

Christopher Melton KC

Called: 1982

Silk Date: 2001

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Practice Overview

Chambers & Partners 2024 (PI)

Christopher Melton KC is a standout silk who excels at representing claimants in high-value catastrophic injury and fatal accident cases, particularly those involving minors. He does a significant amount of appellate advocacy and has appeared in the Supreme Court numerous times.

"Chris is highly skilled and approachable."

"Chris is the perfect silk. He is charming with all clients at all levels. His advocacy is masterful and he always finds a solution to a problem, even some very sticky ones."

"Chris is excellent. He is unflappable and is able to get the issue immediately."

Chambers & Partners 2024 (Clin Neg) - Band 1

Christopher Melton KC regularly handles major cerebral palsy cases alongside wrongful birth and spinal injury claims. He has been instructed in a number of multiparty claims, including those arising out of sexual abuse by medical practitioners and abuse in care homes. He has earned an impressive reputation for his experience in high-profile inquiries or cases that test novel points of law before the Supreme Court.

"Christopher is extremely experienced and has a calm and detailed approach to the evidence in complex cases."

"He can distil complex cases down and get right to the heart of the key issues. Chris is also excellent in the courtroom and commands respect."

"He has a great ability to get to the crux of a case. His expertise is formidable and he employs it tactically to effect."

PRACTICE AREAS

Personal Injury

Clinical Negligence

Industrial Disease

Professional Liability

Multi-party Litigation

Inquiries and Inquests

a school skylight suffering a devastating brain injury.

Russell v Partington - two High Court trials where the Claimant obtained a substantial interim payment where there was no admission of liability and then went on to obtain a 100% liability finding for the accident that caused his high level complete tetraplegia

Sedge v Prime - two High Court trials where the Claimant won a liability trial and went on to obtain a substantial interim payment to fund a best interests hearing and community living where the Defendant had argued for institutional care.

Marcel Beasley - two High Court trials where the Claimant motor cyclist recovered 100% damages and went on to obtain a substantial interim payment to fund community living where the Defendant had again argued for institutional care.

More generally other cases relating to:

the recovery of substantial future care costs for the heroin addict passenger in road accident; numerous cases involving the MIB and the interpretation of its agreements; the successful claim by a 2 year old child who crept unnoticed from a vehicle and walked into the path of another; the claim by a 14 year old girl rendered paraplegic for whom an interim payment was obtained and a suitable property purchased within 9 months of the accident; the recovery of substantial damages for a teenage boy with complete personality change; the settlement of the liability aspects of a claim in which the insurer alleged contributory negligence of a passenger in a vehicle in which no seat belts were fitted; the claim of a senior manager with an airline who suffered a personality change and brain injury as the result of a carotid stroke in a road accident; the pursuit of damages for an elderly man who prior to his accident had looked after his severely disabled wife; several claims for motorcyclists suffering amputations, brain injuries and/or spinal cord injury in which allegations of contributory negligence were either defeated or diminished; three cases involving CRPS (chronic regional pain syndrome); a case involving severe leg injury as the result of infection following a wakeboarding accident; several cases involving fall from height at work, two involving defective scaffolding; a claim involving a defective skylight at a school.

APPOINTMENTS

Recorder 2005

ASSOCIATIONS

PIBA

PNBA

Northern Circuit Medical Law Association

Personal Injury

Chris Melton has practised in all aspects of medical and personal injury law throughout his career. He was Senior Counsel to the Shipman Inquiry between 2001 and 2005, appointed by the Treasury Solicitor. He is instructed by specialist firms nationwide and spends a significant proportion of his time appearing and advising in London as well as in the regions.

Chris Melton specialises in advising and appearing in cases involving the seriously, catastrophically or fatally injured. He regularly appears in Court, both at first instance and at the highest appellate level. His current caseload encompasses the whole range of issues that arise in these cases. He has a particular interest in the analysis of medical, financial and scientific expert evidence and exploring the interface between the law and science. Although the mainstay of his practice involves brain, spinal and fatal injury, particularly cerebral palsy in the clinical negligence sphere, he has an ongoing interest in cases involving upper and lower limb amputations and problems of the digestive tracts. He has been recognised as a leading practitioner in his chosen fields over many years. He occasionally ventures into the criminal courts, both prosecuting and defending, where medical and scientific evidence is at the fore. He also appears at Inquests, an area of the law in which he gained in-depth