

Edward James



Year called: 2002

Telephone: +44 (0) 115 947 2581

“An excellent advocate both in court and during conference, with a knowledgeable and reassuring manner that puts clients at ease.”

Legal 500

Ed is a personal injury and clinical negligence specialist with an established practice acting for both Claimants and Defendants in, principally, Multi Track litigation.

He specialises in high value injury claims, whilst maintaining a niche practice dealing with civil actions against the police and claims involving sport-related injury.

Ed receives repeat instructions from a wide client base including many of the leading personal injury firms, as well as a number of major insurance companies and county councils, all of whom return to him for his sound

advice and representation at settlement meetings or trial.

He frequently deals with cases involving exaggeration or fraud. Following an early mixed common law practice in London, including many criminal jury trials in the Crown Court, he has a particular advantage at the civil bar in dealing with cases in which dishonesty is involved.

His practice over the years has provided him with a wealth of advocacy experience in the Magistrates' Court, Crown Court, County Court, High Court, Court of Appeal and the Old Bailey.

Ed is well known for his personable approach and tenacious courtroom advocacy.

Ed is married with three young children. Outside work, he enjoys spending time with his family, watching rugby, skiing in the Alps, sailing on the Solent and walking in the Yorkshire Dales.

Personal Injury

Ed has a busy and established personal injury practice, acting for both Claimants and Defendants in, principally, Multi Track litigation.

He deals with high value injury claims and is experienced in the full spectrum of catastrophic injury claims including spinal injury, brain injury and complex pain. Ed is used to dealing with complicated injury claims and he has a number of very faithful solicitors who repeatedly instruct him for his sound advice and representation at settlement meetings or trial.

His current caseload includes sports-related injuries, civil actions against the Police, accidents at work, road traffic accidents (resulting in high value injury claims or accidents involving issues of fraud), Highways Act 1980, Defective Premises Act 1972 and Occupiers' Liability Act 1957 and / or 1984, physical and / or sexual abuse and the Package Holiday Regulations 1992.

Catastrophic Injury

Ed deals with high value injury claims and is experienced in the full spectrum of catastrophic injury claims including spinal injury, brain injury and complex pain.

He is used to dealing with complicated injury claims and has a number of very loyal solicitors who repeatedly instruct him for his advice and representation at settlement meetings or trial.

Counter Fraud

Ed is frequently dealing with cases in which exaggeration or fraud is alleged.

He is regularly instructed on behalf of several national insurers in respect of allegations of dishonesty and his background in conducting criminal jury trials has greatly assisted him in challenging these types of claims in the civil courts, including contempt proceedings in the High Court.

Criminal Regulatory

Ed has substantial experience in defending and mitigating on behalf of corporate clients, employers and individuals in Health and Safety related matters in the Magistrates' and Crown Court.

In light of his criminal law background, he feels equally at home in the criminal and civil courts.

Clinical Negligence

Ed has a busy and rapidly expanding clinical negligence practice advising and representing Claimants as well as various medical defence organisations at settlement meetings or trial.

His practice encompasses all aspects of medical and dental law including cases involving misdiagnosis, plastic surgery, negligent treatment (particularly of sports-related injuries) and also general surgery.

Inquests

Ed has undertaken many inquests on behalf of a range of interested parties, including the family of the deceased, insurers and private clients.

The types of inquests done range enormously but they have included deaths in custody, deaths of vulnerable adults in care homes, deaths resulting from accidents at work and fatalities on the highway.

Motor

Ed's practice has always included claims arising from road traffic accidents and he is now regularly instructed on high value road traffic injury claims and claims involving an element of exaggeration, fraud or dishonesty.

Police Law

Ed has successfully pursued a number of civil actions against the police including cases, involving civil assaults and battery, unreasonable release and use of police dogs and false imprisonment.

His criminal law background has given him a particular edge in dealing with cases involving the police authorities and the use and abuse of police powers more generally.

Ed has recently been working on a complex civil action involving a police dog handler releasing his police dog on a twelve year old boy in a public park in the middle of the day.

In another recent instruction, Ed was representing a young Claimant who was beaten and falsely imprisoned by officers whilst on a night out with a friend. The claim settled shortly before trial.

Sports

Ed has a particular interest in claims arising from the field of sport and he is regularly instructed by individuals and others sporting bodies to bring or defend sport-related, principally injury, claims in the County Court and High Court.

He is becoming increasingly involved in the disciplinary and regulatory side of sports law and is keen to expand this area of his practice going forward.

Ed undertakes all sports-related work, including dispute resolution between players, agents, clubs, regulators and sponsors, along with all other sports-related litigation.

Animals & Equine

Ed is well versed in dealing with disputes involving animals and he has a good knowledge of the provisions of

the Animals Act 1971.

He has advised and represented Claimants and Defendants in cases involving animal attacks, principally dog bite and escaped animal claims, horse riding accidents on the highway, road traffic accidents involving escaped animals and trespass and nuisance claims involving animals.

Travel Law

Ed has successfully represented a number of Claimants with claims brought under the provisions of the Package Holiday Regulations 1992 or the Athens Convention.

His practice in this area is expanding rapidly and, where appropriate, he is willing to undertake this sort of work on the basis of a Conditional Fee Agreement.

Appointments

- Direct Access Qualified

Memberships

- Criminal Bar Association
- Personal Injuries Bar Association
- Nottinghamshire Medico-Legal Society

Education

- MA (Hons) History, University of Edinburgh

Notable Cases

- A Deputy Headmistress who sustained serious personal injury when injured on private land; settled at JSM for £350,000.
- A pedestrian who stepped out from between two parked cars at night and was knocked down by a motor

- vehicle, sustaining life changing physical and psychological injury (limited prospects on liability); settled pre-action for £500,000 (settlement approved by the court).
- A personal injury claim relating to an alleged civil battery by a security officer at the Grosvenor Hotel; claim dismissed after a lengthy trial in the Central London County Court.
- A civil action against the police involving a dog handler releasing his police dog on a twelve year old boy in a public park in the middle of the day.
- A large number of personal injury claims involving fraud with detailed arguments relating to fundamental dishonesty and associated applications pursuant to section 57 of the Criminal Justice and Courts Act 2015 (as well as committal proceedings in the High Court).
- A construction site injury claim involving Claimant being crushed by a digger; settled for £450,000.
- Civil battery claim arising from a game of rugby in which serious personal injuries were sustained; claim settled before trial.
- Successful package holiday claim involving detailed scrutiny of the Package Travel Regulations 1992.
- A young Claimant who was beaten and falsely imprisoned by police officers whilst on a night out with a friend; settled shortly before trial.
- A personal injury claim involving a Ministry of Defence armoured tank which collided with a motor vehicle being driven by a civilian on a quiet country road in the West Country causing serious injury; settled shortly before trial.
- A high value claim involving injury during a karate lesson in which the participant was given inadequate instruction and training.
- A personal injury claim resulting in settlement at trial and Confidentiality Agreements being signed.
- Bail application in the Old Bailey (defendant accused of murder and on remand for a retrial).
- Appeal against Sentence in the Court of Appeal (Criminal Division).
- Junior counsel (led) in an eight week controlling prostitution and false imprisonment trial in the Harrow Crown Court.
- A criminal case that was successfully Case Stated to the High Court in London.

Recommendations

"A compassionate and professional manner with clients, a thorough attention to detail to the facts of a case and the application of those facts to the law."

Legal 500 2022 - Inquests and inquiries and personal injury

"A very good trial advocate." "Very professional, knowledgeable and great with clients."

Chambers & Partners 2021 - Personal injury

"An excellent advocate both in court and during conference, with a knowledgeable and reassuring manner that puts clients at ease."

Legal 500 2021 - Personal injury