

Matthew Turner



Call: 2018

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Profile

Matthew is a Health and Human Rights lawyer. His core practice includes personal injury, clinical negligence, actions against the police, inquests, Court of Protection, and professional discipline. He is passionate about representing claimants and bereaved families and is an experienced trial lawyer. Having previously practised at a large defendant set, he is able to offer useful tactical advice to claimants.

Matthew is Chair and Executive Director of the **Labour Campaign for Human Rights**, through which he has developed particular policy expertise in: (1) Business and Human Rights and Modern Slavery; and (2) Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. He also sits on the Advisory Board of the World Uyghur Congress (UK) and the Stop Uyghur Genocide Campaign.

Matthew graduated top of his year in law at the University of Nottingham. This included a year at the University of Texas at Austin Law School, where he worked as a Student Criminal Defence Attorney representing death row inmates in federal appeals.

Before coming to the Bar, Matthew was a commercial solicitor and trained at a Magic Circle law firm.

Matthew is **Public Access** qualified and accepts certain instructions on this basis.

Education

LLB, Law with American Law, University of Nottingham (2014), First Class with Distinction in American Law (top graduating student)

Legal Practice Course, BPP Law School (2015), Distinction

Bar Transfer Test, BPP Law School (2018)

Related practice areas

Clinical Negligence, Personal Injury & Product Liability

Actions Against the Police and Public Authorities

Inquests and Public Inquiries

Court of Protection & Mental Health

Professional Discipline and Regulation

Personal Injury

Matthew accepts instructions in a wide range of personal injury cases.

He is regularly instructed in fast and multi-track cases involving road traffic accidents, employers' liability claims, public liability claims, and occupiers' liability claims.

Matthew has a busy paperwork practice and regularly advises on prospects of success and quantum. He has extensive experience drafting pleadings, including schedules of loss in complex cases.

Employers' Liability

Matthew regularly acts for employees who have been injured at the workplace.

Recent cases include: falls on construction sites; hernia injuries from heavy lifting; accidents involving factory machinery (e.g., injection moulding machines); animal attacks (e.g., dogs and horses); and assaults by fellow employees or patients.

Matthew has extensive experience of EL claims in the healthcare industry. For example, he has acted for multiple nurses who contracted tuberculosis (TB) due to the inadequate provision of PPE. He is therefore well-placed to take instructions in cases where healthcare workers have contracted Covid-19 due to inadequate PPE.

Stress at Work

Matthew has experience of stress at work claims, including cases involving bullying and sexual harassment.

Recent cases include:

- A claim by a former law firm employee for psychiatric injury arising from sexual harassment by another former employee in the same department.
- Multiple claims against a large business process outsourcing company for psychiatric injury arising from bullying and excessive workloads.
- A claim by an employee who was injured during her commute to work against a background of harassment and discrimination.

Industrial Disease

Matthew has experience of industrial disease litigation. He has a particular interest in noise induced hearing loss (NIHL) claims, and has been instructed in many military NIHL (M-NIHL) claims against the Ministry of Defence.

Public Liability / Occupiers' Liability

Matthew regularly acts in public liability and occupiers' liability cases.

Recent cases range from minor accidents at supermarkets to catastrophic injuries occurring at swimming pools and gyms. He has been involved in numerous cases involving children who have been injured at schools, colleges and on work-experience placements.

Road Traffic Accidents

Matthew is regularly instructed in RTA cases, including fatal cases and those involving catastrophic injuries (e.g., traumatic brain injuries). Having previously trained and practised at a large defendant set, Matthew has vast experience in this area - including cases where fundamental dishonesty is alleged - and is able to offer useful tactical advice to claimants.

Clinical Negligence

Matthew has a strong clinical negligence practice and is regularly instructed in complex and high-value claims (including arising out of medical treatment in prisons). He is passionate about representing claimants and finds it most useful to be involved in cases from start to

finish.

Before joining Doughty Street, Matthew practised at a large defendant set and was regularly instructed by NHS Resolution and medical defence organisations. He is therefore able to provide insights as to how defendants approach cases.

Matthew is regularly instructed in claims in the County Court and the High Court. He is very comfortable leading conferences with witnesses and experts, and attending joint settlement meetings and mediations on behalf of claimants.

Selected cases include:

- **Obstetrics and gynaecology.** Matthew has extensive experience of cases arising out of vaginal births, caesarean sections, and hysterectomies. For example, he recently advised on a case in which the claimant suffered a pelvic abscess following a laparoscopic assisted vaginal hysterectomy (LAVH) and ovarian cyst removal.
- **Orthopaedics.** He has been instructed in many cases involving negligent orthopaedic surgery.
- **Emergency medicine.** Matthew has experience of claims involving negligent emergency care. For example, he recently settled a fatal claim in which the deceased died of chronic blood loss after medical staff failed to monitor her falling haemoglobin levels.
- **Radiology.** Matthew has considerable experience of medical misdiagnosis claims. He recently secured a six-figure settlement in a fatal claim where the deceased died from undiagnosed chronic mesenteric ischaemia, and is currently advising on a delayed lung cancer diagnosis claim which has also been valued at over six figures.
- **Nursing care.** He has been instructed in various cases involving negligent nursing care, ranging from an alleged failure to correctly remove a patient's catheter to a failure to take proper steps when a patient's pressure sores deteriorated.
- **GP care.** Matthew successfully settled a fatal case where a Healthcare Assistant failed to refer a patient with herpes simplex encephalitis to a GP for further review. He is currently advising on a claim against a GP for failing to diagnose skin cancer or make a referral to a dermatologist.
- **Dental care.** Matthew has considerable experience of dental claims. Recent cases include: a tooth extraction where the palatal root was pushed into the claimant's maxillary sinus; a failure to obtain informed consent for an extirpation / partial

pulpectomy; and an alleged failure of two prison doctors to identify and treat periodontal disease.

Actions Against the Police and Public Authorities

Matthew is regularly instructed in civil claims against the police and public authorities, including for malicious prosecution, false imprisonment, unlawful detention and assault.

Inquests and Public Inquiries

Matthew has a well-established coronial practice and regularly represents bereaved families at inquests.

Before joining Doughty Street, Matthew practised at a large defendant set and was regularly instructed to represent institutional Interested Persons (e.g., NHS Trusts, care homes etc.) at inquests. He also worked for over a year on the Undercover Policing Inquiry as part of the Counsel team instructed by the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police Service. He is therefore in a unique position to advise and represent bereaved families at inquests or core participants in public inquiries.

Selected cases include:

- **SA-S** (ongoing) – Article 2 inquest into the death of a young boy with autism and Prader Willi syndrome who fell off a cliff during the first national lockdown due to Covid-19.
- **CM** (2020) – Inquest into the death of a six-month-old baby who died shortly after attending A&E due to undiagnosed dilated cardiomyopathy.
- **NK** (2020) – Inquest into the death of a middle-aged man who died from a pulmonary embolism following a very unusual presentation of DVT with no swelling around the calf.
- **FB** (2020) – Inquest into the death of an elderly man who died in hospital from a traumatic penile injury when his indwelling catheter was accidentally pulled.
- **LM** (2020) – Inquest into the death of an elderly care home resident who died due to an unwitnessed fall following a dispensing error by the pharmacy supplying the care home.
- **MG** (2020) – Inquest into the death of an elderly lady who died after being run over by

a lorry whilst crossing the road at a pelican crossing.

Court of Protection and Mental Health

Matthew has experience of Court of Protection proceedings, in particular s.21A MCA applications. He accepts instructions from all parties, including local authorities, NHS Trusts, the Official Solicitor and professional litigation friends.

Professional Discipline and Regulation

Matthew has experience of professional disciplinary and regulatory law, in particular representing healthcare professionals.

He is able to draw on his extensive clinical negligence practice and welcomes instructions from individuals and regulators in proceedings before the major regulators, including the General Medical Council, the Nursing and Midwifery Council, the General Dental Council, the General Optical Council, and the Health and Care Professions Council.

Selected cases include:

- **HCPC v CR** (2019) – Assisted Farrah Mauladad QC in representing a registrant in a case involving serious allegations arising out of her conduct in her personal life. All allegations were struck out at half time on the basis that they did not amount to misconduct.

Business and Human Rights and Modern Slavery

Through his work at the Labour Campaign for Human Rights and the World Uyghur Congress, Matthew has advised the Labour Shadow Cabinet on Business and Human Rights issues, in particular the deficiencies of section 54 of the Modern Slavery Act 2015 and the need for a new mandatory human rights due diligence (mHRDD) obligation on UK-based companies, consistent with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

He welcomes instructions related to this area.