

# Defendant casualty conference



St John's  
CHAMBERS



Thursday, 14th November 2024



9.30am – 4.20pm



The Studio, Birmingham

CPD:  
5 hours

The Personal Injury team at St John's Chambers invite you to join us for our exclusive defendant-focused one-day conference, suitable for all defendant lawyers from partners to paralegals.

This event is **free of charge** and is a fantastic opportunity to hear from specialist personal injury barristers on the **hottest topics** that will be affecting defendant practitioners both now and in the near future, with tips, tactics, and updates to keep you right up to speed with the latest trends in **personal injury litigation**.

For the first time, we are holding this event in **Birmingham** and it will be followed by a drinks and canapés networking reception.

**Book your  
place here**



## Topics:

- Defending claims for FND & chronic pain
- Defending claims for mild traumatic brain injury
- Liability case law update
- Defending highways claims, avoiding the trips
- Defending data protection claims
- Fundamental dishonesty & the use of surveillance
- Contribution claims
- Panel discussion

# Programme

“ A market-leading set on the Western Circuit, St John's Chambers is well regarded for its formidable personal injury offering.”  
Chambers UK, 2024

<b>09.30am</b>	<b>Registration and refreshments</b>
10.00am	<b>Introduction by Chair</b> Rachel Russell, Barrister
10.15am	<b>Defending claims for FND and chronic pain</b> Matthew White, Barrister
<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Break &amp; Refreshments</b>
11.15am	<b>Defending claims for mild traumatic brain injury</b> James Marwick, Barrister
12.00pm	<b>Liability case law update</b> Jonathan Lindfield, Barrister
12.30pm	<b>Defending highways claims, avoiding the trips</b> David Forster, Barrister
<b>13.15pm</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
14.00pm	<b>Defending data protection claims</b> James Hughes, Barrister
14.30pm	<b>Fundamental dishonesty &amp; the use of surveillance</b> Andrew McLaughlin & Darren Lewis , Barristers
15.30pm	<b>Contribution claims</b> Julian Horne, Barrister
16.00pm	<b>Q&amp;A Panel</b> Andrew McLaughlin, Rachel Russell, Darren Lewis, James Hughes, David Forster, Jonathan Lindfield, Barristers
<b>16.20pm</b>	<b>Close for drinks &amp; networking</b>

# Barristers



## Andrew McLaughlin

Head of Personal Injury team  
Year of call: 1993

**“The quality of his work is second to none. He always gets the right result on any case in which he is instructed. He has a really pleasant and calm demeanour that puts clients at ease.”**

Chambers UK, 2024

Andrew is a leading barrister with a national practice in the fields of personal injury, industrial disease and clinical negligence. His focus on client service and enviable ability to turn paperwork around quickly and efficiently has seen him develop into one of the busiest barristers in the country.

Andrew is ranked as a Tier 1 barrister in The Legal 500 for personal injury and Band 1 in Chambers UK for personal injury and industrial disease for which he is ranked as a national expert in the Spotlight Table. Andrew is regularly instructed as a leading junior on cases where silks have been instructed on the other side. Notably, in 2021 he comprehensively defeated a well-known KC in the case of *Walkden v Drayton Manor Park*, securing a finding of fundamental dishonesty. The claim was originally pleaded at £1.6m.



## Matthew White

Head of Chambers  
Year of call: 1997

**“Matthew has an incredible attention to detail. He is meticulous in his planning and written work and his persuasively balanced but no-nonsense approach makes him an exceptional advocate.”**

The Legal 500, 2024

Matthew routinely deals with all aspects of personal injury litigation for both claimants and defendants.

With over 25 years' experience, he has considerable expertise in serious injury claims, particularly brain and spinal injuries, pain litigation, highway law, industrial diseases, and inquests, as well as the more routine employers' liability, public liability and road traffic claims.

Matthew has a particular interest in “pain cases”: those involving conditions of uncertain aetiology and/or subjective pain without commensurate physiological basis. Recent cases have included substantial (£1m+) together with more modest claims arising from many diagnoses: fibromyalgia, chronic fatigue syndrome (ME), functional neurological disorder, functional cognitive disorder, chronic pain syndrome, somatoform pain disorder/ bodily distress disorder, and complex regional pain syndrome.



## Julian Horne

Year of call: 1998

**“Julian is an extremely competent barrister who delivers a superb service tailored to the client's needs. He is tactically very strong and can frequently determine the best route forward even in the thorniest of cases. Julian is incredibly responsive and goes above and beyond to assist.”**

Chambers UK, 2024

Julian works in all aspects of personal injury law including employers' and public liability, industrial disease, road traffic accidents (including fraud work), product liability, fatal accidents including inquests, and costs.

He is more commonly instructed by defendants and their insurers, and his practice extends to cover insurance and indemnity issues. He has particular experience of personal injury claims arising in the construction sphere and is frequently involved in complex quantum disputes, often in the context of catastrophic injuries. He understands the need for clear and practical advice.

# Barristers



**Rachel Russell**

Year of call: 2001

**“Rachel is all over the cases. She is very thorough, good with the judge and persuasive. ‘She is personable, unflappable and has a good bedside manner. She is well-liked by solicitors and takes a pragmatic approach.’”**

Chambers UK, 2024

Rachel has over 20 years’ experience in dealing with personal injury cases, acting for both claimants and defendants. She has gained a reputation for her robust advocacy, well-reasoned but no nonsense approach to complicated issues, and her friendly manner with clients.

She is highly respected both in chambers and on circuit. Whilst the focus of her practice is on cases of higher value, she will accept instructions on lower value matters where there are novel or complex issues to consider. Rachel’s regular clients include national insurers and top-tier claimant firms, as well as numerous local authorities throughout England and Wales and the NHS.



**Darren Lewis**

Year of call: 2004

**“Darren has very keen eye for detail and his pleadings are succinct and robust. He is an excellent advocate and in cross-examination he is thorough.”**

The Legal 500, 2024

Darren specialises in personal injury and employment matters, and was called to the Bar in 2004. He is a leading junior on civil fraud, fundamental dishonesty, S57 defences as well as committal for contempt of court. He has extensive expertise in strategy, tactics and risks defending dishonest claims from their inception to stike out/dismissal and even committal for contempt of court. He has lectured extensively on all aspects of civil fraud for defendants.

Darren is one of the leading personal injury costs barristers in the South West, and ranked in tier 1 by The Legal 500. He has appeared in some of the leading cases following the recent rule changes arising from Jackson, QOCS and fixed fees. He has extensive experience in industrial disease litigation and employers’ liability, with an emphasis on emerging fields such as non-freezing cold injury claims and MoD claims as well as NIHL, asbestosis and upper limb disorders. His clients range from heavy industries, for example Tata Steel, to public services.



**James Marwick**

Year of call: 2008

**“James has a strong personal injury practice, with experience handling cases in the High Court and Court of Appeal. ‘He’s technically excellent and a gifted advocate.’ James handles the client really well and is reassuring and pragmatic.’ He is forensically detailed in his approach.”**

Chambers UK, 2024

James has been recognised as a leading junior in personal injury work for a number of years. He specialises in high-value claims and undertakes work for claimants and defendants involving serious injury. He is Deputy Head of the Personal Injury Team at St John’s Chambers. James accepts instructions in all areas of personal injury work but with particular specialisms including local authority liability, construction work, military and workplace injury & disease, and cases involving allegations of dishonesty and fraud, where James is recognised as a specialist in the field.

His work encompasses the full range of injuries but with a particular focus on cases involving spinal injury, pain disorders and traumatic brain injury. He has been involved in a number of leading cases in recent years including *Brown v South West Lakes Trust and others* [2022] EWCA Civ 18 where he was successful in the Court of Appeal (led by Robert Weir KC) in a case concerning a fatal road traffic accident and the limits of the liability of occupiers. James is presently instructed in the COVID-19 frontline healthcare workers litigation in the High Court.

# Barristers



**James Hughes**

Year of call: 2011

**“James provides pragmatic advice. He is approachable and helpful, and alive to the difficulties and intricacies in running personal injury cases.’ He is a robust counsel but friendly and has a good manner with clients. He provides clear and concise advice and is always happy to assist.’ James’ court room deliverance and advocacy skills are impressive.’ ”**

CHAMBERS UK, 2024

James is a specialist personal injury and clinical negligence practitioner. He has extensive experience across the full spectrum of such work, including public and employer’s liability, road traffic accidents, industrial disease and travel claims. He is a highly experienced interim hearing and trial advocate. He acts for claimants and defendants in roughly equal measure. He is regularly instructed on behalf of defendants or their insurers where allegations of dishonesty or the disapplication of QOCS are argued.

In addition to his core personal injury and clinical negligence caseload, James is also a specialist in data protection, privacy and confidentiality work, whether arising out of the GDPR/data protection legislation, or at common law.



**Jonathan Lindfield**

Year of call: 2017

Jonathan is an experienced, sought-after, specialist personal injury barrister, whose practice encompasses all aspects of personal injury litigation. Jonathan regularly acts for both claimants and defendants on the fast and multi-track, in claims worth up to £1m. From straightforward liability disputes to complex causation issues, his caseload often involves claims with multiple expert disciplines. He is frequently asked to advise and act on cases where fundamental dishonesty or exaggeration is alleged. Jonathan is comfortable dealing with the whole spectrum of personal injury work, and his particular interests and specialisms include claims under the Highways Act, employers’ liability claims, and claims involving animals.

Priding himself on his client service, Jonathan enjoys good working relationships with his clients and can be relied upon to deal with paperwork promptly and effectively. He is acutely aware of the pressures and time constraints that those instructing him are under, he considers himself member of the legal team rather than a solo practitioner and is very pleased to deal with urgent requests and tight deadlines.



**David Forster**

Year of call: 2018

David is a specialist Personal Injury barrister who has a balanced practice acting for both Claimants and Defendants. His practice encompasses all aspects of Personal Injury and he is regularly instructed to advise on claims relating to RTAs, Employer’s Liability, Highways claims, Occupiers/Public Liability and allegations of fundamental dishonesty.

He is particularly sought after by local authority and health board clients alike.

David accepts Fast Track and Multi Track instructions and is experienced with all types of interlocutory hearings, regularly being instructed to attend CCMCs.

He is often praised for his calm and collected manner and effective client handling skills.