to clients across the North West on personal injury matters, exclusively representing claimants. The team is particularly noted for its work with trade unions, representing many of the nation's leading bodies. They are proficient at handling claims involving motor accidents, as well as accidents at work. Areas of experience include serious head and brain injuries as well as amputation and fatal cases. It offers extensive expertise in claims with cross-border elements too.

Strengths

"They are really excellent solicitors. The team is very thorough, very client care-focused, very knowledgeable."
"They are very well organised. They are very slick. They do the stuff very well."
"The team is very thorough and client-focused."

Notable practitioners

Martyn Gwyther (see p.1148) heads the cross-border personal injury claims practice. He is well regarded for handling claims involving injuries caused by negligence or accidents, both at home and overseas. He also has extensive experience acting on behalf of foreign nationals injured in the UK. **Strengths:** "Martyn has an ability to deal with cases on a very technical level. His client care is excellent and lay clients think well of him." "Martyn is really knowledgeable on cross-border elements to work."

Other Ranked Lawyers

Steven Akerman of Brian Barr & Co has extensive experience in handling personal injury claims arising from motor accidents and employers' liability. He has particular expertise in chronic pain cases.

Strengths:

"He is extremely respectful, responsive and attentive when dealing with any of my questions or concerns. He takes the time to explain legal jargon in terms I understand."

"Steven is able to bring a lot of expertise and is really tenacious."

"Steven is a formidable personal injury litigator. He's intelligent and analytical, yet also maintains a personal touch."

Rose Gibson-Harper of Lime Solicitors (the consumer arm of Shakespeare Martineau) specialises in complex serious injury claims. This includes high-value brain injuries, amputations, orthopaedic injuries, loss of sight, scarring and fatal accidents. She has a particular expertise in motorcycle accident claims.

Strengths:

"She has a good reputation for doing serious injury work and is known for doing her cases well."

"Rose goes to great lengths to ensure clients are fully involved, understand the case and are very looked after."

Carol Hopwood is head of serious and catastrophic injury at Carpenters. She is highly sought after for her expertise on personal injury matters, including brain and spinal injuries, amputation injuries and fatal accidents.

Richard Lowery of Express Solicitors specialises in personal injury, undertaking a wide range of cases involving injuries caused by traffic and employment.

Strengths:

"Richard is aware of all relevant issues and is astute, efficient and practical."

"Richard is a very experienced litigator who is always keen to progress the case."

Mike Molloy of Horwich Cohen Coghlan Solicitors is a noted personal injury solicitor with strong experience representing claimants in cases both domestically and abroad. He primarily acts for clients who have suffered brain injuries, psychiatric injuries and severe illnesses.

Strengths:

"His level of service never differs, it's always of a high standard. Mike is very knowledgeable and extremely passionate about getting the best for his clients. He is approachable and extremely responsive to any queries."

"Mike is approachable, understands what the client needs and will go out of his way to see them. He also has a broad view across all of the different disciplines involved."

"Mike is tactically astute, uses the litigation process to his advantage and keeps very close contact with the clients at all times."

Yorkshire Mainly Claimant

Personal Injury: Mainly Claimant
Leading Firms
Band 1
Irwin Mitchell
Stewarts
Band 2
Switalskis Solicitors
Thompsons
Eminent Practitioners
Eminent Practitioners
Kingston Sion Irwin Mitchell *
Wilson Simon G Thompsons *
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Aram Rachael Irwin Mitchell *
Heaton Carolyn Irwin Mitchell *
Herman Daniel Stewarts
Jenkins Louise Irwin Mitchell *
Townsend Ben Stewarts
Band 2
Maxwell Warren Stewarts
McQuater John Switalskis Solicitors
Newstead Claire Irwin Mitchell
Sanders Bethany Leigh Day (ORL) ♦
Shakespeare Helen Thompsons *
Up-and-coming individuals
Rana Hema Irwin Mitchell
Smith Chris Stewarts
Withers David Irwin Mitchell *
Associates to watch
Bain Ewan Switalskis Solicitors
Hill Rebecca Stewarts
* Indicates individual with profile.
♦ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

Band 1

Irwin Mitchell

What the team is known for Irwin Mitchell has a market-leading practice that acts on a comprehensive range of complex claims. The team's expertise includes a focus on high-value, serious claims arising from RTAs, chronic pain, and brain and spinal injuries. It has an additional strength in Court of Protection issues, criminal injuries and asset management. The firm also employs a dedicated client liaison manager in Leeds to maximise client service. It is particularly adept at acting on industrial disease matters, including asbestos-related disease claims. It has offices in Leeds and Sheffield.

Strengths

"Irwin Mitchell provides a holistic service and does the full spread of work."

"All personnel from Irwin Mitchell were very strong in their professional advice and dealings."

"The team were very prompt to answer my emails and organise any calls."

"Nothing is too much trouble for them – they go above and beyond, always keeping you informed and responding straight away to any queries."

Notable practitioners

Sion Kingston (see p.1149) is based in Leeds and is well equipped to assist with catastrophic injury

matters arising from RTAs. She also handles CICA cases. **Rachael Aram** (see p.1145) advises on high-value cases surrounding RTAs resulting in cerebral injuries, with notable experience representing cyclists. Aram is based in Irwin Mitchell's Sheffield office. **Strengths:** "She's always unfailingly nice, professional and dedicated." **Carolyn Heaton** (see p.1148) heads the neurotrauma team in Leeds and frequently undertakes high-value catastrophic injury cases, usually arising from RTAs. **Strengths:** "She's a lovely and skilled person to work with. I have a lot of respect for Carolyn and the team that she leads." "I think she's among the very best personal injury solicitors in the country. She's always really on it and she really cares about her clients." **Louise Jenkins** (see p.1148) is based in Irwin Mitchell's Sheffield office. She is well versed in RTA cases involving brain injury. She is also experienced in personal injury cases featuring complicated liability and quantum issues. **Strengths:** "She's a well-known lawyer." **Claire Newstead** is a partner in the firm's serious injury team. She has particular expertise in RTAs and accidents at work. **Strengths:** "She has very good attention to detail, she's prompt and she builds good relationships with lay clients." "Claire has a wealth of experience and deep knowledge of personal injury litigation. She deals with her cases efficiently and effectively." **Hema Rana** is an up-and-coming lawyer in the firm's neurotrauma team. She is adept at handling catastrophic injury cases resulting from RTAs. **Strengths:** "She's extremely hard-working and has good forensic skills. She has such a lovely manner with people." "Hema is committed to the area of brain injury." **David Withers** (see p.1153) is well versed in complex personal injury cases, particularly those involving spinal and brain injuries arising from RTAs. **Strengths:** "He is really good at understanding all the details of very tricky cases."

Stewarts

What the team is known for Stewarts has an experienced Leeds-based catastrophic injury team, with a track record in complex brain and spinal cord claims. The team has particular experience includes serious injuries as a result of RTAs involving motorcycles. It is well versed in high-value cases involving issues such as amputations, severe burns and fatal accidents. The firm is also familiar with severe orthopaedic and neurological injury cases.

Strengths

"There is no better or well-oiled department – they're just superb. Every single one of them is absolutely brilliant."

"The team is well staffed at all levels with experts in their fields, supported by rising stars. They are able to attract the best talent."

"The team kept us up to date on any communications."

Notable practitioners

Daniel Herman is experienced in representing clients in catastrophic injury cases, including matters concerning brain and spinal injuries. **Strengths:** "He is the most experienced serious

injury for spinal cord in the country. He has a mega brain and runs a great team." "Dan is a leader in his field and very focused on the client." "Dan is a very accomplished litigator and leader of his team. On an individual level, he is a pleasure to work with and he is a steady hand on the tiller." "He's driven and a tough litigator. He's also really innovative." **Ben Townsend** is well placed to advise on catastrophic injury cases, including life-changing orthopaedic and traumatic brain injuries. **Strengths:** "Ben is very technical and expert." "Ben is an extremely thorough and effective advocate for his clients." "He's on top of the detail and is a really good litigator." "Ben is extremely hard-working and puts in all the hours on behalf of his clients. He pulls out all the stops." **Warren Maxwell** is well versed in cases involving serious injuries arising from workplace incidents and RTAs. **Strengths:** "Warren is an extremely thorough and effective advocate for his clients. He has a very approachable manner and a comprehensive understanding of his clients and their case." "Warren has been very professional throughout." "Warren is down to earth and very client-focused." **Chris Smith** assists with cases stemming from RTAs, including those involving brain injuries and amputations. **Strengths:** "Chris is in every way, an outstanding solicitor. He is direct but kind, and he is personable but yet legally very sharp. He is a great team player and he brings out the best in people." "He has really good judgement." "He's a really good strategic thinker." "Chris is an extremely thorough and effective advocate for his clients. His attention to detail to exemplary." "Chris is very likeable and gets on well with his clients." **Rebecca Hill** is recognised for her experience handling personal injury cases involving brain, spinal and serious orthopaedic injuries. **Strengths:** "Rebecca is devoted to her clients."

Band 2

Switalskis Solicitors

What the team is known for Switalskis has an experienced team that undertakes a wide array of work, including cases involving serious brain and spinal injuries, PTSD and severe burns. The department is particularly well versed in RTA claims and also active on employers' liability claims. The team offers additional expertise in matters arising from severe injuries following falls.

Strengths

"The team are extremely quick and responsive. They are by far the best at this."

"It's a large team with a wide range of experience." "Switalskis are entirely dedicated to their clients and go the extra mile to ensure good results."

Notable practitioners

John McQuater of Switalskis advises on psychiatric and catastrophic injuries arising from RTAs and accidents at work. **Strengths:** "He's extremely knowledgeable and an absolutely fantastic lawyer."

Ewan Bain is a senior associate based in Doncaster. He has a particular specialism in brain and spinal injury cases. **Strengths:** "He is a thoroughly

professional and works very hard to achieve success for his client."

Thompsons

What the team is known for Thompsons has experienced serious injury specialists who frequently act on high-value claims, including brain and neck injuries. The team maintains an impressive client base of national trade unions and often advises on occupational injuries. It also represents private individuals in personal injury claims resulting from RTAs, as well as acting on industrial disease

cases. The firm has offices in Leeds and Sheffield.

Strengths

"The team is excellent and provides a caring client service."

Notable practitioners

Simon Wilson (see p.1153) is well versed in complex RTA and workplace injury cases. He is based in Leeds and serves as the firm's national lead lawyer for serious injury claims. **Helen Shakespeare** (see p.1152) handles claims arising from workplace accidents and RTAs, with a focus on spinal and orthopaedic injury cases. **Strengths:**

"Helen is very experienced and great with clients. She's very compassionate but fearless with opponents when she needs to be."

Other Ranked Lawyers

Bethany Sanders of Leigh Day is frequently called upon to act for claimants in serious injury claims. She is especially experienced in advising on cases involving brain and spinal injuries, often as a result of cycling accidents and other RTAs.

North East Mainly Claimant

Personal Injury: Mainly Claimant	
Leading Firms	
Band 1	
Irwin Mitchell	
Band 2	
Sintons	
Slater and Gordon Lawyers	
Thompsons	
Leading Individuals	
Band 1	
Davis John Slater and Gordon Lawyers	
Mayes Fran Irwin Mitchell	
Band 2	
Brown Paul Burnetts (ORL) ◇	
Davison Philip Sintons	
Hall Trevor Thompsons *	
Oliver Kate Sintons	
Up-and-coming individuals	
Nicklin Kate Slater and Gordon Lawyers	
Pyrar Jane Irwin Mitchell	
Star associates	
McIluff Laura Irwin Mitchell *	
Associates to watch	
Bell Emma Irwin Mitchell	
Jones Helen Irwin Mitchell	
Knipe David Sintons	
Maddock Rebecca Irwin Mitchell *	
* Indicates individual with profile.	
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.	
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.	

Band 1

Irwin Mitchell

What the team is known for Irwin Mitchell's outstanding personal injury practice has a specialism in asbestos-related disease claims, as well as brain, spinal and other serious injuries. The team has expertise in cases arising from RTAs and workplace injuries, while also dealing with sexual abuse-related claims. The team also provides ancillary services to clients in conjunction with other departments of the firm, such as the Court of Protection, asset management and family teams.

Strengths

"The firm handles some of the most high-profile

and serious injury work in the North East. They are really well resourced and they are always well prepared."

"Irwin Mitchell undoubtedly has one of the highest profiles in the brain injury field."

"The team are right at the end of the phone or email and their service is instant, which provides great comfort and reassurance."

"It's a knowledgeable and well-organised firm that sources all necessary information about the cases."

Notable practitioners

Fran Mayes is the regional managing partner for personal injury and also leads the firm's serious injury team. She specialises in catastrophic brain and spinal injury claims as well as fatalities, often connected to RTAs. **Strengths:** "Fran is an exceptional lawyer. She's very experienced and knowledgeable and strives for the best outcome for her clients." "She's a very experienced practitioner dealing with catastrophic injury work. She takes an innovative approach to problem-solving and is very good in terms of client care." "She's an excellent team leader." **Jane Pyrar** has a great deal of experience handling complex personal injury cases. She frequently assists with high-value brain and spinal injury claims arising from RTAs and workplace incidents. **Strengths:** "Jane is a real star." "She's an excellent and very client-centred solicitor." "She is a very determined litigator."

"Jane is a very effective worker and is dedicated to her clients." **Emma Bell** is a senior associate at Irwin Mitchell. She has particular experience handling claims for individuals with asbestos-related diseases including mesothelioma and asbestosis. **Strengths:** "Emma is an excellent lawyer and client advocate. She's always thorough and spots inconsistencies before disclosure." "She's very efficient and effective." **Helen Jones** is an associate at Irwin Mitchell. She is noted for her experience handling complex asbestos-related disease claims. **Strengths:** "Helen is professional, approachable and accessible." "She's very experienced and effective." **Rebecca Maddock** (see p.1150) is a senior associate in the serious injury team at Irwin Mitchell. She has significant experience acting for claimants who have been injured as a result of RTAs and workplace accidents. **Strengths:** "I find her extremely conscientious and she has a

good grasp of detail in complex cases. She does a first-class job for her clients." "Rebecca is strong in her client service and support." **Laura McIluff** (see p.1150) is a senior associate with experience advising on a range of high-value and complex personal injury claims, most often with regard to life-changing injuries sustained in RTAs. She is adept at handling cases concerning both adults and children. **Strengths:** "She is very hard-working and very good with clients." "Laura is a rising star of the firm and exceptionally tenacious in her pursuit of the client's interests." "She's extremely contentious and brings an excellent analytical mind to cases."

Band 2

Sintons

What the team is known for Sintons is an excellent choice for claimant personal injury mandates, often handling high-value and catastrophic injury claims. The team's broad offering spans occupational and industrial diseases, workplace injuries and road accidents, including expertise in brain and spinal cord injuries. It offers an all-round service through its Court of Protection department.

Strengths

"The team provides good explanations in layman's terms."

Notable practitioners

Philip Davison leads the department and regularly represents clients who have suffered serious orthopaedic injuries, often sustained in the workplace or in RTAs. He also handles fatal accident claims. **Strengths:** "Philip was easy to communicate with and responded within a short timeframe." "He is an excellent serious injury lawyer." **Kate Oliver** acts for claimants who have sustained complex and serious injuries including brain, amputation and other life-changing injuries. **Strengths:** "Kate is a pleasure to work with." **David Knipe** is a senior associate in the firm's personal injury team. He has experience handling claims arising from accidents at work and RTAs. **Strengths:** "He was very knowledgeable and fought my corner."

Slater and Gordon Lawyers

What the team is known for Slater and Gordon Lawyers is a national firm offering with significant expertise in complex personal injury cases. The firm is particularly adept at representing claimants who have suffered brain and spinal cord injuries as a result of road traffic and workplace accidents.

Strengths

"The team have a robust breadth of expertise to draw on when supporting their clients' needs."

"They have excellent communication skills and thoughtful discussions about complex cases."

"The firm is efficient, responsive and supportive. It is an absolute pleasure to work with them."

Notable practitioners

John Davis is a consultant within the team and has great depth of experience in complex personal injury work. He frequently handles brain and spinal injury claims connected with catastrophic RTAs and workplace incidents. **Strengths:** *"John is a pleasure to work with. His calm approach, knowledge and attention to detail make him an amazing lawyer. He puts the client at the centre of the work and goes the extra mile."* *"He is vastly experienced and he is highly respected across the field by colleagues and opponents. I think his defining characteristic is that he is always calm in a crisis and comes up with novel approaches to solving problems."* *"He's great with clients and putting them at the centre. He's very experienced in the field of spinal injuries."* *"John is an excellent solicitor who demonstrates a consistently high level of*

service for his clients. His depth of knowledge and wealth of experience allow for an extremely positive working relationship." *"He's always clear and concise and a pleasure to work with."* **Kate Nicklin** has considerable experience handling high-value personal injury mandates. She regularly acts on cases involving brain and spinal injuries following road traffic and workplace accidents. **Strengths:** *"Kate is very passionate about her clients. She is supportive in challenging situations, and she works collaboratively with the defendants which makes for a more positive outcome for the clients."* *"Kate is an extremely passionate, client-focused solicitor who strives to provide the very best service. Kate is a trusted solicitor whom I would highly recommend to others."* *"She's an excellent communicator and responsive to the client's and teams needs."* *"Kate is dedicated, passionate and extremely knowledgeable."* *"Kate is strategically and technically excellent, but it's her client care and responsiveness to the needs of clients that sets her apart in cases."*

Thompsons

What the team is known for Thompsons has a broad personal injury practice representing claimants who have suffered traumatic or catastrophic injuries in a variety of accidents. It offers notable experience in employers' liability claims, including those concerning the armed forces. The team is well known for working on behalf of trade union clients in industrial disease claims and workplace accidents, with particular strength in relation to asbestos cases.

Strengths

"Thompsons are very committed to their clients."

Notable practitioners

Trevor Hall (see p.1148) handles a broad range of high-value claims relating to serious and catastrophic injuries such as brain trauma and amputation. He often advises on cases concerning injury sustained in the workplace, with niche expertise in matters concerning military service. **Strengths:** *"He is particularly experienced in military claims and is down to earth with clients."* *"Trevor is very committed, willing and knowledgeable."*

Other Ranked Lawyers

Paul Brown of Burnetts often represents clients in personal injury claims connected with RTAs as well as those sustained at work. He is particularly knowledgeable with regard to severe brain injuries.

Strengths:

"Perhaps his greatest asset is his ability to have a great rapport with clients and make them feel at ease in what are trying circumstances. Paul goes the extra mile for every client, no matter how difficult or complex the case is."

"He is excellent at seeing the point and he understands his clients' problems. I have found it a pleasure to work with him."

"Paul is a real fighter and is determined to get the best."

Wales Mainly Claimant

Personal Injury: Mainly Claimant
Leading Firms
Band 1
Hugh James
JCP Solicitors
NewLaw Solicitors
Band 2
Thompsons
Watkins & Gunn
* Indicates individual with profile.
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

Band 1

Hugh James

What the team is known for Hugh James's exceptional claimant practice has a large team specialising in high-profile catastrophic personal injury claims, with notable strength in brain and spinal injuries, often connected with RTAs. Further areas of focus include product liability and abuse cases.

Strengths

"It's a very specialist firm that can meet complex needs."

"I have found them highly efficient, professional and responsive to the needs of their clients and

Personal Injury: Mainly Claimant
Senior Statespeople & Eminent Practitioners
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners
Thomas Keith JCP Solicitors
Eminent Practitioners
Thomas Clive Watkins & Gunn
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Clement-Evans Cenric NewLaw Solicitors
Sowden-Taylor Cari Hugh James
Band 2
Gower Phillip Novum Law (ORL) ◇
Guscott Lisa Watkins & Gunn
Imperato Michael Watkins & Gunn
Jones Amanda Thompsons *
Li Mei JCP Solicitors
McCabe Ciaran Hugh James
Obery Hilton NewLaw Solicitors
Owen Andrew Slater and Gordon Lawyers (ORL) ◇
Smithyman Victoria Harding Evans (ORL) ◇
Welsh Anthony Thompsons *

experts."

Notable practitioners

Cari Sowden-Taylor is praised for her client-oriented approach and technical knowledge. She focuses on brain and spinal injury claims con-

nected with RTAs. **Strengths:** *"Cari is an outstanding solicitor in all respects."* *"She's very committed and cares about claimants under her watch. She is very responsive whenever I have an issue I need to raise with her."* *"Cari is a class act."* **Ciaran McCabe** represents claimants involved in RTAs resulting in catastrophic injuries, including brain and spinal damage. **Strengths:** *"He's professional and tactful when facing high-emotion situations with clients."* *"He is sound and sensible when dealing with insurers on the other side."*

JCP Solicitors

What the team is known for JCP Solicitors is a leading personal injury practice in South West and East Wales. The team focuses on catastrophic injury claims, with particular experience in brain injury mandates, alongside high-value RTA, abuse and employers' liability cases.

Strengths

"JCP Solicitors has a great team approach and they never lose sight of the person at the centre of it; everything is geared around the client and they always see the big picture. They go the extra mile for the clients."

"The team is easy to deal with and provides clear instructions."

"The firm provides a first-class service."

"They are prompt, efficient and have an exceptional grasp of the issues and the strategy."

Notable practitioners

Keith Thomas's practice predominantly covers severe brain injuries caused by RTAs. He also offers expertise in spinal cord injury claims.

Strengths: *"He always acted with a great degree of professionalism and empathy. He had great vision and would discuss various scenarios to ensure we had a grasp on each situation as it arose."* *"Keith Thomas has in-depth knowledge and tactical prowess. He was very supportive and was always there if we needed anything in respect of the claim."* *"He works hard to settle cases quickly so claimants can carry on with their lives."* *"He's responsive, knowledgeable and understands clients' needs. I find him to be a very good solicitor to work with."*

Mei Li heads the catastrophic injury team at JCP Solicitors. She is recognised for her experience in brain injury claims arising from RTAs. **Strengths:** *"She is really good at handling difficult client relationships."* *"Mei is very constructive."* *"She is very easy to work with."*

NewLaw Solicitors

What the team is known for NewLaw Solicitors has a leading personal injury team known for its activity on high-value claims. It represents clients involved in RTAs, with a particular focus on motorcycle claims. The team advises on cases of amputations and fractures, as well as spinal, orthopaedic and brain injuries. It also assists with occupational disease cases and workplace injuries.

Notable practitioners

Cenric Clement-Evans specialises in industrial disease cases, with notable expertise in respiratory illness-related claims. He also has experience in employers' liability mandates. **Strengths:** *"He is an exceptionally good lawyer. He takes on the hardest, most difficult cases and he succeeds. He takes time to understand evidence and clients."* *"He's a very solid industrial disease lawyer."*

Hilton Obery is head of the spinal injuries team at

NewLaw Solicitors. He regularly assists claimants who have sustained serious injuries as a result of RTAs and workplace incidents, alongside handling fatality cases.

Band 2

Thompsons

What the team is known for Thompsons is a dedicated claimant firm with a broad UK-wide personal injury presence. It has deep expertise and experience representing claimants exposed to dangerous levels of asbestos, and handles numerous claims on behalf of individuals who have sustained physical injuries in the workplace and post-traumatic stress disorder victims.

Notable practitioners

Amanda Jones (see p.1149) is a specialist asbestos lawyer who has a strong reputation for handling industrial disease claims on behalf of clients who have developed mesothelioma during their career. **Strengths:** *"She is popular with her clients and has good connections in this industry."* *"She has amazing relationships with her clients and is a seasoned litigator. She's very knowledgeable on asbestos claims."* *"Amanda is thorough and really goes out of her way to help the clients."* **Anthony Welsh** (see p.1153) is recommended for his representation of claimants who have suffered workplace accidents, RTAs and catastrophic injuries in tortious circumstances. He is also experienced in public liability claims.

Watkins & Gunn

What the team is known for Watkins & Gunn is particularly well regarded for experience in employers' liability claims and its longstanding tradition of union representation. The team also pursues personal injury claims arising from RTAs, including serious brain injury and fatal accident cases.

Notable practitioners

Clive Thomas has particular experience acting on serious and fatal RTA claims. He has han-

dled matters with complex witness situations, including cases which have none or those who reside outside the UK. **Strengths:** *"He is an excellent all-round injury lawyer."* **Lisa Guscott** is noted for her skill with regard to matters concerning employers' liability. She is also recommended for all manner of complex personal injury claims.

Michael Imperato concentrates largely on trade union-related and industrial disease cases. He also has extensive experience acting for claimants who have been involved in RTAs. **Strengths:** *"He does amazing and wonderful work."*

Other Ranked Lawyers

Phillip Gower of Novum Law comes particularly recommended for claims concerning respiratory illness contracted in industrial settings. He mostly handles cases in which the patient has died or has sustained lifelong injuries.

Strengths:

"Phillip is a well-respected and time-served solicitor with a huge following and immense knowledge. He works very hard for clients in catastrophic cases and clinical negligence." *"He is always approachable."*

Andrew Owen heads the serious injury in the Cardiff office of Slater and Gordon Lawyers. He has a wealth of experience in personal injury, handling claims arising from RTAs, accidents abroad and accidents at work.

Strengths:

"Andrew does a fantastic job for his client. He is very pragmatic and collaborative." *"He is very good at advising clients in a language they understand. His clients like him and he is a very charming operator."*

Victoria Smithyman is head of the personal injury department at Harding Evans, and is recommended for her work in cases concerning serious or complex injuries stemming from RTAs.

Strengths:

"Victoria goes above and beyond for the client and provides clear advice."

Wales Mainly Defendant

Personal Injury: Mainly Defendant
Leading Firms
Band 1
Clyde & Co LLP
Dolmans
Band 2
Geldards LLP
Hugh James
* Indicates individual with profile.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

Personal Injury: Mainly Defendant
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Cradick Simon <i>Clyde & Co LLP</i>
Evans Simon M <i>Dolmans</i>
Band 2
Bennett Peter <i>Dolmans</i>
Dale Kerris <i>Clyde & Co LLP</i>
Harris Justin <i>Dolmans</i>
Hoskins Clare <i>Dolmans</i>
Makin Donna <i>Geldards LLP*</i>
Associates to watch
Lloyd Leon <i>Hugh James</i>

Band 1

Clyde & Co LLP

What the team is known for Clyde & Co's outstanding defence team acts for large companies and insurers on employers' liability claims. It also represents an array of regional public authorities in public liability claims. It is noted for industrial disease mandates such as mesothelioma and asbestos-related cases, as well as for catastrophic brain and spinal injury claims.

Notable practitioners

Simon Cradick is noted for his experience in public and employers' liability mandates. His practice covers a wide range of instructions, from

industrial disease cases to workplace accident claims involving spinal injuries. **Kerris Dale** comes recommended for her experience defending claims involving amputations, paraplegia and psychiatric damage. She is particularly noted for her expertise in defending motor claims on behalf of leading insurers. **Strengths:** “Kerris knows what she’s doing because she’s seen it all before. She is very calm and measured, even when she has an emotional or difficult client on the other side.” “Kerris has a profound understanding of the legal work. She gets her hands dirty and really works to get involved with the details of the case.”

Dolmans

What the team is known for Dolmans’ personal injury defence group is best known for representing public authorities, most notably local councils. The team also acts for insurers on public and employers’ liability claims. It offers expertise in occupational and industrial disease cases, as well as workplace accident and RTA catastrophic injury claims. The team also assists with claims of sexual abuse and mistreatment of children in education and care, as well as assault on employees.

Strengths

“Dolmans is our first point of call in Wales for personal injury matters. You know you’re in good hands with them.”

“Dolmans is expert-heavy.”

“The team has a very deep knowledge of all aspects of the law in this area.”

“Dolmans provides an absolutely brilliant service from start to finish. The team is always available and provides a high level of service.”

Notable practitioners

Simon Evans is best known for his handling of complex claims arising from RTAs concerning motorcycles and multi-vehicle motorway collisions. He frequently defends claims relating to

brain, spinal and orthopaedic injuries. **Strengths:** “Simon is my go-to person.” “He has a clear understanding of how councils operate.” **Peter Bennett** acts for insurance companies on high-value personal injury claims, with particular expertise in industrial disease and workplace accident claims. His experience covers fatal accident claims, post-traumatic stress disorder damages and cases involving hundreds of claimants. **Strengths:** “Peter is definitely the expert in his field due to his knowledge and understanding of liability law.” **Justin Harris** assists insurance companies and local authorities with high-value, complex personal injury claims connected with the mistreatment of children. He also has experience in cases involving RTAs. **Strengths:** “I thoroughly enjoy working with Justin. He knows how to run and case.” **Clare Hoskins** regularly defends local authorities and insurers in social services claims. She often deals with claims arising from indemnity, liability and negligence. **Strengths:** “Clare is a very knowledgeable and tenacious lawyer.” “She has a very good level of customer service and has a vast bank of knowledge.”

Band 2

Geldards LLP

What the team is known for Geldards’ personal injury defence team is best known for its work on employers’ liability cases, covering a range of issues such as serious and fatal accidents, industrial diseases and noise-induced hearing loss. It also represents local authorities and public bodies in public liability claims. Its wider clientele includes insurers and charities, as well as manufacturing, retail and construction companies. The team offers consultation services including investigations, audits and advice on risk management.

Strengths

“The team at Geldards is on the ball. I don’t have to chase them. They provide sound advice and remain pragmatic and aware of the commercial aspects.”

Notable practitioners

Donna Makin (see p.1150) is head of Geldards’ corporate claims team. She is regularly sought out by insurers and large companies for her expert handling of personal injury claims. She assists with public and employers’ liability cases, often connected with industrial disease and serious injury claims. **Strengths:** “Donna is very astute. She is very focused, extremely detailed in the way she approaches work, and she is very determined.”

Hugh James

What the team is known for Hugh James’ personal injury defence team acts mainly for public sector clients and insurers. The team advises on a range of public and employers’ liability claims, as well as industrial disease cases and claims arising out of workplace accidents.

Strengths

“Excellent, cost-effective advice is provided by the whole team at Hugh James. They have an excellent knowledge of our risk appetite and they are superb case handlers.”

“The team at Hugh James is very professional in handling claims. They are focused on delivering the right outcome for our business and provide excellent service.”

Notable practitioners

Leon Lloyd is a senior associate in the personal injury team at Hugh James who primarily acts for policyholders and insurers. He regularly defends clients in cases involving amputation and paralysis, as well as industrial disease claims. **Strengths:** “Leon has strong technical skills and provides excellent client service.”

Northern Ireland Mainly Claimant

Personal Injury: Mainly Claimant
Leading Firms
Band 1
McCartan Turkington Breen
Thompsons NI
Band 2
Edwards & Co
Millar McCall Wylie
Reid, Black & Co.
* Indicates individual with profile.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

Band 1

McCartan Turkington Breen

What the team is known for McCartan Turkington Breen’s leading personal injury team impresses with its breadth of coverage, including employers’ liability claims involving physical and psychological injury, as well as RTAs. It frequently acts for

Personal Injury: Mainly Claimant
Senior Statespeople
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners
Reid Seamus Reid, Black & Co.
Leading Individuals
Band 1
McClure Oonagh Thompsons NI *
Band 2
Clarke Stephen McCartan Turkington Breen
McSorley William Millar McCall Wylie
Prunty Caroline Millar McCall Wylie
Associates to watch
Black Ashley Millar McCall Wylie
Lockhart Reece Edwards & Co

private claimants on catastrophic claims, as well as handling lower-value cases.

Strengths

“All communication with the firm was prompt and professional.”

“The team are knowledgeable and efficient.”

Notable practitioners

Stephen Clarke assists with claims arising from RTAs, often on behalf of cyclists and pedestrians. He often acts on cases involving orthopaedic and psychiatric injuries. **Strengths:** “Stephen is exceptional. His manner and ability to understand client needs are beyond compare.”

Thompsons NI

What the team is known for Thompsons is recommended for workplace injury claims, with experience in asbestos-related cases and other occupational health claims. The team demonstrates additional experience advising on claims arising from RTAs, as well as trips and slips. It predominantly represents private individuals from the healthcare sector and members of trade unions.

Notable practitioners

Oonagh McClure (see p.1150) offers broad experience representing healthcare sector clients in personal injury cases. She regularly advises on RTAs and falls at work. She is acknowledged by market commentators for her track record in industrial disease claims, including asbestos-linked cases. **Strengths:** "Oonagh is well established and very experienced."

Band 2

Edwards & Co

What the team is known for Edwards & Co has a solid offering in industrial injuries and illness, such as hearing loss claims. It also maintains a broad personal injury caseload that includes high-profile RTAs, employers' liability and post-traumatic stress syndrome claims. The team is well regarded for its work on behalf of the Police Federation, and also advises both trade unions and private individuals.

Strengths

"Edwards & Co's lawyers are personable, professional and always thoroughly prepared."

"We felt we could rely on the team for advice and support whenever we needed it, no matter how difficult the topic."

"We always get a prompt response to any queries."

Notable practitioners

Reece Lockhart demonstrates broad experience advising on personal injury matters. In particular, he shows a real expertise in employers' liability, public liability and road traffic cases. **Strengths:** "Reece is knowledgeable and always thinking of his client's needs."

Millar McCall Wylie

What the team is known for Millar McCall Wylie handles an array of claims spanning RTAs, accidents at work and equine injuries. Falls, trips and slips also serve as a source of instruction for the firm. The team assists with claims arising from a very wide range of injuries, including orthopaedic and psychiatric damage.

Strengths

"They are passionate, helpful and responsive in all ways."

"They're very professional and easy to work with."

Notable practitioners

William McSorley comes recommended for his work in hearing loss and occupational disease litigation. He also offers experience in all manner of personal injury and RTA claims. **Strengths:** "William is excellent to work with." "He is very diligent in his work and very proactive in terms of pushing a case along." **Caroline Prunty** wins praise for her skill in personal injury cases involving complex and serious injuries stemming from RTAs. She also has expertise in industrial disease and medical

negligence claims. **Strengths:** "Caroline Prunty is a top legal representative who is at all times professional, friendly and approachable." "Caroline is very well respected. She's personable and clients feel very comfortable with her." "She is particularly good at ascertaining what the clients want in a case and getting there. She's very impressive." **Ashley Black** receives commendations for his strong personal injury practice, which includes expertise in employers' liability, industrial disease and road traffic accidents. He is additionally strong in matters involving hearing loss. **Strengths:** "Ashley is an astute lawyer. He'll get the best outcome for his clients and be aware of the commerciality of a case."

Reid, Black & Co.

What the team is known for Reid, Black & Co. is noted for expertise in hearing loss claims, as well as demonstrating experience in areas such as cycling, motorcycle and employers' liability cases. Additional areas of focus include repetitive strain injuries and industrial disease claims.

Notable practitioners

Seamus Reid is recommended above all for hearing loss and other occupational disease claims on behalf of officers in the military, police force and prison service. **Strengths:** "Seamus is very experienced."

Northern Ireland Mainly Defendant

Personal Injury: Mainly Defendant
Leading Firms
Band 1
DAC Beachcroft LLP
Johnsons Solicitors
Tughans
Band 2
Carson McDowell
Clyde & Co LLP
DWF
Kennedys
Keoghs LLP
Murphy & O'Rawe
◊ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

Band 1

DAC Beachcroft LLP

What the team is known for DAC Beachcroft's leading personal injury group acts for prominent insurance and retail clients, and is also noted for its representation of public authorities. The team's expertise extends to a wide range of cases, including industrial disease, traffic accidents, product liability and employers' liability claims. It frequently advises on motor claims and also offers counter-fraud capabilities.

Strengths

"They are very professional and diligent. They are

Personal Injury: Mainly Defendant
Eminent Practitioners
Eminent Practitioners
McGahan Sean DAC Beachcroft LLP
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Chambers Kenny Johnsons Solicitors
Craig David Johnsons Solicitors
McGillie Kathy Tughans
Smyth Neil Tughans
Band 2
Burke Andrew DAC Beachcroft LLP
Butler Louise DAC Beachcroft LLP
Fitzpatrick Cormac Clyde & Co LLP
Mellon Aisling DAC Beachcroft LLP
O'Hagan Kevin DAC Beachcroft LLP
O'Neill Cathal Carson McDowell
Ritchie Chris Arthur Cox (ORL) ◊
Shevlin Kevin Murphy & O'Rawe
Wylie Amanda Kennedys
Wylie Claire DWF

always very quick to respond and offer advice, and I feel that their rates are fair and honest. The team is very diverse with excellent knowledge on different matters."

"They have experience from the top down and give good support all round. It's good attention to detail; they are pragmatic and willing to go the extra mile. Excellent value for money."

"They give clear, comprehensive advice delivered in a timely manner. The team has an excellent range of skills. Very quick turnaround time especially on critical matters. They have an excellent understanding of the commercial environment we operate within."

"We get good results and communication is clear and timely."

Notable practitioners

Sean McGahan leads the team in Belfast and is highly experienced in handling complex personal injury claims. He advises on employers' and public liability along with motor and catastrophic injury cases, including instances where there is the possibility of fraud. **Strengths:** "His expertise and knowledge, especially regarding retail, means that he is very much a go-to person. He is someone I can rely on heavily in that area." "He is an industry leader in his field and one of my go-to preferred lawyers in Northern Ireland." **Andrew Burke** handles employers' and public liability claims, as well as cases concerning injuries sustained in RTAs. **Strengths:** "He has that sensible approach: he's a guy you can talk to and get things done with. You always get the sense that he's doing that with a focus on not stringing things out—he's getting things sorted." "I have a lot of time for Andrew Burke. He is quite a straight shooter. He calls a case very quickly for what it is." **Louise Butler** handles complex injury claims arising from RTAs and workplace accidents. She also offers notable strength in

public liability claims. **Strengths:** “Louise showed strong aptitude in leading her team.” “Louise is very professional, acts with integrity and provides a very good service with the team at DAC Beachcroft.” **Aisling Mellon’s** practice encompasses a wide range of personal injury matters, including those relating to public, employers’ and occupiers’ liability. She also has particular strength in handling motor claims. **Strengths:** “She is very thorough; she sets everything out very clearly for us.” “Excellent service, very knowledgeable, approachable and professional.” **Kevin O’Hagan** has notable experience in personal injury cases and is frequently instructed by insurers as well as large companies in the retail and utilities sectors. He offers particular expertise in public liability claims. **Strengths:** “Kevin is extremely knowledgeable about our business and the issues we face. He is an excellent tactician and takes a robust approach when defending matters, although he can be pragmatic when circumstances warrant such an approach.”

Johnsons Solicitors

What the team is known for Johnsons Solicitors’ outstanding team frequently advises major insurers on large-loss personal injury claims. It is experienced across a range of areas, including workplace injuries, claims arising from RTAs and childhood injuries. It is also known for advising on product liability litigation. The firm’s offices in both Belfast and Dublin facilitate cross-border matters.

Strengths

“They are highly responsive with excellent service levels. Johnsons Solicitors provide realistic estimates and values. It’s excellent value for money.” “They provide a very professional and prompt service which is also very cost-effective. They’re not perfect, because no one is, but they’re damn near it for what we need. The lawyers are all very pragmatic, practical and commercial in the way they approach things.”

“I am very happy with the depth and quality of those that I do have contact with. They are always on the ball.”

“A very good firm to deal with. I like dealing with them. I think they’re very professional: we have a very good working relationship.”

Notable practitioners

Kenny Chambers is Johnsons’ managing partner and also heads its defence insurance litigation group. He has a wide-ranging practice that encompasses personal injury claims concerning workplace injuries, RTAs and product liability. **Strengths:** “Kenny Chambers is a highly professional individual.” “He’s a very personable and practical lawyer with a vast amount of experience, both in Great Britain and Northern Ireland. He’s always very responsive.” “An exceptionally talented individual. His general demeanour and manner is extremely engaging. He’s just all round a nice guy who is personable and explains things well. He’s very hands on, and knows his individual cases.” “An excellent lawyer who never fails to deliver the right result.” **David Craig** is an experienced personal injury solicitor who heads the firm’s large-loss team. His practice spans a range of substantial claims including injuries resulting from workplace

accidents, RTAs and faulty products. **Strengths:** “He cares about the quality of the work and enjoys longstanding trust from his clients. A consummate professional.”

Tughans

What the team is known for Tughans’ versatile group defends insurers against occupational disease and catastrophic injury claims. Its lawyers frequently advise on concomitant fraud and policy coverage issues. The team has a specialist focus on claims arising from credit hire and repair issues involving motor insurance companies. It is also active in claims related to travel and accidents abroad.

Strengths

“They always provide clear, concise and pragmatic advice that is highly valued. It’s a very high standard of personnel at all levels. They are regarded as being the top commercial practice in this jurisdiction.”

“It’s a large team of highly experienced professionals across a range of specialities. They are always on top of the issues. Costs are always very clear and reasonable for a high level of service.”

“Their reports are very in-depth. I would use Tughans a lot because I’m confident with them. They listen to your concerns.”

“They show deep levels of knowledge on each subject matter. It’s very clear that Tughans strive to excel and deliver a best-in-class service.”

Notable practitioners

Kathy McGillie leads Tughans’ personal injury defendant team and represents a number of leading insurers on complex cases. She has considerable experience in catastrophic injury claims arising from RTAs and workplace accidents, as well as handling industrial disease matters.

Strengths: “An excellent person to work with and highly appreciated by clients.” “Kathy is very good in personal injury litigation.” **Neil Smyth** has a wide-ranging personal injury practice that includes a significant focus on cross-border cases. He handles complex catastrophic injury claims as well as those brought in relation to employers’, public and occupiers’ liability. **Strengths:** “Neil is always very professional, on top of issues, and provides excellent advice at all times.” “A very, very competent individual; he’s got good knowledge.”

Band 2

Carson McDowell

What the team is known for Carson McDowell acts for a range of insurers and self-insured clients. The personal injury team defends claims relating to employers’, occupiers’ and public liability, as well as RTAs. It also assists clients with industrial disease claims, in addition to cross-border cases involving the Republic of Ireland.

Strengths

“Carson McDowell offer very good value on complex cases and provide timely updates when needed.”

“The way they format what’s going on is really good. They’re really good at synopsis: you’re not hunting for the information.”

“They’re head and shoulders above the other solicitors that we use. We always feel very confident

when we’re using them.”

“Their instructions are so detailed, it’s like they’re doing my job for me.”

“I have been consistently impressed by the depth of knowledge and standard of advice provided by Carson McDowell. They always adopt a commercially pragmatic approach, providing advice with a view to minimising the client’s exposure.”

Notable practitioners

Cathal O’Neill has notable experience of handling a range of public and employers’ liability cases, with a particular proficiency in hearing loss cases.

Strengths: “He’s got great knowledge and he’s very personable and easy to work with: I wouldn’t think twice about picking up the phone to him.” “Cathal is very, very good and very well regarded. He is practical, approachable and efficient, and just has a very nice way with him. Effective but pleasant.”

Clyde & Co LLP

What the team is known for Clyde & Co’s personal injury practice has broad expertise spanning RTA, historic abuse and catastrophic injury claims, as well as large loss and fatal accident claims. It is also known for its experience in professional indemnity and employers’ liability claims.

Strengths

“They have good knowledge and understanding of the works we undertake and the issues that could potentially arise. It is a great team with a wealth of knowledge and specialties between them.”

“I always find them a good team to work with; they are very well organised and efficient. They are a young, dynamic team that is pleasant to work with.”

“They go above and beyond with their advice and help.”

“It’s excellent value for money. Pricing was discussed and agreed exceptionally quickly. They are extremely well versed in this area and use legal tactics that I have not seen from any other firm.”

Notable practitioners

Cormac Fitzpatrick acts for insurance companies with high-value, complex personal injury claims. He also has experience in cases involving RTAs.

Strengths: “Cormac is the go-to person on complex large loss NI files.” “One of my main go-to injury and HSE lawyers in this jurisdiction.” “Cormac has demonstrated a high level of experience in dealing with a claimant with serious life-changing injuries. He has reassured and advised whilst diligently reporting to insurers on the potential liabilities involved.” “Cormac led the team exceptionally and was approachable and professional at all times.”

DWF

What the team is known for DWF’s well-regarded personal injury practice fields expertise across a broad range of claims. The team regularly defends against industrial disease cases, as well as handling areas such as product liability, RTAs and employers’ liability claims.

Strengths

“They have plenty of expertise and good solicitors to be able to handle all cases. They are attentive and communicate very well.”

“They have plenty of expertise and they have good solicitors who are able to handle all cases.”

“DWF have a good grasp of the issues. The team is very much on top of the work and they have

a cost-effective approach. It's a good, sensible approach but they are willing to take a stand where appropriate." "They are a really good firm and a young, dynamic team."

Notable practitioners

Claire Wylie is best known for her industrial disease defence work on behalf of insurers. She also regularly handles RTA and public and employers' liability cases. **Strengths:** "Claire Wylie is a very competent solicitor and has considerable expertise and legal knowledge."

Kennedys

What the team is known for Kennedys has extensive experience of defending a wide range of claims, including public liability, employers' liability and motor claims. Its client roster includes major insurers and multinationals. The team is also recommended for industrial disease claims, such as asbestos exposure and hearing loss, as well as product liability litigation.

Strengths

"I've found them pretty easy to work with. They do the work well." "An excellent firm dealing with complex personal injury cases. I have been very impressed with their level of service."

Notable practitioners

Amanda Wylie acts for clients including insurers, retailers and manufacturers in the defence of a wide range of personal injury cases. She offers significant experience in claims, including catastrophic injuries and fatalities arising from RTAs

and workplace incidents. **Strengths:** "She is very experienced. She knows our industry and she's a calm person." "She's a really, really good solicitor. Her advice is shorter than most because she cuts out a lot of the stuff you don't need."

Keoghs LLP

What the team is known for Keoghs has expertise of matters relating to RTAs, industrial disease and sexual assault, inter alia. It counts among its client roster major insurers, as well as education authorities.

Strengths

"Keoghs have a good range of experience and the ability to handle a variety of complex matters. The focus and attention to detail whilst not losing the ability to remain personable is commendable."

"Keoghs have a strong team who are experienced, focused and well managed to deal with a large portfolio of cases. The support team are equally polite, experienced, focused and well managed. They are efficient at collection and forwarding of expert fees."

"All the personnel with whom I have dealt have been efficient and professional. The staff are efficient, professional and provide support. They always give prompt responses."

"Their advice is always easy to understand and they are always welcoming in answering any questions I may have. They always come back to me promptly."

Notable practitioners

Victoria McLean is a key contact in the personal injury team in Belfast.

Murphy & O'Rawe

What the team is known for Murphy & O'Rawe is a notable firm that acts on a broad range of claims, including product liability, industrial disease and RTA cases. It is also noted for its significant experience advising on accidents sustained abroad. The department acts for a number of insurers and offers additional expertise in public liability claims.

Notable practitioners

Kevin Shevlin offers deep experience advising insurers on personal injury cases. He is particularly experienced in acting on occupational disease claims.

Other Ranked Lawyers

Chris Ritchie of Arthur Cox advises prominent insurers on product and employers' liability claims, with notable experience in relation to cross-border group litigation.

Strengths:

"Chris Ritchie is a very good lawyer."

PERSONAL INJURY: An Introduction to Scotland

Contributed by Digby Brown LLP

Over the past year, several aspects of practice have been at the forefront of the minds of personal injury practitioners.

One of the most significant reforms in this area in recent years was the introduction of qualified one-way cost shifting (QOCS) in June 2021. The provisions apply only to personal injury actions and allow the pursuer (claimant) to benefit from QOCS, provided they conduct proceedings in “an appropriate manner”. This means that, if their claim is unsuccessful, they are protected from meeting the expenses (costs) of the other side. That protection can only be removed in limited circumstances, principally if the claimant or their legal representative makes a fraudulent representation, acts in a way that is “manifestly unreasonable” in connection with the claim or proceedings, or acts in a way that amounts to an abuse of process.

The Scottish courts have considered the QOCS provisions in several cases over the past year and it has been positive to see a body of case law developing in this area, particularly addressing how the exceptions should be interpreted. The decisions make it clear that QOCS will be disapplied only in exceptional circumstances and emphasise that if a claimant is unsuccessful following an evidential hearing, it will not necessarily follow that their behaviour, or that of their agents, in pursuing the claim will be considered manifestly unreasonable or an abuse of the court process. The nature of litigation means that one party will almost invariably “lose” and it does not automatically follow that they have behaved inappropriately in maintaining their position.

The decisions also confirm that the threshold for establishing “manifestly unreasonable” behaviour, fraudulent representation or abuse of process is high. The overall message is that defenders’ agents should think carefully before asking the court to disapply the protection of QOCS and that any suggestion that the claimant or their agents have behaved in a way that merits the removal of QOCS protection should not be made lightly. This is of some comfort to claimants’ agents who need to be able to pursue cases and represent their clients without fear that, if the case ultimately fails, their client will be exposed to the risk of having to meet the other side’s expenses.

There was a suggestion from the insurance industry and their legal representatives that the introduction of QOCS would lead to an increase in claims without merit being pursued. However, the latest civil justice statistics in Scotland published earlier this year indicate that the overall downward trend in personal injury actions continues. With the exception of 2020-21, there have been between 7,500 and 9,500 personal injury cases initiated each year in the past decade. In 2021-22, there were 7,598, up 12% from 2020-21, but still well below the levels seen before the pandemic.

Another aspect of personal injury practice that insurers and those representing them had suggested might lead to an increase in actions raised in Scotland is the difference in the discount rate in Scotland, compared to the rate in England and Wales.

The discount rate is a percentage used in the calculation of lump sum damages awards for future loss claims such as earnings or care costs. It is designed to reflect the fact that someone receiving a lump sum payment may invest this and would expect

to get a return on that investment. Applying the discount rate is intended to make sure that the amount received reflects the return that would be earned if the lump sum received were to be invested, with the intention of avoiding over-compensation.

For well over a decade, the discount rate was the same in Scotland as in England and Wales at 2.5%. However, in 2019, following a review of the discount rate in both jurisdictions, the rate in England and Wales was adjusted to -0.25%, whereas in Scotland it is -0.75%. The reasons behind this variation are largely due to the different methods used to calculate the rate.

The difference in rates provoked speculation about the prospect that compensators would face paying higher levels of compensation in Scotland. It was also suggested that it would lead claimants who had sustained serious injuries to “forum shop” and choose to bring proceedings in Scotland rather than in England to take advantage of the lower discount rate. This has certainly not been reflected in our experience.

The discount rate provisions on both sides of the border include a requirement that the rate be reviewed after five years, so the reviews will take place in 2024. In preparation, the devolved administrations in Scotland and Northern Ireland issued a joint request for views on whether any changes should be made to the range of factors to be taken into account when calculating the discount rate. Of significance is the call for views on whether there should remain a single discount rate or whether, as is the case in some other jurisdictions, there should be dual or multiple rates.

The use of more than one discount rate is based on the assumption that the longer funds are invested, the more risk the investor can take, and that approach can lead to higher returns. One option under consideration is whether different rates could be applied based on the period that the award is supposed to cover, so a higher rate would be applied to damages for claimants with longer life expectancies.

Given the lack of certainty over inflation levels and with interest rates expected to rise, a review of the discount rate is welcome and timely, but we have reservations about the introduction of dual or multiple rates. Few other jurisdictions have experience with such rates, so there is little evidence of how these would work in practice. Our concern is that dual or multiple discount rates would place additional pressure on claimants who have suffered catastrophic injuries. Claimants already face a risk under the existing system because they are expected to invest their damages to try and ensure that they have sufficient funds to meet their needs for the rest of their lives. To expect them to become involved in investment practices that carry a higher risk in order to limit the possibility of under-compensation seems unjust.

The issue of recovery of English agents’ and counsel’s fees in Scottish litigation has been topical, with the Court of Session, Scotland’s highest civil court, providing decisions in a couple of cases which make it clear that whether those fees can be recovered from the unsuccessful party comes down to a question of reasonableness.

Solicitors from other jurisdictions, particularly England and Wales, sometimes conduct litigation in the Scottish courts, instructing Scottish solicitors to act as their agents. While there is

no suggestion that English solicitors' fees for particular pieces of work are not recoverable in Scottish litigation, those fees will only be allowed if they are reasonable for the proper conduct of the case. If the claimant could have instructed Scottish solicitors directly but chose instead to engage the services of solicitors elsewhere, those solicitors' fees are likely to be open to challenge.

Scotland Mainly Claimant

Personal Injury: Mainly Claimant	
Leading Firms	
Band 1	
Digby Brown LLP	
Thorntons Law LLP	
Band 2	
Balfour+Manson LLP	
Lindsays	
Thompsons Solicitors Scotland	
Band 3	
Anderson Strathern	
Harper Macleod LLP	
Irwin Mitchell	
Jackson Boyd LLP	
Morton Fraser	
Senior Statespeople & Eminent Practitioners	
Senior Statespeople: distinguished older partners	
Carr Robert	Anderson Strathern
Short David	Balfour+Manson LLP*
Eminent Practitioners	
McBean Gordon	Thorntons Law LLP
Leading Individuals	
Band 1	
Armstrong David	Lindsays
Dalyell Gordon	Digby Brown LLP
Davidson Neil	Digby Brown LLP
McIntosh David S	Balfour+Manson LLP*
Band 2	
Bell David	Irwin Mitchell
Blane Laura	Thompsons Solicitors Scotland
Clark-Spence Julie	Balfour+Manson LLP
Cornwell Jonathan	Lindsays
Gregory Lisa	Grant Smith Law (ORL) ◇
Kernaghan Robert	Digby Brown LLP
Macpherson Clare	Thorntons Law LLP
Band 3	
Adam Michelle	Thorntons Law LLP
Berry Dave	Jackson Boyd LLP
Calderwood Heather	Harper Macleod LLP
Cochran Stuart	Slater and Gordon Lawyers (ORL) ◇
Kelly Caroline	Thorntons Law LLP
Logan Ann	Balfour+Manson LLP*
Macdonald Alan	Jackson Boyd LLP
Milne Debbie	Jackson Boyd LLP
Nicol Iain	Thorntons Law LLP
Pasi Lauren	Lindsays
Stewart Chris	Digby Brown LLP
Associates to watch	
Bradshaw Pamela	Jackson Boyd LLP
Holt Rachel	Lindsays
* Indicates individual with profile.	
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.	
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.	

Band 1

Digby Brown LLP

What the team is known for Digby Brown's vast practice is split into a series of specialist areas, ensuring it is able to provide clients with deep expertise across the full gamut of personal injury matters, including employers' liability, motor accidents, industrial disease and offshore accidents. The firm has a team of specialists in offices across Scotland. With its own bespoke 'Compensate' litigation funding product, the firm provides clients with flexibility in managing the risks and costs of litigation. It also handles cases concerning accidents at work and asbestos-related injury, with further strength acting on historic sex abuse claims.

Strengths

"The team are sympathetic and very efficient with clients."

"The team are hard-working and experienced in the field."

Notable practitioners

Gordon Dalyell covers a range of personal injury cases in his practice, including motor accidents, accidents at work and fatal accident claims. **Strengths:** "Gordon is excellent, his work is great."

Neil Davidson is highly regarded for his Aberdeen-based practice, advising clients on offshore and marine workplace accidents including fatal and serious injury claims. He also acts on motor accident claims. **Robert Kernaghan** has notable strength handling serious and fatal injury claims arising from workplace accidents and motor accidents. He also has experience in cases involving historic abuse claims. **Chris Stewart** heads the serious injury department at the firm. He has a particular focus on spinal and brain injuries, including those stemming from motor and workplace accidents.

Thorntons Law LLP

What the team is known for A full-service firm with experience across the gamut of personal injury cases, including employers' and public liability, industrial disease and motor accident claims. Thorntons Law is the clear market leader outside of the Central Belt, with several offices located across Scotland as well as an office in Edinburgh. Clients are offered an integrated service including family, financial and private client support on matters involving brain injuries. The team is increasingly active in cases involving noise-induced hearing loss.

Strengths

"The firm's client service is excellent. Queries are answered in a timely manner throughout the pro-

cess."

"The team offers great communication and service."

Notable practitioners

Gordon McBean is the chief operating officer at Thorntons Law. He has a longstanding reputation for handling claims relating to workplace accidents and brain injuries. **Clare Macpherson** advises on employers' liability and occupational disease claims, including noise-induced hearing loss. She also offers experience in brain injury cases stemming from motor accidents.

Strengths: "Clare is a safe pair of hands; she is very good." Solicitor advocate **Michelle Adam** frequently represents clients in cases arising from workplace accidents and motor accidents. She has notable strength in fatal accident and brain injury claims, with further experience of psychological impacts. **Strengths:** "Michelle has fantastic client care skills. She is extremely knowledgeable."

"She is a very good court lawyer." **Caroline Kelly** is well experienced in workplace and motor accident claims involving brain and spinal injuries. **Iain Nicol** acts in catastrophic injury and fatal accident claims. He often represents clients in cases arising from motor and workplace accidents.

Band 2

Balfour+Manson LLP

What the team is known for Balfour+Manson has an impressive record of representing claimants in a broad range of personal injury cases, including catastrophic injury claims and fatal accidents. The team is well experienced in accidents at work and historic sexual abuse cases. It has a particular specialism in motor accidents and industrial disease matters. The team is also adept at handling complex cases involving brain and psychological injury.

Strengths

"The firm provides excellent service and response time."

"The team are personal, intelligent and efficient."

"The team always strive to do their best for clients."

Notable practitioners

David Short (see p.1152) demonstrates particular expertise in aviation-related claims, with a focus on employers' liability and fatal accidents. He is also well versed in injuries and abuse arising from corporate negligence. **Strengths:** "David is brilliant at cutting through to the issues. He has wealth of knowledge." "David is an exceptionally good personal injury lawyer." **David McIntosh** (see p.1150) handles high-value cases, advising on claims relating to brain and psychological injuries as a result of road traffic accidents. He also advises on

workplace accidents. **Strengths:** "David is excellent. His robust and clear advice is always provided in good time." "David is thoroughly committed to getting the best results for clients." **Julie Clark-Spence** focuses on serious injury and fatal claims involving offshore, farming and fishing accidents. She also advises on motor accident claims. **Strengths:** "She has a good reputation in the Aberdeen market for this work." **Ann Logan** (see p.208) frequently represents clients in cases arising from accidents at work and motor accidents. She has particular experience in claims involving spinal injury and psychiatric injury. **Strengths:** "She is very good with the client."

Lindsays

What the team is known for Lindsays has an extensive offering split into specialist teams that handle claims relating to industrial disease, travel and accidents abroad. The firm has deep expertise across a range of personal injury matters including motor accidents, public liability and historic sexual abuse. It has a particular specialism in claims involving psychological injuries.

Strengths

"The team are always responsive and prompt."

"Lindsays always demonstrate a good level of commercial awareness."

Notable practitioners

David Armstrong is head of personal injury team at the firm. He handles high-value and complex personal injury claims involving motor accidents, accidents abroad and workplace accidents. He also has experience in cases related to psychiatric injury. **Strengths:** "David is a great lawyer." **Jonathan Cornwell** handles catastrophic and psychological injury claims, including those stemming from motor accidents and workplace environments. **Strengths:** "Jonathan takes the time to explain processes, procedures and their necessities. His responses are quick and easy to read and digest." **Lauren Pasi** wins praise for her skill in high-value personal injury cases, including motor accidents, accidents at work, fatal accident and public liability claims. She has particular experience in claims involving fibromyalgia and other neurological disorders. **Strengths:** "Lauren is a very astute and well-organised lawyer." "Lauren is adept at identifying issues in cases. She is well organised and very personable." **Rachel Holt** is recognised for her broad personal injury practice including motor accidents and accidents at work. She has particular strength in psychological injuries and brain injuries. **Strengths:** "Rachel has a very clear and detailed understanding of her cases and the issues that arise in them. She is very organised and incredibly detailed in her preparation." "Rachel is a very strong lawyer who always appears prepared and informed." "She is highly competent and is excellent with clients."

Thompsons Solicitors Scotland

What the team is known for Thompsons Solicitors Scotland is well known for personal injury work, most notably on industrial disease claims including asbestos-related matters. The firm houses in-depth knowledge of employment law, making the team a go-to choice in this category of claims. It is also adept at handling serious injury

and fatal accident claims.

Notable practitioners

Laura Blane is noted for her expertise in asbestos-related disease claims, including advice on policy and legislative changes. **Strengths:** "Laura is a very experienced asbestos practitioner."

Band 3

Anderson Strathern

What the team is known for Anderson Strathern regularly deals with high-value personal injury cases, ranging from motor accidents to employers' liability claims. Its team is adept at handling post-traumatic stress disorder cases and criminal injury compensation claims. It is able to leverage the support of a highly regarded employment practice and possesses a longstanding relationship with the Royal College of Nursing.

Strengths

"Anderson Strathern are excellent at communicating with clients."

"The team are organised, efficient, well prepared and good communicators."

"The lawyers are excellent – well informed, thorough and caring."

Notable practitioners

Robert Carr has notable strength in matters concerning workplace accidents and employers' liability actions. **Strengths:** "Robert is a figurehead."

Harper Macleod LLP

What the team is known for Harper Macleod's well-regarded team has considerable experience in employers' and public liability and industrial disease actions. It is also noted for handling cases with cross-border elements. It has an office presence in the Central Belt and on the islands of Scotland, ensuring clients across the country can receive a full service to meet their needs. The lawyers are experienced in dealing with fatal accident claims including motor accidents and marine and workplace accidents.

Strengths

"The team are very informed and diligent in their approach."

Notable practitioners

Heather Calderwood handles catastrophic injury and fatal claims following motor and workplace accidents. She also advises on employers' liability and occupational disease matters. **Strengths:** "She is good with the client in terms of expectation management, practicalities and commercial approach." "Heather is very experienced."

Irwin Mitchell

What the team is known for Irwin Mitchell specialises in high-value, complex personal injury claims. It frequently handles motor accidents, employers' and public liability, and industrial disease actions such as asbestos and Legionnaires' disease-related claims. The team is also experienced in cases involving military law and regularly handles matters involving serious injuries and fatalities. Clients benefit from great depth of resources provided by the wider firm's network throughout the UK.

Strengths

"The team are responsive and collegiate in their approach."

"The firm have a strong team who provide clear instructions and engage effectively in correspondence."

"The team are clearly very experienced at handling complex personal injury cases."

Notable practitioners

David Bell handles complex personal injury matters including workplace accidents, motor accidents and fatal injury claims. **Strengths:** "David is really good with clients. He is very experienced." "David is a commercial and highly aware solicitor who understands client needs and delivers excellent results. He is personable, proactive and very pleasant to deal with." "He deals with everything promptly."

Jackson Boyd LLP

What the team is known for Jackson Boyd has extensive expertise in matters arising as a result of motor accidents and workplace accidents, including fatal and catastrophic injury claims. The team has further experience in psychological injury claims, and has a growing practice in historic sexual abuse cases.

Strengths

"Jackson Boyd has strength in personal injury."

Notable practitioners

Dave Berry is the head of Jackson Boyd's employers' liability, public liability department and clinical negligence department. He has experience handling claims concerning assault in the workplace and serious injuries from motor accidents. **Strengths:** "He is reliable, proactive, experienced and always very well prepared."

Alan Macdonald heads Jackson Boyd's litigation department. He is particularly active in serious injury and fatal claims stemming from motor accidents. **Strengths:** "Alan is very much tuned into the client. His client management is very good."

Solicitor advocate **Debbie Milne** acts for clients suffering brain and spinal injuries as a result of workplace accidents and motor accidents. She has further strength in fatal claims and cases involving industrial disease. **Strengths:** "Debbie is very pragmatic." "Debbie Milne is an extremely capable solicitor advocate in personal injury."

Pamela Bradshaw is noted for her work handling accidents at work and public liability. She also has significant experience in psychological injury claims. **Strengths:** "Pamela is thorough, hard-working, conscientious and great with clients."

Morton Fraser

What the team is known for Morton Fraser houses a specialist team that handle claims relating to industrial disease and motor accidents. It has deep expertise across asbestos-related matters, especially mesothelioma cases. The team regularly handles matters involving serious injuries and fatalities.

Strengths

"The team are highly supportive and are clear communicators."

"The firm's correspondence and administration are without delay and accurate."

Notable practitioners

Jenny Dickson is a key contact.

Other Ranked Lawyers

Stuart Cochran of Slater and Gordon Lawyers is head of the firm's Scotland team. He handles complex personal injury matters, including workplace accidents, motor accidents and abuse cases.

Strengths:

"Stuart offers excellent advice."

"He is a very good personal injury lawyer."

Lisa Gregory of Grant Smith Law wins praise for her skill in high-value personal injury cases, including those stemming from workplace accidents in the oil and gas, farming and fishing industries.

Strengths:

"Lisa is an experienced practitioner."

Scotland Mainly Defendant

Personal Injury: Mainly Defendant
Leading Firms
Band 1
Clyde & Co LLP
Band 2
Brodies LLP
BTO Solicitors LLP
DAC Beachcroft Scotland
Band 3
Anderson Strathern
Burness Paull
DWF
Harper Macleod LLP
Kennedys
Keoghs LLP
Ledingham Chalmers LLP
Mackinnons
Morton Fraser
Weightmans
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

Band 1

Clyde & Co LLP

What the team is known for Clyde & Co has a market-leading personal injury practice with a formidable reputation for defence work. It is highly regarded for its expertise in catastrophic injury and disease claims, as well as RTAs and employment liability. The team is noted for its strong track record on abuse claims. It is a favoured firm for a number of well-known insurers, especially in cases of high complexity. The firm is long appointed to a large number of Scottish insurance panels, the firm remains a go-to for exceptional service on high-volume claims.

Strengths

"The team offers great communication and responsiveness. They also have great commercial awareness."

"The solicitors have the ability to cut through the detail to get to the relevant issues."

"Clyde & Co have a wealth of knowledge within their teams."

Notable practitioners

Vikki Melville is the managing partner at Clyde & Co, Scotland. She is adept at handling complex fatal accident and catastrophic injury matters following RTAs. She also acts on employers' and public liability claims. **Strengths:** "She is very approachable and always offers excellent input into anything she is involved in." "Vikki is very strong in all areas and aware of clients' needs." **Mark Donaldson** is often instructed by insurers on

Personal Injury: Mainly Defendant
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Edward Graeme Ledingham Chalmers LLP
Melville Vikki Clyde & Co LLP
Band 2
Currie Catherine A BTO Solicitors LLP
Dickson Jenny Morton Fraser
Donaldson Mark Clyde & Co LLP
Graham Gilles Clyde & Co LLP
Leslie Victoria Ledingham Chalmers LLP
Rushbury Gillian DAC Beachcroft Scotland
Tait David Clyde & Co LLP
Band 3
Boyle Harry Clyde & Co LLP
Constable Andrew Clyde & Co LLP
Dance Karen Clyde & Co LLP
Ferguson Garry BTO Solicitors LLP
Forrest Carly Brodies LLP
Hughes Frank Clyde & Co LLP
Jackson Rory Kennedys
Lothian Andrew DWF
Maillie John DAC Beachcroft Scotland
Sinclair Martin Mackinnons
Smith Neil Burness Paull
Band 4
Ashby Toni Clyde & Co LLP
Busby Seonaid Weightmans
Calderwood Heather Harper Macleod LLP
Demick Peter Kennedys
Forsyth Andrew Burness Paull
Gallagher Louise DAC Beachcroft Scotland
Gilmour Andrew Clyde & Co LLP
Gordon Tanya Clyde & Co LLP
Henry Rachel Clyde & Co LLP
McGarrigle Suzanne Harper Macleod LLP
Morris Sarah Ledingham Chalmers LLP
Phillips Sarah Anderson Strathern
Rough Rachel DAC Beachcroft Scotland
Stevenson Pamela Weightmans
Up-and-coming individuals
Bain Rachael Mackinnons
Associates to watch
Donachie Kate Brodies LLP
McLeod Kim Clyde & Co LLP

employers' and public liability claims. **Strengths:** "He is a very results-driven individual and he's very sensitive to issues at hand." **Gilles Graham** acts on RTAs and employers' and public liability mandates. He offers particular strength in industrial disease cases, including asbestos-related and HAVS claims. **Strengths:** "He's very well regarded in the market." **David Tait** focuses on occupa-

tional disease matters, with particular expertise in asbestos-related litigation. **Strengths:** "He has genuine expertise in asbestos litigation." "Tait has a lot of experience in asbestos and respiratory illness claims." **Harry Boyle** leads Clyde & Co's casualty team within the Aberdeen office. He demonstrates notable expertise handling offshore oil and gas indemnity disputes. He offers further experience in employers' liability and public liability actions. **Strengths:** "He provides a very good service." **Andrew Constable** is particularly active on catastrophic injury and fatal claims. He also advises on employers' and public liability matters. **Karen Dance** acts on employers' and public liability claims and offers particular strength in defended reparation cases. **Strengths:** "She is always really good to deal with." **Frank Hughes** has expertise in employers' and public liability matters, with claims stemming from workplace accidents and working conditions. He also advises on catastrophic injury claims arising from RTAs and historic abuse claims. **Strengths:** "He is very pragmatic, logical and he sees the bigger picture." **Toni Ashby** acts for insurers and their clients on occupational disease matters, with a particular focus on claims arising from exposure to asbestos. **Strengths:** "She is a very good technical lawyer." **Andrew Gilmour** has notable experience of handling occupational disease matters, such as claims involving asbestos. He has further experience of providing counsel on employers' liability and public liability claims. **Strengths:** "He is very approachable and knowledgeable. He is also a great negotiator." **Tanya Gordon** acts for clients on a variety of matters, including claims for employers' and public liability. She has notable strength in RTA cases, with further experience handling claims of historic abuse. **Strengths:** "Tanya is very experienced, knowledgeable and respected within the Scottish insurance market." **Rachel Henry** is instructed by insurance companies to represent their clients in workplace accidents, public liability and motor claims. She has notable experience in cases involving fatalities and brain injuries. **Strengths:** "Rachel is an excellent solicitor - she represents her clients very well." **Kim McLeod** is particularly active in employers' liability claims, with a focus on those arising from the oil and gas and offshore industries. She also assists with motor incident claims. **Strengths:** "Kim is commercially very astute." "She is very focused and very knowledgeable in the area."

Band 2**Brodies LLP**

What the team is known for Brodies provides a full service with particular expertise in RTAs, employers' liability and industrial disease actions. Its clients include major multinational insurers, self-insured companies and public bodies. The team is adept at dealing with marine and offshore matters and cases that relate to environmental and other forms of contamination. It is also noted for its in-house advocacy team and ability to draw upon expertise in areas such as housing, employment and tax for more complex claims.

Strengths

"The team has excellent technical knowledge of the subject matter and its impact on the case."

"Brodies' group demonstrates outstanding commitment and fantastic support and dedication."

"It's a very solid, technical, wide-ranging, well-resourced law firm."

Notable practitioners

Carly Forrest handles claims concerning employers' and public liability and RTAs. She concentrates her practice on catastrophic injury matters, such as brain and spinal injuries, as well as psychological impact. She also handles fatal claims. **Strengths:** *"Carly is an outstanding practitioner who knows her field of expertise very well."* *"Her work is extremely thorough and she's very good with clients."* **Kate Donachie** is experienced in handling claims related to RTAs. She also assists with employers' liability matters.

Strengths: *"She is a really strong and technical lawyer."* *"Kate is always very helpful."*

BTO Solicitors LLP

What the team is known for BTO Solicitors' personal injury arm regularly handles a variety of RTA and employers' liability claims, alongside a range of other personal injury cases. Its specialist teams have wide-ranging expertise in areas such as fraud and catastrophic injuries. The firm advises prominent insurance clients, including investigators and brokers. The team is experienced in handling all stages of litigation including pre-litigation and settlement advice, and is supported by a strong team of solicitor advocates.

Strengths

"The team has a wealth of experience."

"They have excellent knowledge of the local legal landscape and opponents, allowing for tailored strategies to achieve the best outcomes."

"It's a very strong firm and a good name in the market."

Notable practitioners

Catherine Currie acts for major insurance companies and their clients on the full gamut of personal injury matters. She offers particular strength in catastrophic injury claims arising from motor incidents, with further experience of food contamination issues. **Strengths:** *"Catherine is a highly experienced and justifiably well-respected partner."* *"She has a technical perspective and is very pragmatic."* **Garry Ferguson** is particularly active on serious injury and fatal RTA claims, with additional strength in employers' liability matters.

Strengths: *"Garry is a highly experienced solicitor with a sound knowledge of the relevant law."* *"He's*

an excellent lawyer."

DAC Beachcroft Scotland

What the team is known for DAC Beachcroft Scotland's highly esteemed personal injury practice is admired in particular for its work on catastrophic injury, disease and fraudulent claims. It acts for a number of prominent insurers, particularly within the motor industry, on large loss claims. It coordinates with teams across the UK to provide a seamless service to national clients. The firm has invested in digital and technological platforms to tackle problem areas in insurance.

Strengths

"The team has a really good way of dealing with claims in a pragmatic way."

"DAC Beachcroft has a fantastic team with strength and depth."

Notable practitioners

Gillian Rushbury advises on RTA and employers' and public liability matters in claims for catastrophic injury. **Strengths:** *"Gillian is very pragmatic."* *"She is fantastic – she's very able, knowledgeable, experienced and hard-working."*

John Maillie acts for insurers on claims for catastrophic injuries arising as a result of RTAs and workplace injuries. **Strengths:** *"John is fantastic – he is a meticulous, able and clever lawyer. He knows the insurance market inside and out."*

Louise Gallagher frequently handles public liability claims against social care organisations for fatalities, psychiatric harm and infection control. **Strengths:** *"Louise is a very experienced and sound practitioner."* *"She is very pragmatic."*

Rachel Rough advises insurers on serious and catastrophic injury claims, with a focus on brain and spinal injury. She offers particular strength in cases involving children. **Strengths:** *"She is really good to deal with and has a lot of experience in the space."*

Band 3**Anderson Strathern**

What the team is known for Anderson Strathern handles a wide variety of cases on behalf of defenders, including catastrophic injury and employers' and public liability claims, as well as both high- and low-value RTA cases. The team is known for its work with the Scottish government and prison services. The firm has a client roster that also includes insurers and liability adjusters. It draws on expertise from other departments to offer clients a full-service approach. The group is experienced in appearing before every level of court in Scotland, as well as the UK Supreme Court. It provides post-compensation advice including personal injury trusts and guardianships.

Strengths

"The group are well organised, and have a high level of technical knowledge and understanding of the issues they work on."

"Anderson Strathern is a very attentive firm in terms of the client."

Notable practitioners

Sarah Phillips offers particular strength in workplace-related claims, including psychiatric injury

and occupational disease. She also advises on cases involving serious injury and fatalities arising from RTAs. **Strengths:** *"Sarah is organised, diligent and compassionate."* *"She's a very hard-working solicitor – she goes the extra mile and is very conscientious."*

Burness Paull

What the team is known for Burness Paull acts for corporate, public sector and insurance clients on high-value personal injury claims. The personal injury team is noted for its expertise in industrial disease and workplace accident claims within the construction, aviation and maritime sector. It is experienced in employers', occupiers' and public liability matters, with further strength handling fatal accident claims.

Strengths

"Their advice is not only sound in its legal analysis, but is always combined with excellent awareness of the surrounding practicalities and commercial considerations, resulting in pragmatic, clear advice."

"The client service is excellent."

"The team has excellent experience and knowledge."

Notable practitioners

Neil Smith is known for his expertise in marine and offshore personal injury work, advising on employers' liability claims involving offshore accidents and industrial disease. **Strengths:** *"He has an empathetic approach on cases. He is also very experienced and tenacious."* **Andrew Forsyth** leads Burness Paull's personal injury defence practice. He has particular expertise in marine personal injury matters. **Strengths:** *"His advice is always appropriately concise and he combines this with an extremely thorough understanding of legal procedure."* *"Andrew is an excellent lawyer, he knows his subject area well and is responsive to the client's needs."*

DWF

What the team is known for DWF draws on expertise from offices around the UK to offer clients a full-service approach. The Scottish personal injury defence team acts for a number of prominent insurers on fatal accident inquiries. It specialises in a wide variety of areas including catastrophic injuries arising from motor and workplace claims. The firm also has a counter-fraud team to deal with dubious claims.

Strengths

"The team is terrific at understanding and explaining complex and sophisticated matters and keeping their client's perspective central to their thinking."

"DWF is very good at understanding what clients want and translating that into action."

"DWF's group is extremely responsive. They also demonstrate their ability to handle complex matters extremely effectively."

Notable practitioners

Andrew Lothian handles high-value fatal accidents and catastrophic injury claims, often involving issues of employers' liability. He also offers experience in accident abroad claims.

Strengths: *"He is exceptionally talented and professional."*

Harper Macleod LLP

What the team is known for Harper Macleod's team of dedicated personal injury specialists is experienced in dealing with a number of different cases, including disease, employers' and public liability claims. Cases arising from RTAs are a notable area of focus. The team handles matters across the spectrum of claim values, and provides pre- and post-litigation advice for major insurers, brokers, transportation companies and private individuals.

Strengths

"It's a quality firm that is highly regarded."

"The team has an excellent range of experience."

Notable practitioners

Heather Calderwood is particularly active on claims stemming from RTAs involving head, spinal and psychological injuries. She also advises on cases following accidents at work. **Strengths:** *"She is very proactive and great to work with."* *"Heather is very experienced and very able."*

Suzanne McGarrigle is particularly active on claims stemming from workplace accidents and industrial disease. **Strengths:** *"She is very strong all round and successfully manages highly complex, high-value cases."* *"Suzanne is diligent and insightful in her handling of cases."*

Kennedys

What the team is known for Kennedys undertakes an array of personal injury matters, with significant expertise in catastrophic injury and fatal accident claims, particularly in relation to RTAs. The team has extensive experience handling claims in the marine and agriculture sectors, as well as cross-border cases. It also acts on claims alleging historic abuse.

Strengths

"The team is very knowledgeable and effective."

"They have deep legal and strategic knowledge."

"Kennedys' team provide great attention to detail and are personable."

Notable practitioners

Rory Jackson handles a wide range of personal injury matters including catastrophic injuries and secondary victim claims. He also advises on occupational disease matters, as well as claims in the offshore and agriculture sectors. **Strengths:** *"His client service is exceptional."* *"Rory has got an excellent understanding of the market and he is great with clients."* **Peter Demick** advises on public and employers' liability claims, as well as RTA cases, with strength in catastrophic and fatal injury matters. He has further experience of psychiatric injury claims. **Strengths:** *"Peter has a very strong commercial understanding and he is very efficient."* *"He offers strong, well thought-out advice."*

Keoghs LLP

What the team is known for Keoghs is recommended for handling claims stemming from RTAs and catastrophic injuries, including fatalities, with further strength in historic abuse cases. The team also advises on employers' liability claims. It acts for insurers as well as local authority and corporate clients.

Strengths

"The team are responsive and always do an excellent job."

"The Keoghs group are very good with communication and are forward-thinking."

Notable practitioners

Douglas Cowan is a key contact.

Ledingham Chalmers LLP

What the team is known for Ledingham Chalmers has a leading personal injury team in Aberdeen and in its other offices located throughout Scotland. It handles a wide variety of matters, including disease, employers' and public liability, property damage and RTA claims. It is also noted for extensive expertise in stress at work cases, and is experienced in catastrophic and fraudulent cases, frequently representing high-profile insurers. The Edinburgh office offers a specialist service, capable of dealing with liability and subrogation claims.

Strengths

"The service from Ledingham Chalmers is always excellent and responses are always very prompt."

"The team consistently demonstrate substantial skill and experience. They are also a pleasure to deal with."

"Ledingham's group respond promptly with detailed and knowledgeable advice."

Notable practitioners

Graeme Edward handles big-ticket catastrophic and fatal accident claims, particularly those relating to RTAs, as well as having experience advising on historic abuse matters. **Strengths:** *"A very experienced, very knowledgeable and technical lawyer."* **Victoria Leslie** represents clients in public and employers' liability matters involving industrial disease, psychological injury and catastrophic injury. **Strengths:** *"Victoria is a really enthusiastic lawyer who strives to go the extra mile for her client."* **Sarah Morris** acts for insurers and local authorities on employers' and public liability claims. **Strengths:** *"Sarah always provides an excellent service and her knowledge of the cases is exceptional."* *"She has the ability to drill down into detail while at the same time giving direct and succinct advice."* *"Sarah offers exceptional advice on all aspects of the claims she deals with."*

Mackinnons

What the team is known for Mackinnons is noted among other things for its expertise in the maritime sector. The team handles a range of personal injury matters covering serious injury and fatalities stemming from workplace accidents, RTAs and exposure to asbestos. It acts on claims with international dimensions.

Strengths

"The group is exceptionally well organised and well prepared."

"Mackinnons' vast experience in this area means that they provide clear, focused advice."

"The team is highly knowledgeable and always very helpful."

Notable practitioners

Martin Sinclair has notable expertise handling cases in the marine sector. He handles employers'

liability claims stemming from serious workplace injury and industrial disease. He offers further experience of RTA matters. **Strengths:** *"Martin has excellent knowledge and depth of experience and is able to apply this in a very practical way."* *"He has a lot of industry knowledge."* **Rachael Bain** has significant experience handling issues in the maritime sector following workplace incidents. Her clients include insurance companies and high-profile organisations. **Strengths:** *"Rachel is very organised and very thoughtful."* *"She is exceptionally efficient."*

Morton Fraser

What the team is known for Morton Fraser defends large public and private sector clients in complex personal injury cases. The team is regularly instructed by high-profile public sector bodies. It is highly regarded for its work on disease actions, with significant experience handling RTA and employers' and public liability claims. The team is also adept at handling highly sensitive historic abuse cases.

Strengths

"Morton Fraser's team is really good."

Notable practitioners

Jenny Dickson acts on brain, spinal and psychiatric injury claims, often involving motor accidents. She also advises on historic abuse and industrial disease claims. **Strengths:** *"Jenny is an impressive lawyer who has good technical knowledge."* *"She is always helpful."*

Weightmans

What the team is known for Weightmans' personal injury defence practice covers the full range of employers' and public liability cases, regularly handling catastrophic and fatal claims, and often acting on behalf of many of the UK's top insurers and adjusters. The team is active on RTAs, with increasing experience in motor fraud claims and a solid track record in disease claims, including asbestos-related cases. A strong presence south of the border facilitates UK-wide assistance for clients. The Scottish team is skilled at handling marine disputes and cross-border matters.

Strengths

"The team is very courteous and very efficient."

"The group offer excellent advice and support."

"Weightmans' group has a great depth of knowledge, expertise and professionalism, which is demonstrated throughout the handling of all cases."

Notable practitioners

Seonaid Busby handles high-value catastrophic injury and fatal claims arising from RTAs, occupational disease and employers' and public liability. **Strengths:** *"She gives practical advice and she is very experienced."* *"Seonaid is very effective."* **Pamela Stevenson** is particularly active on industrial disease claims, including those concerning fatalities. She offers further experience handling RTAs and abuse claims. **Strengths:** *"Pamela continues to deliver an excellent service – she has a hard work ethic and a depth of knowledge within her industry."*

Leaders' Profiles in Personal Injury

ALLEN, Patrick

Hodge Jones & Allen, London
0808 239 5497
pallen@hja.net

Featured in Personal Injury (London)

Practice Areas: Patrick qualified as a solicitor in 1977 when he founded Hodge Jones & Allen in Camden Town with Henry Hodge and Peter Jones. He has been managing the firm for 46 years, becoming senior partner following Henry's retirement in 1998. Patrick has specialised in complex personal injury and multi-party cases. He led the Gulf War illness claims for UK veterans and the New Cross Fire inquest. He also managed the MMR and Sheep Dip multi-party actions and played a lead role in the King's Cross Fire and Marchioness Litigation on behalf of claimants. He assisted a number of women sent to Magdalene Laundries to claim compensation. He acted for Leigh Day in the initial stages of the claims brought against them by the SRA. He is a member of the HJA team working on Hillsborough and Grenfell claims, and worked on the enquiry into the death of a construction worker in Qatar and the leading case of *Al Najar v Cumberland Hotel*. Patrick acts as a deputy and trustee for brain injured clients. Patrick received the 2017 Solicitors Journal Lifetime Achievement Award for his services to the legal profession and access to justice over forty years.

Career: Articles-Offenbach & Co 1974-76. Qualified 1977 when he founded Hodge Jones & Allen, Senior Partner. Founder and Chair of the Progressive Economy Forum.

Professional Memberships: President of APIL 2002-03; Senior Fellow, APIL; Law Society Council 2002-06, Law Society Civil Justice Committee 2002-2017; Forum of Claimant Injury Solicitors (FoCIS); Deputy District Judge 1997-2014.

ARAM, Rachael

Irwin Mitchell, Sheffield
07918 675037

rachael.aram@irwinmitchell.com

Featured in Personal Injury (Yorkshire)

Practice Areas: Rachael specialises in representing Claimants who have sustained severe brain injuries, often lacking capacity and Claimant's who have sustained spinal cord injuries at paraplegic and tetraplegic levels. She manages one of the specialist serious injury teams at Irwin Mitchell LLP Sheffield Office. Rachael is the National Chair of the Spinal Cord Injury Group at Irwin Mitchell LLP and the National Early Careers Partner for Serious Injury at the firm, responsible for succession planning, budgeting and supporting our young lawyers just starting their careers at Irwin Mitchell LLP via training contracts, graduate programmes and apprenticeships.

Career: Durham University 1994-97 – Collingwood College, Law LLB (Hons) Legal Practice Course 1997-98 – College of Law, York Training Contract at

Lanyon Bowdler LLP 1999-2001 Joined Irwin Mitchell LLP in 2002. Appointed Associate in 2007 and appointed as Partner in 2013.

Professional Memberships:

Member of the Law Society · Accredited Fellow of APIL · Accredited Brain Injury Specialist APIL · Accredited Spinal Cord Injury Specialist APIL · Accredited Assessor for Specialist Accreditation for Brain and Spinal Cord Injury

AYLOTT, Rob

Osbornes Law, London

020 7485 8811

robert.aylott@osborneslaw.com

Featured in Personal Injury (London)

Practice Areas: Rob is a highly experienced catastrophic injury solicitor, specialising in all aspects of serious injury claims. Qualified as a solicitor for some 26 years, Rob acts exclusively for claimants. His cases involve injuries of the utmost severity such as amputations of upper and lower limbs, brachial plexus injuries, brain and spinal cord injuries, multiple orthopaedic injuries and fatal accidents. He has vast experience in dealing with accidents arising out of road traffic accidents (particularly accidents involving motorcyclists and cyclists), accidents at work and injuries arising from clinical negligence. Rob's first priority, in any case, is to assist where possible with any financial and rehabilitation needs, benefits and housing. He will then assemble the best medical and legal team to help pursue your claim for damages.

Career: An accredited Senior Litigator with the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers, Rob was also appointed by the Law Society as an assessor on the Law Society Catastrophic Injury Accreditation Panel (an accreditation scheme for specialist solicitors in this field). Rob acts as a Trustee for Headway West Sussex, a branch of the national charity, assisting brain injured people in the West Sussex area.

Personal: In his spare time, Rob is a keen road cyclist and can be seen in the Surrey Hills most weekends. He also enjoys watching his children play various competitive sports.

BATTA, Rankeshwar

Anthony Collins Solicitors LLP,

Birmingham

0121 200 3242

rankeshwar.batta@anthonicollins.com

Featured in Clinical Negligence (Midlands), Personal Injury (Midlands)

Practice Areas: Rankeshwar leads the clinical negligence and personal injury litigation department. He has extensive experience in all types of clinical negligence and personal injury cases, including maximum severity/catastrophic injury and professional negligence work.

BETTS, Jonathan

Irwin Mitchell, Manchester

0161 838 3055

jonathan.betts@irwinmitchell.com

Featured in Personal Injury (North West)

Practice Areas: I'm the Personal Injury Lead Partner for the Manchester office and also manage the Manchester Serious Injury team. I'm passionate about getting our clients the rehabilitation and compensation awards they need after they've suffered serious injuries in an accident. I've recovered hundreds of millions of pounds of compensation for my clients during my career, over a wide range of complex serious injury cases. I've represented clients with brain injury, spinal cord injury, amputations and complex orthopaedic injuries. Me and my team also manage fatal accident claims on behalf of those who've lost a relative in an accident.

Some of my most recent compensation settlements include: – Settlement of £15.5 million for a young woman who was struck in her car at great speed. She suffered spinal fractures & a spinal cord injury that meant she could no longer feel or move below her spinal cord injury. – Settlement of nearly £6 million for a gentleman who became paralysed in his lower body after he was struck and crushed between two cars. – A seven figure sum for an elderly lady who suffered a catastrophic brain injury after being knocked down. – Settlement of £5.8 million for a middle aged gentleman who became paralysed in his lower body after he suffered spinal and internal injuries. – Settlement of £2.5 million for gentleman who suffered a brain injury as a passenger in a car that was driven off the road. – £1 million settlement for an elderly lady who suffered a brain injury after being knocked down while crossing a road. – £2.75 million for a young man who was ejected from a car after being driven off the road. He wasn't wearing a seatbelt so this made his case more complex. – Six figure sum for elderly lady struck by falling tree that had not been properly maintained. – Seven figure settlement for lady paralysed from the waist down after weightlifting accident in the gym, caused by inappropriate supervision by gym staff. I have expertise in getting my clients large interim payments (compensation payments made before the case has settled). Some of these are more than £1 million, in order to help provide accommodation, care, support and rehabilitation schemes for my seriously injured clients. I also handle professional negligence cases against other solicitors, when a personal injury claim has been badly handled by the solicitor. I also regularly give talks on rehabilitation and calculating compensation to health care professionals. My team were shortlisted for the Personal Injury/Clinical Negligence Team of the Year at the Manchester Law Society Legal Awards in 2010. We also won Claimant Solicitor of the Year in the 2016 Post Magazine Rehabilitation First Awards.

BIGGS, Richard

Irwin Mitchell, Manchester

0161 838 3092

Richard.biggs@irwinmitchell.com

Featured in Personal Injury (North West)

Practice Areas: I am a Partner across the Manchester and Liverpool office and market lead for the national serious injury team Irwin Mitchell office. My expertise lies in the following: – Amputation – Brain Injury – Spinal Injury I regularly lecture/present to other professionals too.

BOOY, Ruth

Irwin Mitchell, Cambridge

07711 182897

Ruth.booy@irwinmitchell.com

Featured in Personal Injury (East Anglia)

Practice Areas: I am a Partner in the Serious Injury department, based in our Cambridge Office. I have over 20 years post qualification experience and specialise in cases concerning complex high value catastrophic injury. I am passionate about getting our clients the rehabilitation and compensation awards they need after an injury and I have a particular passion for working with children with brain injury and ensuring that those injured in their youth reach their full potential. I also have extensive experience of spinal injury and amputation cases as well as running cross-jurisdictional and fatal accident claims. I often work alongside Deputies and I support the use of Case Managers in complex injury cases. I am renowned for successfully running high risk cases with complex legal arguments. I have written and presented training programmes for hospital consultants, case managers, police liaison officers, victim support and bereavement volunteers and the Citizen Advice Bureaux. I have also presented at the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers annual conference. Excellent client care and communication is paramount to me. I pride myself in being accessible, available and proactive and I consider myself to have very strong strategic planning skills which come into their own in complex injury cases.

BROUGH, Ken

Hodge Jones & Allen, London

0808 303 8814

KBrough@hja.net

Featured in Personal Injury (London)

Practice Areas: Ken Brough is a Partner in the Personal Injury department at Hodge Jones & Allen. He has vast experience of dealing with all manner of injury claims over the last 26 years although he has specialised in the last few years in catastrophic and serious injury claims involving brain injuries or multiple trauma as well as those involving fatalities. Ken combines a rigorous and analytical approach to cases with an empathetic and personable approach with clients, colleagues and opponents. He is calm and unflappable in the face of difficulties in litigation and is mentally very quick, having the

ability to see the key issues in a case swiftly. He is very much a 'safe pair of hands' for even the most complex litigation. Ken has a confident and down-to-earth manner with clients and is known for being able to put clients at their ease. He combines a friendly exterior with a steeliness where necessary, particularly when dealing with difficult opponents. Over the past few years he has settled numerous high value (£1m+) claims involving severe brain injury or polytrauma, often in cases involving disputed liability as well as quantum disputes. He has been instructed in several difficult fatal cases involving complex issues relating to the costs of replacement care for minors. Professional Comment "Ken... is a very experienced solicitor who has great judgment and knows a winning case. He has a confident manner and is great with clients. Ken's experience is invaluable in difficult cases. He does not get flustered and offers a clear-headed analysis in the most pressing of situations" Lionel Stride, Barrister "Ken was calm under fire, courageous and had a keen eye for discerning the wood from the trees. He was able to manage an extremely demanding client with charm and deft control. He was a pleasure to work with and was on top of every procedural twist and turn in the case." Marcus Grant, Barrister

Career: Ken has worked exclusively in Claimant personal injury since 1997 when he started training to be a solicitor and qualified in 1999. He has been with Hodge Jones & Allen since February 2021 having previously headed up the Birmingham office of a well-known national firm.

Professional Memberships: Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL)

BROWN, Alex
Dean Wilson LLP, Brighton
01273 249286
amb@deanwilson.co.uk

Featured in Clinical Negligence (The South), Personal Injury (The South)

Practice Areas: Alex practices in Personal Injury and Medical Negligence, specialising in complex and catastrophic injuries with values well in excess of £1,000,000. He has a wealth of experience dealing with brain injury, spinal cord injury, amputations and birth injuries. Alex and the team take a dedicated approach to rehabilitation being the most important part of any claim with the primary focus being on helping a client make the best possible recovery and enabling them to access the best treatment by securing funding and fighting for each clients needs.

Career: Alex has worked in Personal Injury for over 15 years and is regularly recognised as a leader in his field having regularly been recognised in both Chambers & Partner and the Legal 500 legal directories Alex was made a Partner at Dean Wilson in April 2018

Professional Memberships: Headway Solicitors List, Sussex Acquired Brain Injury Forum, Previous APIL South

East Secretary, Major Trauma Signposting Partnership (Brighton)

Personal: Alex has a background in care having been a support worker for his younger brother growing up. This has allowed him to have first hand knowledge and empathy for clients having to adapt to having support in the home and the difficult transition phase this entails.

BROWN, Matthew
Irwin Mitchell, Manchester
0161 838 2387
matthew.brown@irwinmitchell.com

Featured in Personal Injury (North West)

Practice Areas: I joined Irwin Mitchell as a trainee solicitor in 1997 and qualified in 1999. I spent nine years developing my expertise in the field of personal injury litigation at the firm's Leeds office, and was appointed Associate in 2004. In 2008 I moved to Manchester to help develop our new office there, and this is where I remain, practising exclusively in the field of Claimant catastrophic injury litigation (typically claims involving head and spinal injury, complex orthopaedic injuries & amputation). Formerly Secretary of the Wakefield branch of Headway, I now sit on the Management committee of Headway Salford and I am a member of the Law Society Personal Injury Panel. I am an APIL accredited Senior Litigator. I was made a Partner in the practice in May 2010.

Career: Trained Irwin Mitchell 1997, qualified 1999; associate 2004; moved to Manchester 2008; partner 2010.

Professional Memberships: APIL; Law Society Personal Injury Panel member.

BURBIDGE, Stephen M
Humphreys & Co., Bristol
01179292662
burbudge@humphreys.co.uk

Featured in Personal Injury (UK-wide)

Practice Areas: Asbestos related industrial disease.

Career: Partner. Leads highly regarded asbestos team that brings claims for clients (both UK and overseas) for compensation for asbestos-related disease. These include valuable claims for mesothelioma, asbestos-related lung cancer, asbestosis and pleural thickening in living and fatal cases.

Professional Memberships: Law Society. Law Society Panel of Personal Injury Lawyers. Member of Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL). APIL accredited Senior Litigator and APIL accredited Occupational Disease and Asbestos Disease Specialist. London Solicitors Litigation Association.

Personal: Interests include travel, horseracing and photography

CANDLISH, Joanne
Hodge Jones & Allen, London
0808 239 9152

Featured in Personal Injury (UK-wide)

Practice Areas: Joanne, a Partner in the Industrial Disease Department and a leading and highly experienced mesothelioma and complex injury lawyer. During a career spanning over 31 years she has acted for numerous

asbestos victims and their families. Joanne specialises in mesothelioma and asbestos related lung cancer claims and serious/complex personal injuries caused by road traffic and work place accidents. She has taken the fight for justice for her clients to the highest courts in the land, see notable cases below. She is a highly experienced litigator and has always acted for personal injury victims and in particular people exposed to asbestos. Recent successful cases include securing a seven figure settlement for a living lung cancer victim, and a six figure settlement for the widow of an 80 year old mesothelioma victim. Joanne recently secured a six figure settlement in a case in which she was instructed post death and the deceased's family knew very little about the asbestos exposure suffered by the deceased. Joanne was able to identify witnesses and go on to obtain a number of supportive witness statements, and expert evidence leading to settlement with the defendant, a matter of weeks before the case was due to be heard at a 3 day Trial. Joanne regularly obtains six figure settlements for her clients, particularly those who are suffering from mesothelioma. Her settlements include claims for novel and private medical treatment not available on the NHS as part of the settlement agreement. In another of Joanne's recent cases, she secured a settlement for her client of £283,500 in a multi-defendant claim, together with the option to activate a private medical treatment agreement in the future and nearly £10,000.00 for the local hospice who had provided symptom control and pain relief treatment to Joanne's client. Joanne works closely with local asbestos support charities, most notably the London Asbestos Support Awareness Group. Joanne has over many years campaigned for justice, taking to the streets in the North West and London to fight for the rights of those diagnosed with Mesothelioma and to push for the need for increased funds for research. Campaigns include #Cape Must Pay! and Save Phoenix House. Her clients have spoken of her empathy, dedication and determination to secure justice and compensation. She works closely with medical professionals, engineering experts, support groups and other charities to assist victims and their families and to raise awareness of the issues affecting asbestos victims. Joanne's expertise is recognised by those she works with and through independent accreditation by The Association of Personal Injury Lawyers, of which she is an Asbestos and Occupational Disease specialist.

Career: Joanne started her legal career at a small High Street Legal Aid firm, as a trainee legal executive, in 1992. Joanne attended evening classes at the local college to pass the legal executive professional exams, which she completed in 1996. She then attended university evening classes to gain her law degree, whilst working full time as a qualified legal executive. She joined Thompsons in 2004 and was head of the North West

Regional Asbestos Team. She has been a Partner at Hodge Jones & Allen LLP in London since July 2021.

Professional Memberships:

APIL (Association of Personal Injury Lawyers): Accredited Senior Litigator, Asbestos and Occupational Disease Specialist.

COLLARD, Sam
Osbornes Law, London
020 7482 8428
sam.collard@osborneslaw.com

Featured in Personal Injury (London)

Practice Areas: Sam is a Partner and head of cycling accident claims. He specialises in high value and complex injury claims, including brain and spinal cord injuries, loss of limbs, fatalities, and severe psychiatric harm. Sam joined Osbornes as a trainee in 2009 and qualified as a Solicitor in 2011, before becoming an Associate in 2016, building up a wealth of experience acting for Claimants in Employers' Liability, Public Liability and Road Traffic Accident cases. Sam also enjoys productive relationships with many of the leading Personal Injury barristers in London.

Career: Sam joined Osbornes as a trainee in 2009 and qualified as a Solicitor in 2011, before becoming an Associate in 2016, building up a wealth of experience acting for Claimants in Employers' Liability, Public Liability and Road Traffic Accident cases. Sam also enjoys productive relationships with many of the leading Personal Injury barristers in London. Sam runs his own case load of high value claims including several valued at in excess of £1million. He believes in seeking justice for his clients by offering clear and concise legal advice. Sam is an Accredited Senior Litigator by the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL).

Professional Memberships: Sam is an Accredited Senior Litigator by the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL).

Personal: In his spare time, Sam enjoys playing football, cycling and running around after his two young daughters.

DANIELS, Luke
Irwin Mitchell, Birmingham
0121 2145244
luke.daniels@irwinmitchell.com

Featured in Clinical Negligence (Midlands), Personal Injury (Midlands)

Practice Areas: I am a Partner and the Regional Head of the Irwin Mitchell Medical Negligence team in Birmingham. I have specialised in medical negligence cases for over 23 years. I have significant amounts of experience across the complete spectrum of medical accidents including cases against hospitals, GPs and other health professionals. I have dealt with numerous cases involving children and mothers injured at birth, brain and spinal injuries and have also handled many fatal cases in which I represent family members at coroner's inquests. I regularly recover damages in excess of several millions of pounds for the most catastrophically injured clients to ensure that they are

supported throughout their lives. I am a member of the Law Society Clinical Negligence Panel and a Senior Litigator with the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers. In addition, I lead a team in the Birmingham office which specialises in child abuse cases. We represent individuals who have experienced sexual and physical abuse and neglect. I have acted for clients in cases against local authorities, schools, religious organisations and children's homes.

DAVEY, Ben

Dean Wilson LLP, Brighton
07872 859332
bd@deanwilson.co.uk

Featured in Clinical Negligence (The South), Personal Injury (The South)

Practice Areas: Ben practises in Personal Injury and Clinical Negligence, mainly dealing with catastrophic injury cases or those which have a claim within a niche area of law. Ben is the Lead Solicitor in the David Fuller scandal, assisting family in accessing compensation.

DAVIES, James P

Irwin Mitchell, Bristol
0117 926 1551

James.Davies@IrwinMitchell.com

Featured in Personal Injury (South West)

Practice Areas: James specialises in representing children and adults who have suffered brain and/or spinal cord injuries, amputations or multiple trauma. He has extensive experience in obtaining substantial interim payments to fund treatment, rehabilitation and other professional support for his clients, as well as securing adapted accommodation and specialist equipment where this is needed. He leads a team of specialist serious injury lawyers at the Bristol office.

Career: James was educated at Hilton College, South Africa, and Tonbridge School, Kent. He obtained a law degree from Cardiff University, qualifying as solicitor in 1998.

Professional Memberships: Senior Litigator (Association of Personal Injury Lawyers).

Publications: James regularly presents to clinicians, peers and others on rehabilitation after catastrophic injury, mental capacity and various aspects of the legal process.

DAVIES, Sophie

Osbornes Law, London
0207 681 8497

sophie.davies@osborneslaw.com

Featured in Personal Injury (London)

Practice Areas: Sophie Davies is a catastrophic injury litigator with over 20 years' experience. She specialises in claims for brain injury and polytrauma/complex orthopaedic injuries, mainly arising from accidents at work and cycle accidents. Sophie has been a Partner at Osbornes for 9 years. She manages a team of solicitors in the personal injury department and also heads up the Spanish lawyers team. She has many clients from Spain, and from the Spanish community in the UK. Sophie and Osbornes have close links with Headway East London, a charity

dedicated to the support and rehabilitation of people with acquired brain injury. Sophie is a regular contributor to their blog page. Sophie understands how crucial early access to rehabilitation is in improving outcomes for injured people and fights hard to put interim payments in the hands of her clients at the earliest opportunity. Sophie is always happy to answer enquiries about new claims and understands that the decision of whether to bring a claim is not always straightforward.

Career: Sophie is on the Law Society personal injury panel, is an APIL accredited senior litigator and profiled on Legal 500.

Personal: Sophie lives in beautiful North London with her husband, 2 sons and Hank the dog.

DE-LOYDE, Karl

Thompsons, Birmingham
(0121) 2222108

KarlDe-Loyde@thompsons.law

Featured in Personal Injury (Midlands)

Practice Areas: Karl has responsibility for all of Thompsons' catastrophic injury cases across the West Midlands with a total value in excess of £100 million. Karl's cases include injuries of the utmost severity, including brain injuries, spinal cord injuries, polytrauma, amputations and fatalities.

Career: Karl is a partner and a solicitor with more than 20 years' experience. He is based in Thompsons' Birmingham office.

Professional Memberships: Karl is registered as a senior litigator with the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers and he is a member of the Law Society panel. He is also a member of Headway, a charity which helps those who have suffered brain injury.

DHALIWAL, Chani

Irwin Mitchell, London
3701500100

Chani.Dhalawal@IrwinMitchell.com

Featured in Personal Injury (London)

Practice Areas: I lead and manage a Serious Injury team in the London office. I specialise in complex serious injury cases representing clients with brain injury, spinal cord injury, amputation, and complex orthopaedic injuries. I also deal with high profile fatal claims and have a specialist interest in insurance indemnity and MIB issues. I have built a reputation of handling difficult cases and getting results. I am passionate about helping our clients get the best rehabilitation after suffering life changing injuries. I have expertise in securing substantial interim payments for the purpose of providing rehabilitation, private care packages and accommodation. I trained at Irwin Mitchell and qualified into the Serious Injury team. I am responsible for a team of solicitors specialising in a wide range of complex serious injury cases.

Career: I have worked for the firm since I left law school. I am surrounded by pioneering lawyers who are not afraid to push the boundaries of the law.

Personal: I am a family man with two young children. I try to spend as much

free time I have with them. I enjoy watching football and cricket. I like to travel and meet new people.

EDDY, Alison

Irwin Mitchell, London
020 7421 3887

Alison.Eddy@IrwinMitchell.com

Featured in Clinical Negligence (London), Personal Injury (London)

Practice Areas: I am managing partner of the London office. I specialise in claimant clinical negligence and serious personal injury claims. I have particular experience and interest in claims for adults and children who have suffered lasting brain or neurological damage. My clinical negligence team has extensive experience in clinical negligence claims arising from obstetric, neonatal, anaesthetic, neurosurgical, cardiac and psychiatric care. Recent cases include claims arising from spinal surgery in private hospitals and failings in obstetric care resulting in significant periodical payments. I have also recovered substantial damages and put in place early rehabilitation for claimants with severe brain damage arising from road traffic collisions.

Career: Partner Thompsons; partner Irwin Mitchell (opened London office) 1995.

Professional Memberships: Law Society Personal Injury and Clinical Negligence Panels; Association of Personal Injury Lawyers; AvMA referral solicitors panel.

FULLILOVE, Victoria

Anthony Collins Solicitors LLP,
Birmingham

(0121) 212 7477

victoria.fullilove@anthonicollins.com

Featured in Clinical Negligence (Midlands), Personal Injury (Midlands)

See under Clinical Negligence for profile.

GARSON, Matthew

Irwin Mitchell, Manchester
07760 765288

matthew.garson@irwinmitchell.com

Featured in Personal Injury (North West)

Practice Areas: Matthew is a Partner and has acted for clients in the field of serious injury for over 20 years. Matthew handles a wide range of serious injury cases which include brain and spinal injuries, amputation and fatal accident claims. He also acts for clients who have suffered complex orthopaedic injuries, including children and the elderly. Matthew is based in the Liverpool office whilst also maintaining a role in the serious injury team in Manchester. Matthew is a Senior Litigator with APIL and has APIL accreditations for specialism in both Brain Injury and in Fatal Accidents. He is listed in the Headway Directory for Liverpool. Matthew was shortlisted for PI Solicitor of the Year at the PI Awards in 2022.

GERAGHTY, Richard

Irwin Mitchell, London
020 7400 8711

richard.geraghty@irwinmitchell.com

Featured in Personal Injury (London)

Practice Areas: I am the partner who leads the Serious Injury Department in

our London office. Our main focus is on high value national and international serious injury litigation. I specialise in complex and high value cases for clients who have suffered very serious or life-changing injuries. My clients include people who have suffered spinal cord, brain and amputation injuries. I also act for the families of people who suffered fatal injuries. Many of the cases I have dealt with have been widely covered in the media, such as acting for victims of the tram crash in Croydon in 2016, and for a number of children affected by the E.coli outbreak at Godstone Farm in Surrey. I have been a solicitor since 1995 and I have dealt with personal injury cases throughout my legal career. My cases include road traffic accidents, accidents at work and accidents in other public places or private premises. I also have particular experience of handling cases involving police officers and in the training, equipment and health and safety risks specific to their work.

Professional Memberships: On the editorial board of the Journal of Personal Injury Litigation and a member of the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers.

GUNNER, Lisa

Thompsons, Bristol
0117 304 2465

LisaGunner@thompsons.law

Featured in Personal Injury (South West)

Practice Areas: Lisa is a highly experienced serious injury lawyer who leads a team dealing with serious injury and clinical negligence cases across South Wales and the South West injured in a public place, including on the road and at work through no fault of their own. Lisa has many years of experience assisting adults and children who have sustained catastrophic injuries and where compensation regularly amounts to £1m+ for their future care needs and to cover their financial losses. In the past 12 months, Lisa has recovered over £35m in compensation for injured individuals. These injuries are often life-changing and have a massive impact on clients and their families. These injuries can include amputations and trauma to the brain and spine. As an integral part of her role, Lisa has considerable experience in organising teams of specialists with a wide range of expertise who draw up detailed plans for rehabilitation for the injured. Importantly, Lisa ensures advance compensation payments are made as quickly as possible to provide initial funding for the rehabilitation and cover financial losses already incurred.

Professional Memberships: Lisa is a member of the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL) and is accredited by the Law Society for Personal Injury. She is also a member of Headway, the brain injury charity.

Personal: At Thompsons Solicitors, Lisa proudly notes that they exclusively represent claimants, with all firm members aligning their efforts towards the shared goal of delivering the highest quality service in pursuing

claims against employers and insurers. Away from work, Lisa likes listening to live music and takes part in pilates and horse riding. Lisa was shortlisted for 'Catastrophic Injury Lawyer of the Year' in Claims Media's 13th Personal Injury Awards.

GWYTHYER, Martyn
Thompsons, Manchester
01618193542
martyn.gwyther@thompsons.law.co.uk
*Featured in Personal Injury (North West),
Travel (UK-wide)*

Practice Areas: Martyn has significant experience representing victims of accidents which have happened abroad or those who have contracted illnesses overseas. Martyn also represents clients where accidents have happened in England or Wales, but where there is an international element to the case. Based in Manchester, Martyn is national head of Thompsons Solicitors' cross-border claims department and covers the greater part of the United Kingdom. Martyn's expertise centres on personal injury and deals with accident claims that occurred from holidays abroad or while clients were working overseas. The accidents can involve transport of all kinds, accidents on oil rigs and offshore platforms and diving accidents. Martyn has experience in representing clients who have sustained major injuries to the brain and spine, or where the accidents have resulted in amputations or serious burns. A key element of Martyn's expertise is in dealing with litigation involving disputes over which country's law is applicable.

Professional Memberships: Martyn is accredited as a senior litigator with the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers. He is also a member of the Law Society and the Pan European Organisation of Personal Injury Lawyers [PEOPI].

Personal: Martyn's aim is to secure rehabilitation for the client at the defendant's expense, while fighting for the highest possible compensation. He believes in securing justice for the injured party as quickly as possible while ensuring that a painstaking enquiry is carried out to establish the full liability of the defendant. Martyn combines an encyclopaedic knowledge of the law in his specialism with strong negotiating ability which clearly affects the outcome of out-of-court settlements. Martyn's renowned attention to detail is vital in dealing with the kind of complex litigation that arises from serious injury and cross-border legal disputes. He also likes to keep a close eye on the rehabilitation of his clients, funded by insurance companies or those legally responsible for the injuries. Martyn values Thompsons' philosophy which encourages the kind of close relationship he develops with clients who are invariably undergoing extremely stressful circumstances.

HALL, Trevor
Thompsons, Newcastle upon Tyne
0191 269 0441
TrevorHall@thompsons.law

Featured in Personal Injury (North East)
Practice Areas: Senior executive Trevor is a serious injury solicitor covering cases across the UK and beyond. Based at Thompsons Solicitors' Newcastle office, Trevor joined Thompsons in 2007 shortly after qualifying as a solicitor and has extensive experience in dealing with high-value personal injury claims relating to brain injuries, spinal injuries, amputations, chronic pain and serious multiple injuries. Trevor has significant experience in military cases involving non-freezing cold injury and is Thompsons' lead solicitor for injuries of this type, as well as being a senior member of the serious injuries and clinical negligence teams in the North East region. An accomplished and confident litigator, Trevor also has expertise in dealing with claims concerning accidents at work, road traffic accidents, public liability and accidents abroad.

Personal: Trevor is the secretary for the Hartlepool branch of Headway, which provides information, support and social activities for brain injury survivors, their families and their carers in the Hartlepool area. For Trevor, the best aspect of working at Thompsons is that the firm always puts the client first to achieve the best possible outcome. Outside of work, Trevor enjoys keeping fit, playing golf, following a range of sports and spending time with his family.

HARRINGTON, Simon
Irwin Mitchell, Cambridge
01223 791802
simon.harrington@irwinmitchell.com
Featured in Personal Injury (East Anglia)

Practice Areas: I have acted exclusively for the service and veterans community for over 20 years and have a particular interest in assisting Commonwealth soldier in cases where injury has resulted in their medical discharge before meeting the requirements for residency or citizenship. I was awarded the National Law Society Price for Outstanding Academic Achievement on my LPC and in 2006 was runner up in the national Eclipse Proclaim Young Lawyer of the Year awards. I was the first solicitor to conclude a claim arising out of the Gulf conflict where Combat Immunity was raised as a defence, and now specialise in acting for past and current members of various SMUs where specialist protocols apply and clients are confined by confidentiality obligations under the Official Secrets Act and UKSF Confidentiality Agreement. In 2020 I became Lead PI Partner for our Cambridge office and in 2021 was appointed as a Deputy District Judge.

Career: Trained Lorimer Longhurst and Lees; qualified 2004; MPH 2005-2011; partner MPH 2011-2013; partner Irwin Mitchell (after its acquisition of MPH) 2013 to date.

Professional Memberships: APIL Military SIG member; RBL Solicitor Referral Group Panel.

HEALY, Deirdre
Irwin Mitchell, Manchester
0161 838 3190
deirdre.healy@irwinmitchell.com

Featured in Personal Injury (North West)
Practice Areas: Deirdre works in the Serious Injury Team in Manchester. She is known nationally for her work with clients who have sustained life-changing injuries. Deirdre specialises in supporting those individuals and their families who have suffered serious brain or spinal cord injury. Her focus is to secure funding to ensure her clients have access to prompt and appropriate rehabilitation. She has over 25 years' experience in acting for clients and specialises in complex injury cases. She has recovered more than £200 million in damages to provide for her clients' futures. Deirdre has spoken at many brain injury conferences. She has appeared on radio and television to discuss aspects of cases she has been involved in. She was United Kingdom Acquired Brain Injury Lawyer of the Year in 2015.

Professional Memberships: Deirdre has a variety of professional memberships: -Fellow of the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL) Accredited Specialist Brain Injury Solicitor (APIL) Headway Panel Solicitor

HEATON, Carolyn
Irwin Mitchell, Sheffield
3701500100
carolyn.heaton@irwinmitchell.com
Featured in Personal Injury (Yorkshire)

Practice Areas: I am a partner in the Leeds serious injury team and I lead the Leeds Neuro team which is a team of highly specialised solicitors who deal exclusively in high value and often complex adult and paediatric brain and spinal injury claims. I have specialised in brain and spinal cord injuries for 29 years and during that time have frequently obtained multi million pound settlements for my clients totalling somewhere in the region of £750 million. Whilst obtaining the right financial settlement is crucial, my team and I are passionate about providing our clients with exceptional and bespoke rehabilitation as that is the way to actually ensure that clients can have the best quality of life possible following their devastating and life changing injuries. As part of the rehabilitation process we look at such things as care, equipment, transport, therapies, employment/ education and accommodation and prioritise obtaining interim payments throughout the life of the claim. Some of my cases have contributed towards the firm's success in achieving rehabilitation awards. Myself and the team are also asked to take over cases from other solicitors who fail to recognise the complexity of brain and/or spinal injury claims, with the initial referral frequently coming from neuro health professionals. I was nominated and short listed for the "catastrophic" injury

lawyer award in 2018 and have regularly provided training on "quantum" issues to members of our national complex personal injury team throughout my career. I work with various charities, I have presented at various conferences and I also head our national Childrens Serious Injury Special Interest Group who regularly devise and present webinars and conferences on "neuro" and rehabilitation issues to health and neuro sector contacts.

Career: Trained DAC Beachcroft; Irwin Mitchell LLP 1994; partner Irwin Mitchell 2010. Headed the Leeds "neuro" team since 2015.

Professional Memberships: Fellow APIL.

HOWARD, Claire
Irwin Mitchell, Southampton
0238 093 0704
claire.howard@irwinmitchell.com
Featured in Personal Injury (The South)

Practice Areas: I am head of the Serious Injury team in Southampton and specialise in claims for adults and children who have suffered life-changing injuries, which may include brain or spinal injury. These injuries can result from road accidents, accidents at work, falls from height, defective products or chemical exposure. I have over 20 years of experience and have acted on behalf of accident victims throughout that time. I am client-focused from the outset. I always ensure that clients receive the rehabilitation they need via co-operation with the defendant insurer, issuing proceedings early and securing court ordered payments or, if liability is disputed, ensuring the NHS provide all available support.

JENKINS, Louise
Irwin Mitchell, Leeds
0114 274 4591
Louise.Jenkins@irwinmitchell.com
Featured in Personal Injury (Yorkshire)

Practice Areas: Louise is a Partner in the Sheffield office and leads the Serious Injury team comprising of over 50 team members. She has more than 20 years of experience in acting for clients who have sustained serious brain and spinal cord injury and other complex injuries, having joined Irwin Mitchell in 1997. Louise's cases have won the Post Magazine's Rehabilitation First Award on a number of occasions (claimant's solicitor category), demonstrating Louise's strong ethos of maximising client recovery and prioritising rehabilitation and quality of life in every case. She has been part of legal teams tackling complex and ground breaking issues. These include appearances in the Court of Appeal in relation to securing substantial interim payments, Statutory Services funding, life expectancy, periodical payments and the interaction of legislation regarding Statutory Services provision with damages recovery. Louise has also been involved in a significant number of highly complex, multi-million pound settlements. Alongside her considerable technical expertise, Louise is known for her profoundly caring and compassionate approach with clients, helping them

to rebuild lives positively after serious injury.

Career: Trained Irwin Mitchell; qualified 1999; partner since 2011.

Professional Memberships: APIL senior litigator; regional secretary for Headway; co-secretary for South Yorkshire Acquired Brain Injury Forum (SYABIF) and steering group member.

JONES, Amanda

Thompsons, Cardiff
01554779941
Amanda.Jones@Thompsons.law.co.uk

Featured in Personal Injury (Wales)

Practice Areas: Amanda Jones is a partner of Thompsons Solicitors and a highly respected solicitor specialising in asbestos-related diseases. She represents clients from all over Wales and the South West, most of whom are suffering from mesothelioma, an invariably fatal condition resulting from exposure to asbestos, often decades previously. Amanda not only represents men who have held industrial jobs, but many women who have contracted mesothelioma by handling the working clothes of family members. Many of the claims are highly complex, especially in cases where the companies concerned no longer exist. However Amanda has a UK-wide reputation for tracking down defendants and winning the compensation her clients deserve in a timely manner.

Career: Having joined Thompsons in 2004, Amanda is now a partner. As well as taking her own caseload, Amanda also supervises the work of other lawyers in Thompsons' Bristol, Cardiff and Llanelli offices.

Professional Memberships: Amanda has been a member of the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers since 1999.

Personal: Amanda's expertise is renowned beyond the legal profession and she has been a guest speaker at annual training sessions for senior doctors in Wales. She is a supporter of Mesothelioma UK, Asbestos Awareness & Support Cymru and South West Asbestos Support and Guidance. Outside work Amanda spends most of her spare time at the side of a football or rugby pitch supporting her sons who are keen athletes. She is also a governor of Coedcae Comprehensive School in Llanelli. Amanda was shortlisted for 'Claimant Lawyer of the Year' in the 13th Personal Injury Awards by Claims Media.

KALWAK, Emily

CFG Law, Cheadle
emily.kalwak@cfglaw.co.uk

Featured in Personal Injury (North West)

Practice Areas: Emily is a partner and joint head of our Cheadle office. She has supported people after serious and catastrophic injuries to successfully claim compensation since 2005. Due to her experience in dealing with life-changing injury claims, Emily knows how important it is to get to know her clients to understand how she can support them and their family. She regularly meets clients face to face to update them and to better understand what

their goals are and how she can help to achieve them. Emily always fights for the best outcome, making sure all areas of a claim have been explored fully but sensitively to get the best results. She will try every possible course of action in a case to make sure injured people receive the highest amount of compensation to support them now and into the future.

KENNEDY, Jenny

Anthony Gold, London
0207 940 4046

jkk@anthonygold.co.uk

Featured in Clinical Negligence (London), Personal Injury (London)

Practice Areas: Jenny Kennedy is a Partner on Anthony Gold's Injury and Medical Claims team. A complex brain, spinal and amputation expert, Jenny is well known for representing foreign national clients injured in the UK as well as British nationals injured abroad. She settled the first reported case involving indexation of periodical payments to a foreign jurisdiction and secured a verdict of unlawful killing before a UK Coroner for the family of a mother killed whilst on holiday in South America. Described as "one of the most respected PI claimant lawyers in the country" her expertise includes dealing with all the associated elements of catastrophic injury litigation and managing the needs of clients with issues associated with significant head injury. Jenny is recognised as a Star Individual in the Chambers Directory and a Hall of Fame Lawyer in The Legal 500. Jenny has a medical background, having qualified as a psychiatric nurse, and her clinical negligence expertise includes a wide range of claims of complexities with a special interest in psychiatric and orthopaedic injury cases. In 2022 Jenny was named "Catastrophic Injury Lawyer of the Year" at the annual PI Awards.

Professional Memberships: Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL) member Law Society Personal Injury panel member Law Society Clinical Negligence panel member

Publications: On the Editorial Board of Kemp & Kemp: Personal Injury Law, Practice and Procedure Co-author of Personal Injury Practice (Bloomsbury Professional) Co-author of Litigating Psychiatric Injury Claims (Bloomsbury Professional)

KIGHTLEY, Stuart

Osbornes Law, London
020 7681 8672

Stuart.Kightley@osbornes.net

Featured in Personal Injury (London)

Practice Areas: Stuart is head of Osbornes' award-winning personal injury department and the firm's managing partner. Since joining Osbornes in 1994 Stuart has built a heavyweight injury litigation practice, specialising in brain and complex injury cases. He is "incredibly empathetic and very knowledgeable about traumatic brain injury" (Chambers UK, 2019). "Enormously experienced" (Legal 500) Stuart specialises in complex brain injury cases and is a highly experienced trial lawyer.

Stuart leads the department's cycling team and has developed a niche practice in cycling claims. The firm is the exclusive legal partner to the London Cycling Campaign (LCC) of which Stuart serves as a trustee.

Career: Since joining Osbornes in 1994 Stuart has built a heavyweight injury litigation practice, specialising in brain and complex injury cases. He has also grown the department into one of the UK's leading PI teams, noted for its "exceptional service, great knowledge and understanding of the law, excellent client care and tactical nous."

Professional Memberships: Stuart was elected to the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers' National Executive Committee in 2007 and served for nine years, including three years as APIL's elected company secretary. Stuart is a trustee of the London Cycling Campaign (LCC) Stuart was also a member of the Law Society's policy-making body the Law Society Council and its Civil Justice Committee from 2010 to 2013. He is an approved solicitor for Headway – the brain injury association, and for the Brain Injury Group He is a Fellow of APIL, as well as an appointed member of the Forum of Complex Injury Solicitors (FOCIS)

KINGSTON, Sion

Irwin Mitchell, Sheffield
01132206210

sion.kingston@irwinmitchell.com

Featured in Personal Injury (Yorkshire)

Practice Areas: I am a Partner in the Leeds Personal Injury department. I head a team dealing with road traffic, work accident and public liability claims involving a wide variety of injuries and values. I also head the Personal Injury Professional Negligence team responsible for advising client in respect to claims against solicitors and barristers arising out of poorly/negligently handled personal injury and clinical negligence cases. I am National Head of Road Traffic Crash claims and National Head of General Accident claims with national responsibility within the firm for the coordination of these areas of the Department with responsibility of training, business development and process and report to the PI National Executive. I am also National Head of Personal Injury Professional Negligence. I sit on the PI Department's Best Practice Group. I am also Counsel Liaison for the Personal Injury Department responsible for managing the Department's relationship with counsel's chambers.

Career: Trained Irwin Mitchell; qualified 1994; partner 2000; headed firm's MOD team specialising in acting on behalf of injured military personnel 2000-2005.

Professional Memberships: APIL, CPIL.

LOGAN, Ann

Balfour+Manson LLP, Edinburgh
0131 200 1210

ann.logan@balfour-manson.co.uk

Featured in Clinical Negligence (Scotland), Personal Injury (Scotland)

See under Clinical Negligence for profile.

LOVETT, Isobel

Hodge Jones & Allen, London
0207 874 8300

i.lovett@hja.net

Featured in Personal Injury (UK-wide)

Practice Areas: Isobel, a Partner and Head of the Asbestos Disease Team has, for over 20 years, specialised in asbestos disease cases for Claimants. Consequently, she has vast experience in this specialist litigation. Isobel's work includes securing high value settlements for mesothelioma sufferers, enabling her clients to access novel, non-NHS funded treatments paid for by Defendants' insurers. Her clients' lives have thereby been extended and they have the security of having approved treatment paid for by the Defendants' insurers for the rest of their lives. Isobel's recent successes include persuading the Government Legal Department representing the Ministry of Defence, to agree to mediation in a long-running, disputed, fatal mesothelioma claim for the family of a man who had been exposed to asbestos dust while employed in the late 1960s to work on board UK naval vessels in the MoD dockyard in Singapore. The case involved complex issues of conflict of laws and of Crown Immunity. At mediation, a six-figure settlement for the family was agreed. This was a case which had previously been vigorously defended and was destined for a lengthy and costly trial. In another case against the Ministry of Defence, this year, Isobel was able to secure a six-figure sum and the costs of private medical treatment, for a woman developed mesothelioma in unusual circumstances: she had worked as a Buildings Manager and was exposed to asbestos dust while managing the fall-out from contamination of an MoD building as a result of work done by external contractors. She had to manage the eventual evacuation of the building of all staff and property, including high level security items. The claim was initially denied on the basis the exposure was "too low" to have caused mesothelioma. However, an admission of liability followed quickly issue of proceedings and the case was settled soon afterwards. Isobel has also successfully handled asbestos product liability claims and advises and assists clients in bringing claims in the US for mesothelioma caused by asbestos contaminated talc in powder and make-up. Isobel does not shy away from difficult cases. She achieved success early in her career in asbestos litigation in the case of Cox v Industrial Power (India) Ltd CA 2007, the first in a series of defining so-called "low exposure" cases in which Defendants have sought to test causation in mesothelioma cases by reference to exposure levels. The Claimant had worked seasonally in power stations and for the Defendant for a matter of weeks. Despite the Defendant arguing that any exposure he had would have been de minimis and therefore,

not actionable, the Court held that the exposure was not minimal and found for the Claimant's widow, the Claimant, having sadly succumbed to his illness by the time of the trial. The judgment was upheld by the Court of Appeal on appeal by the Defendant. The case is still referred to in other similar cases today. Isobel takes a holistic approach to client care: not only does he help her clients to obtain compensation and treatment, but she also ensures they obtain their full state benefit entitlement and has helped put care regimes in place, where needed. She works closely with medical professionals, local support groups and related charities to ensure the support needs of victims of mesothelioma and other asbestos diseases are met. She is known for being tremendously calm, reassuring, helpful and supportive of her clients and their families, as well as a tenacious and skilled litigator and negotiator. Isobel's commitment to supporting asbestos victims means she has been involved with many support groups over the years, her involvement culminating in her working to establish the London Asbestos Support Awareness Group, a charity covering London and the South East. She has also funded research into treatment for mesothelioma over the years. Isobel's expertise is recognised by those she works with and through independent accreditation by The Association of Personal Injury Lawyers of which she is a Fellow and Asbestos and Occupational Disease specialist. She also assesses others seeking this accreditation. Whilst specialising in asbestos disease work, Isobel has past experience of other industrial diseases, particularly other occupational respiratory conditions and work-related cancers.

Career: Isobel trained and worked in a number of firms in Sheffield before being appointed Associate at Irwin Mitchell's Newcastle office between 2009-15. She has been a Partner at Hodge Jones & Allen since June 2015.

Professional Memberships: • APIL (Association of Personal Injury Lawyers) • Fellow and Accredited Asbestos and Occupational Disease Specialist and Assessor

MADDOCK, Rebecca

Irwin Mitchell, Newcastle upon Tyne
0191 279 0106

rebecca.maddock@irwinmitchell.com

Featured in Personal Injury (North East)

Practice Areas: I work as part of a team in Newcastle and Middlesbrough who act for people who have sustained brain injuries or spinal cord injuries. I have been working with adults and children with brain and spinal injuries for 13 years, helping them to obtain financial compensation for their injuries. I'm passionate about helping clients secure early interim payments, so they can access rehabilitation that will help improve their quality of life. Rehabilitation includes things such as physiotherapy, occupational therapy, psychological therapy, assistance from support workers and vocational training

to help people to return to work. I am a Council member of the Tees Valley Law Society. I'm also an accredited Senior Litigator and Brain Injury Specialist with the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL), and the North East Regional Coordinator of APIL. I qualified as a solicitor in 2012.

Career: I'm passionate about helping clients secure early interim payments, so they can access rehabilitation that will help improve their quality of life. Rehabilitation includes things such as physiotherapy, occupational therapy, psychological therapy, assistance from support workers and vocational training to help people to return to work.

Professional Memberships: I am a Council member of the Tees Valley Law Society. I'm also an accredited Senior Litigator and Brain Injury Specialist with the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL), and the North East Regional Coordinator of APIL.

Personal: I love spending time with my friends and family. I also like travelling, reading and walking my dog. I also enjoy working with various different charities in the community and helping to fundraise for a range of different charities whenever I can.

MAKIN, Donna

Geldards LLP, Cardiff

+44 (0)29 2039 1749

donna.makin@geldards.co.uk

Featured in Personal Injury (Wales)

Practice Areas: Donna heads up the Corporate Claims team and has specialised in defendant personal injury claims since 1992. She defends public and employer liability claims on behalf of insurers, devolved government, local authorities and public bodies, charities and large corporates. Her practice encompasses injury claims (ranging from slips/trips through to catastrophic injury and death) and occupational disease claims (including asbestos related diseases, occupational deafness, cancers, vibration white finger, and dermatitis). She also advises on risk management and policy and undertakes insurance and corporate archaeology, claims audits and internal investigations. Donna has specialised in defendant personal injury work since qualification. She was previously a Partner at Eversheds and headed an employer liability team there before joining Geldards. She regularly defends asbestos related claims in the High Court as well as multi track injury and occupational disease claims in the County Court. In addition to her employer liability practice, Donna regularly is instructed to defend public liability claims in negligence and under the Occupiers' Liability Acts.

MCCLURE, Oonagh

Thompsons NI, Belfast

028 9089 0466

oonaghmcclure@thompsons.law.co.uk

Featured in Personal Injury (Northern Ireland)

Practice Areas: Oonagh is the regional managing partner at Thompsons NI. She is a senior asbestos, serious injury and medical negligence solicitor. A

solicitor with many years' experience, she specialises in dealing with compensation claims for asbestos-related diseases which are often very complicated and require a high degree of skill and knowledge to resolve them. Oonagh also deals with medical negligence cases including birth defect cases and serious spinal and head injury cases.

Professional Memberships: Oonagh is a Fellow of the The Association of Personal Injury Lawyers. She is the Northern Ireland Board member of The Pan European Organisation of Personal Injury Lawyers and a member of the Belfast Solicitors Association, SIA (The Spinal Injuries Association) and AVMA (Action Against Medical Accidents).

MCILDUFF, Laura

Irwin Mitchell, Newcastle upon Tyne

0191 279 0112

laura.mcilduff@irwinmitchell.com

Featured in Personal Injury (North East)

Practice Areas: I am a Senior Associate Solicitor in the Serious Injury department at Irwin Mitchell's Newcastle office. I work with children and adults who have sustained life changing brain, spinal cord and amputation injuries. Since 2016 (and 3 years PQE) I have been responsible for the management

of my own complex cases valued at over £500,000 and regularly handles multi million pound cases. In the past 3 years, I have secured £38.264 million in compensation for my clients with settlements ranging between £1.5 million and £21.5 million gross. I am totally committed to my clients, particularly the use of Special Measures in personal injury cases to support vulnerable Claimants through the Court process. I am a strong advocate of the Serious Injury Guide and work collaboratively with Defendant Insurers and Solicitors where possible to obtain early interim payments and meet rehabilitation needs before hospital discharge. I am also the founder of NE Amputee, a support group for amputees and their families in the North East after noting a lack of provision in the local area for my clients. I am an APIL Accredited Senior Litigator and Brain Injury Specialist as well as the Early Careers Regional Representative for the Newcastle office, supporting aspiring lawyers from all backgrounds with their legal careers. I was nominated as Insurance Rising Star of the Year in the Legal 500 Northern Powerhouse Awards 2023. Recent client feedback: "I cannot fault the service me and my family have received from Irwin Mitchell. I felt My solicitor Laura Mcilduff went above and beyond my expectations and became more than a solicitor but someone I could rely on. Laura took a great deal of time explaining everything to me throughout, to ensure I understood and could make informed choices. Overall, the key point for my experience was the personal touch I felt I received, that was so important. The amazing support she provided, down to the informal friendly chats that were needed of reassurance, understanding and patience was

priceless and something I will always be grateful for." Another recent 5* TrustPilot review: "I couldn't have got through the last 5 years without the team I was provided with by Irwin Mitchell, following a RTA in 2018. It has been a long lengthy process & still ongoing in some respects but the team always made me feel at ease took control of everything that was over whelming to be, easily staying in contact through phone calls and emails. I couldn't recommend them more for a personal injury claim, my main point of contact was Laura Mcilduff who I could not fault at all she is the best of the best and has met every need I have endured along with Tom Dias who I have pestered at points along the way, but nothing was a bother. It can be very daunting in the beginning but these guys helped not only me but my family members too, and we powered on through, it was a pleasure to have them on my side, also using other departments now as things progress and have to mention the names, John Riley Dibb, Lara Tucker & Connie Smith for their continued support. They are an absolute credit to Irwin Mitchell and I thank them all from the bottom of my heart."

MCINTOSH, David S

Balfour+Manson LLP, Edinburgh

0131 200 1220

david.mcintosh@balfour-manson.co.uk

Featured in Clinical Negligence (Scotland), Personal Injury (Scotland)

Practice Areas: A partner in the litigation department, specialising in pursuing personal injury and medical negligence claims, David is one of the firm's Risk Assessment Partners for speculative actions. He has successfully resolved a significant number of claims acting for injured claimants with damages recovered ranging from several thousand pounds to 7 figure settlements. Current cases include pursuing a claim for a paraplegic client valued at £7.8 million and another for a client who suffered catastrophic brain injury in a car accident with a likely value in excess of £10 million. He acts for the largest teachers union in Scotland, the EIS, and regularly advises their members who have been involved in workplace accidents or have suffered from stress as a result of working conditions. He has raised a number of actions for stress claims and as a result clients have recovered damages.

Career: Trained Gilruth Pollock and Smith and qualified 1985; Bennett and Robertson, then MacBeth Currie before being assumed as a partner at Balfour+Manson in 1999.

Professional Memberships: In House Risk Assessment Panel for PI Speculative Scheme; Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL); accredited by Law Society of Scotland as a specialist in personal injury law.

Personal: Enjoys motorsport, football and sailing.

MILTON, Kate
Osbornes Law, London
0207 4828479
kate.milton@osborneslaw.com

Featured in Personal Injury (London)

Practice Areas: Kate is an Associate at Osbornes Law in their Personal Injury Department and has worked within the legal sector for over 25 years. Kate deals exclusively with claims on behalf of the injured party and covers a wide geographic area. She also acts for foreign clients. Kate specialises in Serious Personal Injury and acts for clients who have suffered life-changing injuries. Kate has a particular interest in serious motorbike accidents and cycling claims. Kate's specialism includes fatal accidents, amputation cases, multiple injuries, brain injury cases and chronic pain disorders. Kate also has Clinical Negligence experience. Kate's priority is to ensure that she can devote time and attention to each of her clients and provide a personal service. She prides herself on being accessible and personable to ensure the claim process is made as "pain-free" as possible. Kate's experience makes it clear to her that every injured client has his or her own specific needs and objectives and she strives to work with both the injured party and their family to achieve the best possible outcome.

Professional Memberships: Kate is an accredited Senior Litigator with the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers.

Personal: In her spare time, Kate enjoys walking her dog in the Surrey countryside and spending time with her family.

MURPHY, Alla
Bindmans LLP, London
020 7833 4433
Alla.Murphy@bindmans.com

Featured in Personal Injury (London)

Practice Areas: Partner, Clinical Negligence and Personal Injury. Alla has extensive experience of acting for people who have suffered catastrophic injuries, and also for those who have had more minor injuries, but with nevertheless devastating consequences to their lives and livelihoods. She has particular expertise in claims arising from accidents at work, notably on construction sites. Alla has an exceptional record for maximizing the compensation paid to her clients; not just immediate settlements, but robust allocations for long-term aftercare and proper financial planning for possible future complications. She has also worked on quantifying claims for those injured in the criminal justice system.

Career: Alla trained at Fisher Meredith and qualified in 1992, she joined Bindmans LLP in 2005.

Professional Memberships: Association of Personal Injury Lawyers

NYE, Stephen
Irwin Mitchell, Birmingham
0121 214 5430
Stephen.Nye@irwinmitchell.com

Featured in Personal Injury (Midlands)

Practice Areas: I am a Partner in the Birmingham Serious Injury team. I deal

with all types of serious personal injury cases, including adult brain injury, spinal cord injury, paediatric brain injury, amputations and limb loss, serious burns, chronic pain, PTSD, orthopaedic trauma, motorbike accident claims and fatal accident claims. I deal with cases arising from road accidents, occupier liability claims, employer liability claims and public liability claims. I have a particular interest in accidents at work, including falls from height, defective equipment, manual handling, construction site and agricultural accidents and cases involving vicarious liability.

Career: Trainee solicitor 1996-98, general high street practice; assistant solicitor Rich and Can, Leicester 1998-2000; Irwin Mitchell, Birmingham, assistant solicitor 2000-04, associate 2004-10, partner 2010.

Professional Memberships: APIL; APIL accredited senior litigator; APIL accreditation for spinal cord injury; APIL accreditation for brain injury; Law Society PI Panel.

PAUL, Jatinder
Irwin Mitchell, Birmingham
0121 2146585
jatinder.paul@irwinmitchell.co.uk

Featured in Group Litigation (UK-wide), Personal Injury (Midlands), Travel (UK-wide)

See under Travel for profile.

PHILLIPS, Henrietta
Thompsons, London
0207 307 2157
henriettaphillips@thompsons.law.co.uk

Featured in Personal Injury (London)

Practice Areas: Henrietta is a regional managing partner and highly experienced personal injury solicitor based in Thompsons' office in central London. She has experience in all different types of serious injury claims – including head and brain injuries, spinal cord injuries and amputations – many involving catastrophic and life-changing injuries caused by accidents at work or road accidents. Henrietta always ensures that she recovers the maximum amount of compensation that she can for her clients.

Professional Memberships: Henrietta has been a member of the Law Society's Personal Injury Panel since 2004 and is accredited as a senior litigator with The Association of Personal Injury Lawyers.

PIERCE, Frances
Dean Wilson LLP, Brighton
01273 249 207
fvp@deanwilson.co.uk

Featured in Court of Protection (UK-wide), Personal Injury (The South)

Practice Areas: Specialist in personal injury and clinical negligence litigation since 1990. •Personal injury – acquired brain injury, spinal cord injury, amputation, multiple injury claims, fatal claims, severe post-traumatic stress disorder. •Clinical & Medical Negligence – surgical claims, obstetric claims such as birth and pregnancy injuries (including Cerebral Palsy). •Court of Protection Deputy and Professional Trustee to

many CP, traumatic brain and spinally injured clients.

Professional Memberships:

Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (Fellow), Solicitors Regulation Authority accredited Personal Injury Panel, The Forum of Complex Injury Solicitors ("FOCIS"), Pan European Organisation of Personal Injury Lawyers ("PEOIL"), Kent and Sussex Silverlining Charity, Legal Aid Agency – Independent Funding Adjudicator 2013–2016, President Kent Law Society 2011–2012, President Tunbridge Wells, Tonbridge & District Law Society 2010–2011.

Personal: Lives in East Sussex with her partner and two adopted daughters, enjoys baking, walking her dogs, gardening and travelling.

POSFORD, Ben
Osbornes Law, London
0207 482 8441
Ben.posford@osborneslaw.com

Featured in Personal Injury (London)

Practice Areas: Ben acts exclusively for claimants who have suffered life-changing injuries of the utmost severity, including neuro-trauma, fatalities, brain injuries, amputations, spinal cord injuries, disfiguring burns and other severe personal injuries.

Recommended as a leading lawyer in the fields of both personal injury law and clinical negligence in the Legal 500 independent client directory, Ben is also a band one (top-ranked) leading individual in Chambers & Partners, the other key legal directory. Ben has a special interest in early rehabilitation and adapted accommodation issues for the seriously injured, particularly those with severe brain injuries, paraplegia or tetraplegia, and on behalf of his clients pursues insurers for initial compensation payments from the outset to establish effective care and therapy regimes, and to secure appropriate housing. He regularly contributes to the national media on issues concerning health and safety, corporate or gross negligence manslaughter, and the calculation of compensation awards for catastrophic injuries. He has written for The Times, various legal journals, and appeared on the BBC. In recent years he has been quoted in a range of diverse publications including the Evening Standard, Mail, The Times, Mirror and the New York Post, along with legal publications such as Legal Futures, the Law Society Gazette and the Solicitors Journal. Ben is an accredited Fellow of the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL). Through APIL he has been a contributor to working parties on reform of the Fatal Accidents Act 1976, Lord Briggs' proposals for the introduction of online courts, reforms to the calculation of accommodation claims in catastrophic injury cases, and new sentencing guidelines for gross negligence manslaughter. Ben is accredited by APIL as an advanced specialist in the fields of brain injury and fatal accidents and is an assessor for APIL's accreditation schemes in these specialisms. For ten years he was also Secretary of APIL's

National Damages Special Interest Group. Ben has an approachable and down-to-earth manner and is always happy to discuss and explain the law to individuals who are unsure about their right to compensation, either in person or over the telephone.

Career: Admitted to the Roll of Solicitors in 2002, Ben is an equity partner at Osbornes (& risk management partner) & Head of Catastrophic Injury since 2013. Previous firms include Lyons Davidson, Shoosmiths, Prolegal & Stewarts.

Professional Memberships:

Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (Accredited Fellow); APIL accredited specialist in Brain Injuries & Fatalities; APIL elected national secretary of the Damages Special Interest Group; Law Society of England and Wales, Kent Law Society, American Association for Justice.

PRIOR, Stephanie
Osbornes Law, London
0207 681 8671
stephanie.prior@osborneslaw.com

Featured in Clinical Negligence (London), Personal Injury (London)

See under Clinical Negligence for profile.

ROSE, Deborah
Irwin Mitchell, Bristol
0117 9261505
deborah.rose@irwinmitchell.com

Featured in Personal Injury (South West)

Practice Areas: I specialise in personal injury law and work in the Serious Injury team, representing people who have sustained life changing injuries in accidents. I act for people who have sustained the most catastrophic injuries including severe brain and spinal cord injuries and amputations. My primary goal for each of my clients is to get them the support and rehabilitation they need to return, as far as possible, to the life they had before the accident. I also undertake a lot of fatal accident work, supporting the families of those who have lost their lives through accidents to find answers and security for their futures. I have always enjoyed working with people and I love meeting my clients, getting to know them and helping them through what is an extremely emotional and stressful time. The most rewarding aspect of my job is helping to ensure the needs of my clients are met at the time when they need it most.

SEYMOUR, Nick
Thompsons, Bristol
0117 304 2471
nicholasseymour@thompsons.law.co.uk

Featured in Personal Injury (South West)

Practice Areas: Nick's specialises in representing clients with complex and serious injuries, recovering millions of pound in compensation for them every year. He regularly represents people suffering from mesothelioma and other asbestos-related diseases. Nick is also an expert in health and safety at work legislation and regularly trains workplace health and safety

representatives to ensure they are up to date on the latest developments in this area of the law.

Career: Nicholas is a principal lawyer and partner with over 21 years' experience, representing victims of accidents and disease. Nick has managed teams at Thompsons in Plymouth, Bristol and Cardiff.

Professional Memberships: Nick is a member of the Devon and Exeter Law Society and the Plymouth Law Society. He is a senior litigator and an occupational and asbestos disease specialist with the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers, as well as a member of the Solicitors Association of Higher Courts Advocates.

Personal: Nick is proud to work for Thompsons because all the team have a positive common purpose to provide justice for injured people. As well as that, Nick is proud that the firm never acts for employers or insurers, and that all energy and expertise is focussed on helping the victim. Outside of work Nick is a fan of football, supporting Tottenham and his son's under 11 team. He also enjoys strumming along on guitar to his favourite bands, such as the Beatles, the Stone Roses and U2. Nicholas enjoys walking his dog, and travelling.

SHAKESPEARE, Helen
Thompsons, Sheffield
0113 205 6300
HelenShakespeare@Thompsons.law.co.uk

Featured in Personal Injury (Yorkshire)

Practice Areas: Helen is a highly experienced senior serious injury solicitor based in Thompsons Solicitors Leeds office, supervising the Yorkshire and Humberside serious injury team. Helen specialises in high-value and complex cases involving brain injury, spinal injury, multiple fractures, serious burns, and amputations that are life-changing and catastrophic.

Career: With 19 years' experience, Helen understands the importance of rehabilitation and therapy to help her clients rebuild their lives after serious injury trauma. Helen will ensure that her clients are provided with therapeutic support, appropriate adaptations, equipment and prosthetics, funded by interim payments.

Professional Memberships: Helen is a member of the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers and the brain injury charity Headway.

Personal: Helen focuses on getting the right individually-tailored care and rehabilitation package and creating a meaningful plan for her clients' long-term needs. With access to the best medical advice and evidence, Helen's clients know they are in good hands. Helen is sensitive and empathetic, working for both adults and children seriously injured through accidents at work or on the road. With a reputation as a determined litigator who wants justice for her clients, and who pursues cases to gain the maximum compensation in the shortest possible time, Helen

has secured millions of pounds for her clients. Helen shares Thompsons' ethos and has only ever acted for those who are injured, rather than those who have been responsible for the injuries. She is proud to work for a firm that will fight the challenging cases and issues that other solicitor firms won't.

SHORT, David
Balfour+Manson LLP, Edinburgh
0131 200 1285
david.short@balfour-manson.co.uk

Featured in Personal Injury (Scotland)

Practice Areas: Partner and head of litigation. Extensive practice acting on behalf of individuals, Trade Unions and Professional Associations. Main areas of practice include aviation accidents, work related accidents, disease cases and complex injury/jurisdictional cases. Has represented the Pilots Union, BALPA for over 30 years. Has represented clients throughout the world in 23 aircraft cases including Malaysian Airlines MH17 and Shoreham cases. Was appointed lead negotiator in the Norwegian Helicopter Accident at Turoy which settled in 2021. Currently representing Kenyan Tea Pickers injured on Tea Plantations in Kenya owned by a Scottish company. Appointed as Chairman to the War Pensions Appeals Tribunal Scotland in 2019.

Career: Dundee and Strathclyde Universities, Partner at Lawford Kidd until 2012. Currently Partner at Balfour+Manson LLP. Qualified 1984.

Professional Memberships: Law Society of Scotland; Writer to His Majesty's Signet; Past Exec Councillor APIL; Member of PEOPIIL (Pan European Association of Personal Injury Lawyers); and Head of Aviation for PEOPIIL; Notary Public.

Personal: One son. Enjoys hill walking, cycling and travel.

SPINKS, Jackie
Anthony Gold, London
0207 940 4000
jpv@anthonygold.co.uk

Featured in Personal Injury (London)

Practice Areas: Head of the Injury and Claims Department, partner Jackie Spinks is an expert in dealing with catastrophic injury matters, with extensive experience in the most complex of claims, particularly traumatic brain injury. Renowned for her expertise in child brain injury, she is regularly recommended by barristers and medical experts in this field. Jackie also delivers personal injury lectures and webinars to an expert witness audience for Bond Solon and has spoken at their annual "Expert Witness Conference".

Career: Qualified 1996 at John Cunningham Joined Anthony Gold 1998 Partner May 2001

Professional Memberships: APIL Member Accredited Headway Brain Injury solicitor Law Society Accreditation in Personal Injury

STOREY, Tracey
Irwin Mitchell, London
0870 1500 100
Tracey.Storey@IrwinMitchell.com

Featured in Personal Injury (London)

Practice Areas: I am regional head of the Leeds and Newcastle medical law teams, having specialised in medical negligence law since qualifying in 1998. I have extensive experience in this field of law with a particular expertise in cerebral palsy, birth injury claims, amputation and brain injury cases. I work with my clients to ensure not only they are fully compensated for their injuries but have the support in their life present and future to succeed in all they want to despite their injuries. I am a keen advocate for patient safety supporting change through the experiences of our clients and where asked support clients in promoting change and raising awareness, I provide training to medical professionals. I am immensely proud to represent my clients and have a superb team who work tirelessly for their clients.

Career: Trained Cozens Hardy & Jewson, qualified 1994, senior solicitor Russell Jones & Walker, London 1999-2003; associate Irwin Mitchell, London 2003, partner 2006. Head of London Serious Injury team 2017 and now National Team Leader, Serious Injury from 2020.

Professional Memberships: Formerly on the executive committee of the Association of Child Abuse and previously co-ordinator of APIL's child abuse special interest group; currently, accredited brain injury specialist with APIL and APIL Fellow.

SWAINE, Laura
Osbornes Law, London
Featured in Personal Injury (London)

Practice Areas: Laura is a catastrophic injury Associate Solicitor specialising in both medium and high value complex injury claims, particularly those involving brain and spinal cord injuries, loss of limbs, fatalities, polytrauma and severe psychiatric harm. Laura acts in claims for compensation arising from cycling accidents, accidents at work, accidents arising from public negligence, road traffic collisions, clinical negligence and gynaecological injuries. She specialises in looking to obtain early intervention and treatment to aid rehabilitation.

Professional Memberships: Laura is an Accredited Senior Litigator by the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL), and the Joint Co-Ordinator of the APIL Damages Special Interest Group. **Publications:** Laura is listed within the Legal 500 as "another product of the Osbornes academy of excellence, Laura has drive and energy that are the envy of her contemporaries. Nothing is too much trouble and she instils confidence in her clients".

Personal: Laura is a member of the London Cycling Campaign (LCC) and a keen cyclist. In her spare time Laura enjoys playing hockey, cycling, skiing and reading.

VENN, Andrew C
Thompsons, Newcastle upon Tyne
0191 269 0412
andrewvenn@thompsons.law

Featured in Personal Injury (UK-wide)

Practice Areas: Andrew is a partner and head of asbestos litigation at Thompsons Solicitors. An extremely experienced and knowledgeable personal injury solicitor with an impressive track-record of getting substantial compensation for victims of asbestos-related disease in the quickest time, Andrew has been involved in ground-breaking cases. In addition to dealing with cases across Cumbria and the North East, as national practice lead Andrew supervises the work of Thompsons asbestos teams around the country and is responsible for case management. With 18 years' experience of handling difficult, challenging and –more often than not –tragic cases through the courts and to the House of Lords, Andrew has gained a reputation as a lawyer who is sensitive, thorough and professional. Andrew's extensive knowledge of mesothelioma and other asbestos-related diseases, gives him the ability to work at speed to get the maximum compensation, particularly during the lifetime of those with a malignant diagnosis.

Professional Memberships: Andrew is an assessor for the Law Society's Occupational Injury Accreditation Scheme, a Law Society panel member and a senior litigator with the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL).

Personal: A tenacious champion of his clients, Andrew pursues employers and insurance companies with a dogged determination, despite the increasingly aggressive challenges they put up which make life even more difficult for claimants. Whether tracing employers and their insurers who no longer are in business, or finding the best medical expert, Andrew is hugely supportive to clients and their families. Andrew values the Thompsons ethos of putting the client at the heart of everything they do and that sets it apart from other firms. Getting the best possible outcome for his clients in some of the most tragic cases is what Andrew finds most rewarding. In his spare time, Andrew likes to spend time with his family and travelling. The Lake District is a favourite place.

WEBSTER, Lorna
Hodge Jones & Allen, London
0800 437 0322
lwebster@hja.net

Featured in Personal Injury (UK-wide)

Practice Areas: Lorna, a Partner within the Asbestos Team has, for over 20 years, specialised in asbestos disease claims for claimants. As such, she is a recognised and proven expert in this specialist area. Lorna regularly obtains six figure settlements for her clients. Her settlements include claims for clients who not only have received their main damages but who have also been able to access medical treatment not available on the NHS as part of the settlement agreement. Lorna is a specialist in all asbestos disease cases including mesothelioma, asbestos related lung cancer, asbestosis and pleural thickening. In a recent pleural thickening

ing matter, Lorna agreed a settlement of £78,000 for her client. The case was defended throughout and yet Lorna was able to secure a good settlement for the client. Lorna enjoys a challenging case and was successful in securing a six figure settlement in a mesothelioma case in which she pursued numerous defendants. When Lorna took initial instructions from the mesothelioma victim, it was apparent that he had been exposed to asbestos dust when working for approximately 45 former employers. Lorna's methodical and meticulous way of working and her ability to analyse the evidence against each former employer meant that ultimately 17 defendants were pursued, all of which contributed to the settlement sum. In another of Lorna's recent cases, she secured a settlement in a fatal mesothelioma matter in which the defendant argued that the mesothelioma diagnosis was incorrect. They were proven wrong and the case was ultimately settled for a six figure amount. In a living mesothelioma matter the insurers failed to do anything proactively with the claim and so Court proceedings were swiftly issued for Lorna's client. The six figure settlement, plus a Court Order for future treatment costs, was concluded within nine months from receipt of instruction including Court proceedings. In a recent fatal meso case, Lorna secured a settlement for a dependant widow as well as a dependant grand-daughter. Again Court proceedings were necessary in order to focus the defendant and their insurers on the case and get across to them that Lorna was serious about pursuing the matter despite their lack of action. Lorna was also successful in a recent mesothelioma case which settled against four of the Deceased's former employers for a six figure sum. Lorna was able to secure admissions from all four defendants, which in turn allowed the case to settle. Lorna's wealth of experience covers cases for both living clients and in fatal matters, across all asbestos diseases. She also assists clients in bringing claims in America for mesothelioma caused by contaminated talcum powder. Lorna works closely with local asbestos support charities, most notably the London Asbestos Support Awareness Group which she was involved in establishing and continues to support and provide legal assistance to. Lorna is a campaigner and will fight for those who are unfairly treated by the law, including the setting up of a petition which attracted television coverage. Lorna has appeared on national live television, has been quoted in The Times newspaper and other national newspapers and has been interviewed on live radio to talk about asbestos disease matters. Lorna is known to be a calm and proactive case handler and has an enviable skill of being able to find a practical solution in a difficult or unusual situation. Her clients comment that she is down to earth, friendly and explains legal matters in a clear and reassuring way. Lorna's expertise is recognised by those she works with

and through independent accreditation by The Association of Personal Injury Lawyers, of which she is an Asbestos and Occupational Disease specialist.

Career: Lorna trained and worked at Thompsons LLP in London and Dagenham. She has been a Partner at Hodge Jones & Allen in London since January 2020.

Professional Memberships:

APIL (Association of Personal Injury Lawyers): Accredited Asbestos and Occupational Disease Specialist.

WELSH, Anthony

Thompsons, London

02920 445369

anthonywelsh@thompsons.law.co.uk

Featured in Personal Injury (Wales)

Practice Areas: Anthony Welsh

works within the personal injury team in Cardiff and is a senior supervisor for Wales and South West. Anthony has experience of dealing with high value complex litigated claims, including accidents at work, fatalities and public liability claims. He has spent his career making a difference to people's lives, helping those who have been injured or those who have lost a loved one.

Career: Anthony Welsh has been a part of Thompsons since September 2004.

Professional Memberships: Anthony is an Accredited Senior Litigator of The Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL).

WETHERELL, Hilary

Irwin Mitchell, Birmingham

0121 214 5263

hilary.wetherell@irwinmitchell.com

Featured in Personal Injury (Midlands)

Practice Areas: I joined Irwin Mitchell

in 2000 and became a Partner in the Serious Injury team in Birmingham in 2011. In 2021 I was appointed Lead Partner for the Complex PI teams in Birmingham. I lead a team of seven lawyers and our specialisms include: Brain injury Polytrauma (multiple serious injuries) Severe burns Complex fatal accident work such as police liaison work and coronial law. We routinely secure settlements for more than £1 million – including an Irwin Mitchell record for the Serious Injury team of £22.7 million. We have an immediate focus from the day of instruction on our client's rehabilitation needs and routinely refer to our superb Support and Rehabilitation team to make sure our clients and families are supported before we're able to secure interim payments. For road traffic accidents, including fatal accidents, our specialist investigation team works with the police to analyse the accident for our clients. Member of the team are themselves ex-police and draw on their police experience to support our clients' claim. We're extremely proud to be able to work with some truly inspirational clients and to provide the "expert hand, human touch" that they and their families need during their long rehabilitation process.

Career: Trained Donns; qualified 1999; Irwin Mitchell 2000 to date (associate 2006, partner 2011).

Professional Memberships: I'm a brain injury, fatal accident and senior litigator accredited member of the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL). My team devised and designed the APIL Fatal Accidents Accreditation and I deliver annual training for APIL across the country.

WILSON, Simon G

Thompsons, Leeds

0113 2056336

simonwilson@thompsons.law.co.uk

Featured in Personal Injury (Yorkshire)

Practice Areas: Simon is the national

lead lawyer for serious injury claims, and is based in Thompsons' Leeds office. After many years' experience dealing with serious injury claims, particularly those involving spinal injury, head and brain injury and amputation and multiple fractures, Simon is a recognised expert in the field.

Professional Memberships: Simon is a member and regional co-ordinator for Yorkshire of the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers, a position that he has held for almost a decade, and as a result frequently lectures on health and safety issues and personal injury law. He is also a member of the Law Society Personal Injury Panel.

Personal: Simon has acted exclusively for injured claimants throughout his long career and has worked for many trade unions. He was also involved in the formation of the Migrant Workers Network for Unite. Simon is also involved with charities including the Spinal Injuries Association, Back Up Trust and Headway, for whom he acts as treasurer of the local Leeds branch. Simon recognises the importance of early rehabilitation and therapy; his primary objective is to ensure that his clients are provided with therapeutic support and appropriate adaptations and equipment, funded by interim payments. It is only once those measures are in place that he considers final monetary compensation. After that, he makes sure that his clients are provided with long term support in relation to financial investment and contact with appropriate support groups. His largest claim to date resulted in a total gross award of £6.25 million.

WITHERS, David

Irwin Mitchell, Sheffield

Featured in Personal Injury (Yorkshire)

Practice Areas: I am a Partner of Irwin Mitchell LLP. I qualified as a solicitor in 2012 and achieved promotions in 2015, 2017, and 2019. I co-led the Sheffield Serious Injury Team and have line management responsibilities for over 35 colleagues. I specialise in serious injury cases involving life-changing trauma.

Career: I have recovered damages in excess of £125M during my career. My highest individual settlements include £18M (capitalised PPO), £9.6M, and £7M, £6.3M, 6.25M, £5.1M, and £5M. I have taken cases to, and succeeded at, trial. I also have experience of resisting permission applications, and gaining permission, to appeal to the Court of

Appeal. My Trial experience includes: (a) Revell – v – Damiani [2017] EWHC 2630 (QB); led my team to Trial. We tried to change the law on CPR Part 21 (widely reported in the legal press). The High Court was bound by an old House of Lords authority; however, our commitment to get the right result led to a strong settlement before the Court of Appeal hearing. (b) Ayres – v – Odedra [2013] EWHC 40 (QB); I was part of the legal team who secured a 80:20% outcome after a hard fought trial on liability. I have been shortlisted at the National Personal Injury Awards for case of the year. I have also been shorted for the Yorkshire Partner of the Year. I achieved Higher Rights of Audience in 2013. I have represented clients and families at interlocutory hearings on multi-track cases, in the Magistrates' Court, and at an inquest. I am a Fellow of, and a Brain Injury Assessor for, the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers ("APIL"). I am also the Joint Co-Ordinator of the National and popular Brain Injury Special Interest Group. I have also opened the National Brain and Spinal Injuries conference and presented for APIL as part of their paid training. I have presented on two occasions to the Rehabilitation Special Interest Group for the Forum of Insurance Lawyers (FOIL) on collaborative working and advances in technology. I delivered a presentation to 225 aspiring lawyers in conjunction with the University of Law and Legal Cheek. I have contributed to a round table discussion about expert evidence in a virtual world. This event was attended by over 150 lawyers and insurers. I was heavily involved in the set-up of the Irwin Mitchell Advocacy Team. This growing team has gone from strength-to-strength. I provide advice on a range of issues in a challenging hospital environment to families who have relatives in a critical condition. This advice has included balancing the right to life and best interest obligations. I have been published on a number of occasions including the Journal of Personal Injury Lawyers, PI Focus, the Solicitors' Journal, and the Neuro-Rehabilitation Times. I co-lead our insurance partnership arrangements to ensure quality provision for before-the-event and after-the-event insurance cover. I also provide technical costs and pricing advice and sit on the National Risk Forum for the Personal Injury Division. I have presented to over 500 colleagues on a number of occasions about cost and pricing changes. I also support the General Counsel Team as a Subject Matter Expert. I have supported colleagues through mentoring. I also have an interest in law reform. I am currently operating at National Division Executive level to supervise the effective management of a run-off book. There were originally over 25,000 cases.

Professional Memberships: I am the Secretary for the Association of Personal Injury Lawyer's (APIL) Brain Injury Group. I am accredited by APIL as a Fellow and Brain Injury specialist. I assess aspiring lawyers who wish

to become brain injury accredited on behalf of APIL

Publications: I have been published in the Journal of Personal Injury Lawyers, PI Focus, and NR Times. I provide technical guidance to the National Serious Injury Team as part of a national role.

Yaqub, Riffat

Hodge Jones & Allen, London
020 7874 8451
ryaqub@hja.net

Featured in Personal Injury (London)

Practice Areas: Riffat Yaqub is a Partner in the Personal Injury team, specialising in high-value claims involving spinal cord injury, brain damage and serious orthopaedic injuries resulting in amputations and fatalities. She is a hugely talented claimant personal injury solicitor with a calm, empathetic and measured approach who gets results. Riffat is known for adopting a client-focused, holistic approach whilst being committed and a fierce litigator. She is not afraid to take cases to trial when necessary. She acts for vulnerable clients and is a strong advocate for securing early rehabilitation, ensuring her clients can get their lives back on track as quickly as possible. Throughout her career of 26 years, Riffat has developed a formidable reputation for consistently achieving strong results for her clients who have suffered serious life changing injuries arising from road traffic accidents, workplace accidents, accidents in public places and medical accidents. She is dedicated to her cli-

ents' wellbeing to meet their every care, treatment need and secure their future financially. Riffat works effectively with case managers, medics and professionals to achieve the right outcome. Riffat has pursued a number of high-profile cases involving foreign nationals who have been injured in the UK, including a Ukrainian national injured in a workplace accident, three UAE nationals who were viciously attacked whilst staying at a London hotel and a French national who suffered devastating life-changing injuries after being thrown from a viewing gallery. Riffat has set up what is perhaps the first community based neuro rehabilitation package for her brain injured client in Ukraine where there is a complete dearth of brain injury services. When war broke out, Riffat was determined to help her client, to return to the UK and worked tirelessly to get UK authorities to grant visas to her client, his family, and his Ukrainian based community rehabilitation team. Whilst running her complex catastrophic caseload, Riffat also leads and co-ordinates support work with CBIT. Attending meetings with caseworkers, events and fundraising. Riffat is a confident public speaker and regularly presents on HJA's London Legal Podcast and Facebook Live sessions with CBIT and other groups. Riffat works closely with junior HJA colleagues to provide mentoring and coaching. Riffat works closely with charities including CBIT, Brake, Headway and others. **PROFESSIONAL TESTIMONIALS** Dr Jackson, Clinical

Neuropsychologist "Without reservation You -Riffat have been outstanding in such unusual and challenging circumstances, with unselfishness, resilience and humanitarianism. It has been a pleasure to work with you, being creative in providing an effective rehabilitation programme partly remotely in the Ukraine. After the onset of war, you were unnerving in finding the best way to arrange the evacuation of your severely brain injured client and his family to the UK. In my 30 years of medico-legal work I have rarely seen a solicitor with such concern for their clients and the capacity to work so insightfully with the Neuro-rehabilitation services." Dr Mark Holloway, Senior Brain Injury Case Manager "Throughout the whole process Riffat has sought to understand the complexities faced, she has been a committed advocate for her client and his family, and, whilst rightly holding us all to account, has recognised just how difficult this has been. She has liaised collegiately and robustly with her defendant counterpart and has ensured we have a shared vision of what we aim to achieve". William Latimer-Sayer KC, Cloisters "Riffat cleverly negotiated with the Defendant's representatives to make further payments under the Rehab Code, which therefore are not subject to the contributory negligence discount. Her dedication and commitment to the client has been truly inspirational, and we are now working to secure the necessary expert evidence to quantify and resolve the claim." Beth

Bartlett, Clinical Manager, Harrison Associates "I worked with Riffat on the case of a young woman who sustained life changing injury to her upper limb. Whilst her tenacity and resilience helped maximise her rehabilitation and recovery potential, having an equally tenacious and resilient solicitor fighting her corner was just as important: Riffat really supported both her client and me as the case manager enabling the young lady to access rehabilitation tailored to her needs, as expediently as possible. Riffat has a terrific manner, is very innovative, calm, emphatic, caring and an extremely bright capable lawyer who is very client focussed. Working so collaboratively with Riffat made the whole rehabilitation process so much easier, not to mention such a pleasure!" Graham Lynch, Defendant Solicitor Riffat adopted a pragmatic and collaborative approach throughout the process including early notification of the claim, dialogue in relation to liability resolution, rehabilitation, quantum evidence and overall settlement. Throughout I found Riffat to be a pragmatic, skilled negotiator. She was a formidable opponent, very determined, who clearly cared for her client. Riffat was very approachable, highly experienced litigator".

Professional Memberships: • Law Society Personal Injury Accreditation Scheme • Accredited Senior Litigator of Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL)