

Roger Harris

Call 1996



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Roger Harris is an experienced advocate who is recommended by the legal directories in the fields of clinical negligence and personal injury. He is also well known for his expertise in litigation relating to animals and farming.

Described in Chambers UK as “fantastic” and “excellent on his feet” and in Legal 500 as “a formidable force”, he has been praised “by solicitors and peers alike for his technical expertise, communication skills and ability in negotiations”, he is “very approachable and very bright” and provides “excellent analysis of complex insurance and liability issues”.

He has previously been shortlisted for the Chambers and Partners Personal Injury Clinical Negligence Junior of the Year award. He is also a Recorder on the Western Circuit.

Expertise

Clinical Negligence

Roger is recommended in both the Legal 500 and Chambers UK, who note that he is “*highly rated ... with a particular focus on catastrophic birth injury cases*” and that he is “*excellent at presenting even the most complex cases in simple and easy to understand language and has a very reassuring manner with clients.*”

He has substantial experience of claims related to obstetrics and gynaecology (eg cord prolapse, chronic partial hypoxia; acute profound hypoxia Erb’s palsy); neonatology (eg treatment of hypoglycaemia,

circulatory collapse); gastroenterology (eg failure to diagnose ulcerative colitis; incorrect diagnosis of invasive carcinoma); paediatrics; orthopaedics (eg ineffective arthroplasty); cardiology; plastic surgery; mental health (including the management of patients with suicide ideation); spinal injuries; MRSA; and general practice.

Equestrian & Farming-Related Litigation

Chambers UK confirm that Roger “*is much sought after for claims involving accidents caused by animals and for handling farming matters generally*”. He has been instructed on behalf of a number of the country’s leading racehorse trainers and is frequently instructed in claims under the Animals Act for both Claimants and Defendants; insurance policy issues arising out of such claims; product liability issues relating to feeds and equipment; malicious prosecution claims against farmers, and farming matters generally.

Insurance

Pursuing and defending litigation against insurers arising out of fires etc, often involving allegations of fraud arson, material non-disclosure and breach of warranty/condition. Policy interpretation and construction. Disputes concerning status of employees and resultant insurance implications. Property damage claims, flood cases; motor insurance and claims relating to the MIB.

Personal Injury

Roger is recommended in both the Legal 500 and Chambers UK where it is noted that he “*brings a very calm, cool and forensic excellence to difficult and high-value cases*”. His practice includes all aspects of personal injury litigation, including claims arising from stress at work; bullying, harassment and assaults; industrial disease (WRULD, deafness, asthma, cancers); manual handling and other workplace accidents, including fatal accidents and sporting accidents; Animals Act cases; catastrophic injuries; spinal injuries; and cases involving allegations of chronic pain. He has appeared in a number of the leading cases relating to vicarious liability for intentional torts including *Mohamud v WM Morrison Supermarkets* in the Supreme Court, and *Mattis v Pollock* in the Court of Appeal.

Significant Cases

Dennis v Voute Sales Ltd [2022] EWHC 2117

[Liability under s2(2)(a) of the Animals Act]

Parry v Johnson [2022] EWHC 889

[Liability trial relating to the obligations of farmers to light farm equipment]

Roberts v Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association, Ministry of Defence and others [2021] 10 WLUK 195

[Cerebral palsy claim relating to injury sustained at birth in a German Hospital]

Multiple Claimants v N (2021) EWHC

[Multiple claims alleging that a urologist had carried out unnecessary procedures]

MacDougall v The Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals NHS Trust (2018)

[Successful defence of a claim against multiple Trust employees under the Protection from Harassment Act]

Mohamud v WM Morrison Supermarkets PLC [2016] AC 677

[Supreme Court. Vicarious liability for intentional assault by employee on customer]

Lear v Hickstead Ltd [2016] 4 WLR 73

[Liability of occupier for actions of third parties]

Ebanks v Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust [2016] EWHC

[Whether failure to diagnose cervical myelopathy was causative of injury]

Spencer v Hillingdon Hospital NHS Foundation Trust [2015] EWHC 1058

[Whether the Montgomery test applied to post-operative warnings]

SG v Hewitt [2013] 1 All ER 1118

[CA decision relating to the late acceptance of Part 36 offer in cases involving a minor]

Phethean-Hubble v Coles [2012] EWCA Civ 349

[CA decision on whether a 16-year-old should be treated as an adult for the purposes of contributory negligence]

Johnson v Castle Combe [2011] 10 WLUK 175

[Contributory negligence in catastrophic EL case]

Barros v Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust [2010] EWHC 2187

[Whether a doctor's duty to warn of risks is subject to the Bolam principle]

Qamili v Holt [2009] EWCA Civ 1625

[CA decision that driver not at fault for colliding with pedestrian he had not seen]

Rhodes-Hampton v Worthing and Southlands Hospitals NHS Trust [2007] All ER (D) 305

[CA decision on liability of hospital to a nurse assaulted by a patient following general anaesthetic]

Antoniades v East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust [2007] All ER (D) 287

[Cerebral palsy following perinatal hypoxia caused by blockage in the trachea]

Irvine v Commissioner of the Police of the Metropolis [2005] PIQR P11

[Application of Workplace Regulations at police station]

Bennetts v Ministry of Defence [2004] All ER (D) 310

[CA decision on the meaning of “risk” within the Manual Handling regulations]

Mattis v Pollock [2003] 1 WLR 2158

[CA decision on the vicarious liability of nightclub owner for assault carried out by bouncer]

Barry v Ablrex [2001] PIQR Q263

[CA decision on whether the discount rate could be reduced]

Appointments

- Recorder (Western Circuit)

Education

- Inns of Court School of Law
- GDL, City University London
- BA (Hons) History, Exeter University

Memberships

- PIBA
- PNBA
- LCLCBA
- Western Circuit

Articles

Horse Play – Personal Injury Law Journal – 1 April 2012

[Claims under the Animals Act]

Nuclear fall out – New Law Journal – 4 May 2012
[The atomic veterans litigation]

Taking the blame – New Law Journal – 6 August 2010
[Contributory negligence]

Troubled relationships – New Law Journal – 17 April 2009
[Whether care and accommodation costs should be borne by a tortfeasor or a local authority]

A different breed – New Law Journal – 4 July 2008
[Civil liability for damage caused by animals]

Bullying claims – New Law Journal – 27 October 2006
[Foreseeability in bullying and harassment claims]

Recommendations

“Roger Harris is a good technical barrister, who gives sound advice on quantum, and is effective in settlement negotiations.”

“Roger is an extremely gifted and intelligent barrister whose knowledge of the Animals Act is second to none.”

Chambers UK 2024

“Roger is a pragmatic and no-nonsense litigator, getting straight to the crux of matters with ease.”

“Good and clear identification of issues and excellent analysis of these which require high level understanding of the medical evidence.”

Legal 500 2024

“Roger is a great tactician.”

“He is able to get to grips with the detail of complex, sensitive cases quickly and insightfully and is very calm under pressure.”

“He has a very good intellect.”

“Roger is excellent with clients and has a wonderful ability to distil very complex claims down into clear, precise advice that can be understood by clients and his instructing solicitors.”

“Roger is a fantastic technical lawyer.”

“He is a formidable advocate in court and settlement meetings.”

“Roger is technically knowledgeable and also very commercially aware.”

Chambers UK 2023

“Roger is extremely able and he quickly identifies the salient issues in a case.”

“Roger has a good eye for detail, and is a persuasive advocate. Combined with his tactical nous this makes for an excellent barrister.”

Legal 500 2023

“Extremely technically proficient, very approachable and very good with clients. An expert in his field.” _____

“He is excellent and unflappable – a very good negotiator. He gives really clear advice to solicitors and lay clients.”

“A very thorough and clear advocate.”

“He is very bright and strategic.”

“Great with clients.”

Chambers UK 2022

“A bright junior who is prepared to argue difficult points.”

“Highly intelligent but remains pragmatic and clear.”

Legal 500 2022

“He is able to explain complicated issues in a very clear and coherent manner.”

“He is excellent and very user-friendly.”

“He’s calm and efficient, and gets to grip with complex medical evidence quickly. He is not afraid to tackle difficult points of evidence.”

“A very good advocate and negotiator. He’s always on top of his brief and he’s an astute tactician.”

“He’s excellent at presenting even the most complex cases in a simple language – clients find his manner very reassuring.”

Chambers UK 2021

“Brings a very calm, cool and forensic excellence to difficult and high-value cases.”

“Has an encyclopaedic knowledge of healthcare law and always able to bring calm to any situation.”

Legal 500 2021

“A very responsive and calm barrister who can quickly home in on the crucial aspects of factual and expert evidence and provide strong analytical advice. He is excellent at presenting even the most complex cases in simple and easy to understand language, and he has a very reassuring manner with clients.”

Chambers UK 2020

“Very experienced, clever and gets to the point promptly.”

“An excellent advocate who is clear and concise in his written advice.”

Legal 500 2020

“He is excellent in conference with clients and on his feet in court.”

Chambers UK 2019

“Extraordinarily adept and meticulous. He’s got an intellectual approach which is really impressive.”

“A very sound practitioner who is erudite, thoughtful and sensible.”

“Very bright and comes up with sensible, prudent advice.”

“A very good advocate.”

Chambers UK 2018

“A very clever and smooth advocate.”

“He’s shrewd and prepared to roll his sleeves up.”

“He’s technically brilliant, a catastrophic injury specialist.”

“Incredibly charming and doesn’t get fazed or agitated with opponents, even in difficult cases.”

Chambers UK 2017

“A very clever and smooth advocate.”

Legal 500 2017

"Knowledgeable, calm and collected."

Legal 500 2016

"Technically brilliant, he's very clever and understands the law and its intricacies to a very high level."

Chambers UK 2015

"He is a barrister you can rely on. You can trust in him and he will deliver."

"He is very good on his feet. He has a balanced approach in front of the judiciary that means that they warm to him."

"A strong lawyer with a polite but tenacious approach"

Legal 500 2015

"He's fantastic"

"Praised by solicitors and peers alike for his technical expertise, communication skills, and ability in negotiations"

"He's very approachable and very bright"

Chambers UK 2014

"Very bright and confident"

Chambers UK 2013

"Very articulate and intelligent"

"Provides excellent analysis of complex insurance and liability issues"

Legal 500 2013

"A favourite port of call for claims in connection with animals and farming"

Chambers UK 2012

"Grasps technical issues well and keeps experts on their toes"

Legal 500 2012

"Highly rated"

Chambers UK 2011

"A formidable force"

Legal 500 2011

"Adept at handling stress claims"

Chambers UK 2010

"Sharp and incisive"

Legal 500 2010