

CATASTROPHIC INJURY CONFERENCE

Raising funds for the BackUp Charity

Wednesday, 19th October @ 9.00am - 4.30pm

Bristol Marriott Royal College Green

Cost: £80 + VAT

Featuring an interactive courtroom style debate with Dr Kanchan Sharma and Dr Luke Bennetto on whether brain injury increases the risk of dementia.

Join us for drinks on Tuesday, 18th October @ Mud Dock, Kindly sponsored by Proactive Prosthetics.

Organised by



St John's
CHAMBERS

Sponsored by

**frenkel
topping**
GROUP

ProActive Prosthetics
20 YEARS
2001-2021
making more possible

CPD: 5.5 hours (APIL accredited)

Medical consultants and leading barristers will come together to provide valuable specialist insight into catastrophic and brain injury cases.

Highlights

- A debate on whether brain injury increases the risk of dementia, in particular in the context of provisional damages claims
- A talk on Innovative technology to assist with rehabilitation following catastrophic injury
- Several legal talks covering legal topics related to those practising in the field of catastrophic injury
- Speech and language therapist?

Raising funds for

back up
transforming lives after spinal cord injury

PROGRAMME

“St John's Chambers houses 'a comprehensive set of barristers in its personal injury team', which is praised by clients for its 'strength in depth'.

LEGAL 500, 2022

9.00 - 9.25am	Registration and refreshments
9.25 - 9.30am	Welcome and introduction from chair Rachel Russell, Head of Personal Injury team
9.30 - 10.00am	Back up Trust Lauren Jones, Corporate Partnerships Fundraiser, Backup Trust
10.00 - 11.00am	A debate on whether brain injury increases the risk of dementia, in particular in the context of provisional damages claims Dr Kanchan Sharma, Visiting Professor of Neurology Amoud University and Consultant Neurologist, North Bristol NHS Trust and Dr Luke Bennetto, Lead Consultant Neurologist, Bristol Royal Infirmary Is there a risk that at some time in the future the injured party will develop dementia as a consequence of the brain injury). If so, what type of TBI would 'qualify' and what time scales should be allowed for. Our experts will argue both sides of causation.
11.00 - 11.15am	Refreshments
11.15 - 11.45am	Legal presentation on the validity of provisional damages claims for such a risk/chance. Christopher Sharp QC, St John's Chambers
11.45 - 12.15pm	Quantum update Louise Asprey and Ben Handy, Barristers , St John's Chambers
12.15 - 12.45pm	Innovative technology to assist with rehabilitation following catastrophic injury Jon Graham, Neurological Rehabilitation and Technology Specialist This talk will provide an overview of the innovative technology – exoskeletons, robotic therapy, virtual reality and FES – that assist with rehabilitation following catastrophic injury. Participants will gain an understanding of where such technology can be accessed, and which technologies are available for home use.
12.45 - 1.45pm	Lunch

PROGRAMME

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

CHAMBERS UK 2022

1.45 - 2.15pm

Advancements in Prosthetics: How these impact patient outcomes

Alan McDougall, Clinic Manager/ Clinical Specialist Prosthetist, BSc Hons

2.15 - 2.45pm

Mental capacity

Richard Stead, Barrister

The importance of considering whether a client has capacity within the meaning of the Mental Capacity Act 2005.

2.45 - 3.15pm

Life after settlement – who's going to help me now?

Stephen Farnfield, Head of Expert Witness and David Cole, Consultant, Frenkel Topping Group

3.15 - 3.30pm

Refreshments

3.30 - 4.00pm

Live legal debate on the schedule of loss and the counter schedule

Matthew White & Andrew McLaughlin, Barristers, St John's Chambers

4.00 – 4.30pm

Question time

The Personal Injury barristers will partake in an interactive question time with the audience.

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EXPERTS

Ranked in Band 1 for Personal Injury in Chambers UK



Dr Luke Bennetto
MBM MD FRCP
Consultant Neurologist

Dr Luke Bennetto is a Consultant Neurologist and Honorary Senior Lecturer at the University of Bristol since 2008. He enjoys teaching and is heavily involved in training as the Training Programme Director for Neurology in the Severn Deanery and member of the UK Neurology Specialist Advisory Committee. He has been an expert neurology witness since 2010.



Prof Kanch Sharma
Visiting Professor of Neurology Amoud
University and Consultant Neurologist North
Bristol NHS Trust

Professor Kanch Sharma is a consultant neurologist in Bristol where he has setup a global health partnership with Amoud University, Somalia with the long term aim of developing education, research and clinical services in the field of stroke and neurology. He runs a regional concussion clinic and an acquired brain injury clinic. He is the neurologist for the British Boxing Board of Control and developed the first Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy screening protocol in UK sport. He has been an expert witness since 2020.



Jon Graham
Neurological Rehabilitation and
Technology Specialist

Jon Graham qualified in Physiotherapy from the University of Teesside in 1992. He also holds a Master's Degree in Cognitive Psychology. Jon is the Clinical Director of PhysioFunction, one of the UK's leading independently owned Neuro Rehab providers. He is recognised as an international expert in Neurological Physiotherapy, Rehabilitation Technology and Exoskeletons. Jon has acted as Principal Physiotherapy Investigator for trials including exoskeletons safety and efficacy and Neurobiofeedback for the management of chronic pain. He acts as a Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation Technology Expert producing Medico-Legal Reports for Solicitors. Jon has published articles in physiotherapy and neurological nursing journals. He is a frequently requested as a professional Speaker and clinical educator both in UK and abroad.

BARRISTERS

Ranked in Tier 1 for Personal Injury in The Legal 500



Rachel Russell, Head of PI

Year of Call: 2001

Chair

Rachel is Head of our Personal Injury team, and highly respected both in Chambers and on circuit. She was recently appointed Recorder on the Western Circuit sitting in the civil jurisdiction. Rachel has gained a reputation for her robust advocacy, well-reasoned but no nonsense approach to complicated issues, and her friendly manner with clients. She has 20 years' experience of personal injury cases, acting for both claimants and defendants with extensive expertise in claims concerning catastrophic injuries of the utmost severity. She is currently instructed as junior counsel to Christopher Sharp QC in a particularly complex traumatic brain injury case. Rachel's regular clients include national insurers and top-tier claimant firms, as well as numerous local authorities throughout England and Wales.



Christopher Sharp QC

Call: 1975 QC: 1999

"Christopher gets to the heart of things very quickly and is an excellent strategic thinker. He is fantastically technical and thorough."

CHAMBERS UK, 2022 PERSONAL INJURY

Christopher is one of the leading personal injury and clinical negligence silks. He acts for both claimants and defendants, and the majority of his work involves multi-million-pound catastrophic brain and spinal injuries cases that very often contain complex medical causation and long-term care plan issues. He is very experienced in negotiating solutions to funding problems involving indemnities or other facilitative outcomes. He is known to be terrifically hard-working and has a reputation for being able to provide swift responses to requests for advice and guidance where the papers are voluminous and the timescales are short. He is regularly brought in at short notice to advise in consultation and to take part in round-table discussions at critical junctures in large cases. He is also well known for being an astute tactician and a highly skilled cross-examiner in court.



Richard Stead

Year of Call: 1979

"Richard is extremely capable, good with clients, thorough with paperwork and always available to discuss issues in cases." "He is an expert in cases involving injuries caused by animals."

CHAMBERS UK, 2022 PERSONAL INJURY

Richard is one of the leading practitioners on the Western circuit handling claims of catastrophic injury. He is highly regarded for his expertise in a wide array of complex and specialist liability claims including agriculture, animals, trees and construction. He has considerable experience in employer's liability, sports injury and RTA claims, and regularly handles extremely high-value claims for claimant and defendant solicitors, particularly those involving brain injury. Richard represented the claimant at first instance through to the House of Lords in the case of *Mirvahedy v Henley* [2003] UKHL 16 at which the claimant's argument prevailed. The claimant was severely injured when his car collided with a horse that had escaped from a field. The case has become the leading case in respect of s2(2)(b) of the Animals Act 1971. Renowned for his skills as an excellent advocate, Richard always commands respect and attention in Court. His reputation means he is regularly called to represent clients at joint settlement meetings and mediations in negotiating resolutions in high-value cases.

BARRISTERS

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

CHAMBERS UK 2022

“Very hard-working, he never misses a deadline and his work is very detailed. He is absolutely first-rate and one of the most robust leaders in this space.”

CHAMBERS UK, 2022 PERSONAL INJURY



Andrew McLaughlin

Year of Call: 1993

Andrew is a leading junior in the fields of personal injury and industrial disease, consistently recommended in Chambers UK and Legal 500 for the past 15 years, whose practice takes him to all parts of the country but particularly the South West and South Wales. He is ranked as a band one practitioner in personal injury and is one of only twenty-eight barristers nationwide to be listed as an industrial disease expert in the Chambers UK Spotlight table. He is also recommended in the Legal 500 for Health and Safety regulatory work. He has been a member of the TSOL panel since 2012. Andrew is instructed by nearly all major insurance companies as well as private individuals and companies. He is instructed by the Government Legal Service on behalf of various departments of state. He also undertakes work on behalf of NHS Trusts and Local Authorities. Andrew has extensive experience of dealing with multi-track claims at all levels, including at the top end catastrophic accidents such as the explosion at the Port Talbot Steelworks and group litigation in relation to industrial disease. He opened the appeals in *Denton v TH White* on behalf of the successful lead defendants. He is on the Attorney General's List of Panel Counsel 2012 – 2023.



Matthew White
(Head of Chambers)

Call: 1997

“Detailed and forensic in his analysis.”

CHAMBERS UK, 2022 PERSONAL INJURY

Matthew deals with all aspects of personal injury litigation for both claimants and defendants. He aims for a roughly equal split between claimant and defendant work, taking the view that it makes for a more rounded and better lawyer to have insight into the thinking of the opponent. With over 20 years' experience, he has considerable expertise in serious injury claims, particularly brain and spinal injuries, highway law, industrial diseases (particularly asbestos), pain litigation, inquests and costs, as well as the more routine employers' liability, public liability and road traffic claims. He has been described by clients as “forensically thorough” with “fantastic attention to detail.” He has been recommended in Chambers and Partners and in Legal 500 for many years. He has been on the Attorney General's panel of counsel to the Crown since 2002, including being on the A-panel of most senior counsel since that system was introduced outside of London, therefore trusted to deal with the most complex government cases and expected to be against QCs.



Louise Asprey,
Deputy Head of PI

Year of Call: 2007

Louise has many years of experience representing both claimants and defendants in personal injury and clinical negligence matters. She regularly deals with claims arising out of road traffic accidents and is experienced in dealing with claims brought under the Highways Act 1980, the Occupiers' Liability Act 1957 and the Defective Premises Act 1972. Louise regularly advises on these matters and is skilled at assisting with the best tactics required to achieve an early conclusion of proceedings. Louise has particular experience in dealing with issues in respect of fundamental dishonesty. As well as representing parties at fast-track and multi-track trials, Louise also has gained extensive experience of acting and advising on high-value claims with complex loss of earnings and pension calculation issues. As a member of the Attorney General's Regional Panel B, Louise is instructed on behalf of the MOD and the MOJ in respect of various personal injury and clinical negligence matters.

BARRISTERS

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CHAMBERS UK 2022



Ben Handy

Year of Call: 2008

“Ben acts for claimants and defendants in complex catastrophic injury cases, including those involving allegations of fundamental dishonesty. ‘Excellent with clients and provides a high standard of technical advice. He is practical, clear in his views and an excellent communicator with instructing solicitors.’ ”

CHAMBERS UK, 2022 PERSONAL INJURY

Chambers' Head of Pupillage, Ben is an experienced personal injury barrister specialising in high value litigation, regularly involving claims of £1m or more. He is recommended by both Chambers UK and the Legal 500, in which it is said that he is “user friendly and approachable”, “provides a high standard of technical advice”, and “combines great client care skills with tactical nous”. Well regarded as a trial advocate and a fair but robust negotiator, Ben has extensive experience dealing with life-changing injuries, poly-trauma, and complex issues of causation or quantum. Particular specialisms include serious road traffic accidents involving vulnerable road users such as children, pedestrians or cyclists, construction site and agricultural accidents involving heavy machinery, psychiatric harm arising from historic sex abuse, and workplace stress.



Stephen Farnfield,

Head of Expert Witness
Frenkel Topping Group

Stephen joined Frenkel Topping in 2014 as a consultant and expert witness, progressing to senior consultant and expert witness in January 2018, and then as head of the expert witness team in January 2021. He has three main roles within Frenkel Topping. Firstly, as he is a specialist financial adviser, looking after the investments and financial planning of around 50 clients, with assets totalling around £150m, who have received large personal injury compensation payments. It is his job to support them post-settlement to ensure that their money is looked after and lasts for their lifetime. Secondly, as an expert witness Stephen supports solicitors and their clients with key financial aspects of their claims. He provides guidance and calculations around loss of earnings, pension loss and form of award reports. Stephen also provides training and regular updates to the solicitors with whom he works. Finally, as the head of the expert witness department Stephen supports the expert witness team to maintain the level of competence and knowledge within the team, to keep up to speed with evolving case law, and to ensure that our work is of the highest standard. As a chartered financial planner Stephen has the highest qualification in the industry and ensures that through continuous professional development he remains on top of his game and keeps abreast of changes within the ever-evolving financial services and personal injury landscape.



David Cole

Consultant
Frenkel Topping Group

David works as an Independent Financial Adviser for Frenkel Topping. He joined the company 3 years ago, and provides a holistic service, of the highest quality, to clients and their families. David spends a typical working day helping claimants and professionals during the litigation process to ensure they secure the damages to which they are entitled. The other part of his role is providing specialist financial advice, and giving guidance to ensure their clients' financial needs and objectives are accomplished. Being able to assist people at such a critical time in their lives gives David the drive to ensure he provides the best possible service. David is a qualified Financial Adviser, who is currently undertaking further exams to achieve Chartered status. As part of the Frenkel Topping Graduate Scheme, he has spent valuable time within each department of the business to understand the unique space in which the business operates. The time spent in each department has given David a full understanding of how each stage of their process is essential for their clients and has also shown him how important it is to provide the highest standard of service throughout the client's journey from start to finish. Key time spent in the financial services section of this business has honed his ability in providing holistic advice and communicating this to clients in a way which is simple and easy to digest.