

# Gareth Shires

Call 2007



[gshires@2tg.co.uk](mailto:gshires@2tg.co.uk)



+44 (0)20 7822 1200

Gareth Shires has a busy and wide-ranging practice dealing with commercial and civil litigation across a variety of sectors. He regularly appears in the High Court both as a led junior and as sole counsel.

With a particular reputation for managing large group claims, he is described as a “genuine specialist” in group litigation by Chambers and Partners. He handles all manner of disputes, including consumer, environmental, data privacy and product liability actions. Gareth particularly enjoys working closely with instructing solicitors on the wide range of issues arising out of group litigation work, whether legal, tactical or procedural.

Recent high-profile instructions include the *VW NOx Emissions Litigation*, the *British Airways Data Event Litigation*, and group litigation against Ticketmaster and Equifax. He is currently instructed in the *Mercedes NOx Emissions Litigation* and litigation against another 13 car manufacturers including Ford, Peugeot-Citroen, and Nissan/Renault (collectively managed as the ‘Pan-NOx’ litigation), as well as in product liability litigation including the *Essure Medical Products Litigation* and litigation against the manufacturers of trans-vaginal mesh.

Complementing his medical product liability experience, Gareth also maintains a clinical negligence practice and represents both Claimants and Defendants. He has a particular interest in gynaecological, urinary and bowel injuries, including misdiagnosis, late diagnosis (including of cancer) and negligent surgery claims.

He also maintains a small unitary commercial practice, dealing predominantly with contractual and data protection issues.

# Expertise

## Clinical Negligence

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Gareth has significant clinical negligence experience in serious injury cases and acts mainly for claimants.

He is keen to be involved with cases at an early stage and is happy to advise informally and meet with lay clients. He understands the need to ensure that expert evidence is properly handled from the beginning of a case and can provide assistance with the instruction and selection of appropriate experts.

Gareth has experience in a wide range of areas and is confident dealing with complex causation issues, including the difficult area of consent.

Gareth has developed a particular interest in claims involving gynaecological injuries, urinary and bowel injuries including misdiagnosis, late diagnosis (including of cancer) and negligent surgery claims and is sensitive to the impact such injuries have, both physically and psychologically.

Gareth has significant experience of group litigation work relating to defect medical products, particularly gynaecological. He is currently instructed by multiple claimants bringing claims against Johnson & Johnson and other manufacturers for injuries caused by transvaginal mesh ('TVM') devices and has recently obtained a Group Litigation Order on behalf of almost 200 women to pursue claims relating to the Essure contraceptive device manufactured by Bayer (*Karen Louise Tonge and anor v Bayer Public Limited Company and anor* [2023] EWHC 1792 (KB)).

## Commercial

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Gareth's commercial practice has a particular focus on consumer protection and environmental issues, including those involving European and competition law. He is experienced in handling jurisdictional issues and claims involving foreign law.

He also has a particular interest and expertise in conspiracy, fraud, and consumer contract issues, as well as in telecommunications. He has been retained as counsel for a major telecommunications company for over a decade and has conducted litigation on their behalf across the country.

Gareth was a member of the claimant counsel team in the *Volkswagen NOx Emissions Litigation*, instructing on behalf of almost 90,000 claimants, until that case settled in mid-2022. He is now instructed by the claimants in the *Mercedes NOx Emissions Litigation* and is also instructed in claims against 13 other vehicle manufacturers, including Ford, Peugeot-Citroen, and Nissan/Renault.

## Data Protection

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Gareth has been instructed in most of the large group actions involved mass data breaches in recent years, including claims against Equifax, Ticketmaster, British Airways, the Police Federation of England and Wales,

and proposed claims against easyJet and Arnold Clark.

He has significant experience of UK GDPR and DPA issues including dealing with complex data breaches, compensation issues (mainly in multi-party litigation, but also high value individual claims) and data rectification. He has advised on issues arising from companies using data-driven business models and has provided advice to businesses on questions of data retention and interpretation of the exemptions, particularly as they impact on medical and other public bodies.

Many of the cases Gareth has been instructed in involve cross-border issues including data sharing; the territorial scope of the GDPR; issues arising from Brexit; and jurisdiction.

## Group Litigation

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Gareth has wide-ranging expertise in all manner of group litigation disputes, and has handled commercial, consumer, environmental, data protection and product liability actions all subject either to formal Group Litigation Orders or some other form of collective case management.

He has been ranked as a leading Junior in the Group Litigation category of Chambers and Partners since its inception three years ago.

Examples of his recent and ongoing cases include:

- *The Volkswagen NOx Emissions Litigation*
- *The Mercedes NOx Emissions Litigation* and the subsequent 'Pan-NOx litigation against, among others, Ford, Citroen-Peugeot and Nissan/Renault
- *The JJML POP Products Litigation* and the *JJML SUI Products Litigation*
- *The Essure Medical Products Litigation*
- Equifax data breach litigation
- Ticketmaster data breach litigation

## Product Liability

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Gareth is instructed, mainly by claimants, in complex commercial and consumer product liability disputes.

He has significant experience of group litigation work in this sphere, especially relating to defective medical products, particularly gynaecological. He is currently instructed by multiple claimants in the *JJML POP Products Litigation* and the *JJML SUI Products Litigation*, bringing claims against Johnson & Johnson and other manufacturers for injuries caused by transvaginal mesh devices and has recently obtained a Group Litigation Order on behalf of almost 200 women to pursue claims relating to the Essure contraceptive device manufactured by Bayer.

He is also a leading Junior in the Dieselgate litigation, acting for hundreds of thousands of Claimants in diesel emissions claims. He was instructed in both the initial claims brought against Volkswagen and in the second wave of litigation against Mercedes, Ford, Nissan/Renault and 10 other leading motor manufacturers.

## Significant Cases

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Crossley and others v Volkswagen Aktiengesellschaft [2020] EWHC 873 (QB)

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Crossley and others v Volkswagen Aktiengesellschaft [2021] EWHC 3444 (QB)

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Collins v Ticketmaster UK Limited [2021] 10 WLUK 560

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Neal Bennett and ors v Equifax Limited [2022] EWHC 1487 (QB)

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Karen Louise Tongue v Bayer plc [2023] EWHC 1792 (KB)

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Mark Allsop v Bayerische Motoren Werke Aktiengesellschaft [2023] EWHC 2710 (KB)

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Various Claimants v Mercedes Benz and others [2023] EWHC 3173 (KB)

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Aurora Cavallari v Mercedes Benz [2024] EWHC 190 (KB)

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Various Claimants v Mercedes Benz and others [2024] EWHC 695 (KB)

## Education

- 2005 – 2007 Nottingham Law School
- 2001 – 2004 Worcester College, University of Oxford

## Memberships

- Personal Injury Bar Association
- Northern Circuit Commercial Bar Association
- Lincoln's Inn

# Recommendations

*“Gareth works fantastically hard and he is very clever and user-friendly. He provides really good insight on group actions.” “He is the guru on emissions and has done a huge amount to bring those cases forward. Nobody is better informed than he is on emissions.” “Gareth is just brilliant. He is involved in more pieces of group litigation than any other barrister I know.”*

**Chambers UK 2025**

*“Gareth is very practical and quickly gets to the nub of the issue. He is incredibly knowledgeable and experienced in personal injury/medical claims and also group action work. He is a good advocate and skilled drafter.”*

**Legal 500 2025**

*“He is the go-to person on the Dieselgate claims.”*

**Chambers UK 2024**

*“Gareth is a genuine specialist in group actions.”*

**Chambers UK 2023**