Matthew Snarr



Called: 2001

0161 829 2100

matthew.snarr@byromstreet.com

Practice Overview

"Matthew is a technically gifted counsel and deals with an array of complex high-valued personal injury litigation. He is a strategic deep thinker." [Chambers & Partners, 2027]

"Matthew is an outstanding senior junior and his work is of the highest quality." [Chambers & Partners, 2027]

"Matthew is very good, very competent. I trust him implicitly on my cases." [Chambers & Partners, 2027]

"Matthew is an absolute standout performer, loved by insurers, incredibly bright, very astute in his advice and commercially very sound. He is an exceptional advocate." [Chambers & Partners, 2027]

"Matthew is at the very top of his game. He is a very analytical thinker and a smart negotiator." [Chambers & Partners, 2027]

"Matthew is very robust and does very forensic and meticulous preparation"

"Matthew is quite simply the best senior junior around. He is second to none"

"Matthew is incredibly good. He has rock solid advice and thinks outside the box for more innovative solutions"

"Matthew is very good at complex work in personal injury cases. He has gained a very good courtroom style, and his cross-examination was flawless"

Matthew is a highly experienced trial advocate specialising in catastrophic injury and large-loss personal injury litigation. He is routinely instructed in claims valued exceeding £5 million, frequently appearing alone against Leading Counsel. He is equally comfortable acting both led and unled in the most complex and high-value litigation.

He maintains a balanced practice acting for both claimants and defendants, ensuring independence, objectivity, and strategic insight from both perspectives. His work is concentrated in cases arising out of the transport, healthcare, prison, security and construction sectors. He is regularly instructed in inquests arising from deaths in these contexts, including cases involving suicide and self-neglect.

LLB (Hons), University of Manchester

BVC, Inns of Court School of Law

Personal Injury

Matthew specialises in high-value, complex personal injury litigation involving catastrophic injuries and fatal accidents. He is regularly instructed in cases involving significant factual, medical, and legal complexity, and is known for his forensic preparation and powerful cross-examination.

Liability

Matthew is an experienced trial lawyer, frequently instructed in contested liability disputes requiring precise cross-examination and technically sophisticated legal submissions.

He has particular expertise in cases involving:

- Construction site accidents involving complex causative sequences or lifting operations,
- Work at height accidents, including falls from ladders and scaffolding;

- Occupiers' liability disputes including cases involving historic buildings, stairways and water related hazards;
- Road traffic accident reconstruction evidence, particularly involving children and complex collision dynamics;
- Complex motor insurance disputes, including issues of indemnity, Article 75, criminal activity, and interpretation of the Road Traffic Act 1988;
- Alcohol and drug toxicity issues in both RTA and EL/PL litigation;
- Defective work equipment cases, including those involving metallurgical and engineering evidence;
- Psychiatric injury and stress-related claims, including those culminating in suicide;
- Workplace training failures involving dangerous machinery leading to fatal or life-changing injuries.

Quantum

Matthew is a skilled negotiator and is regularly instructed to attend joint settlement meetings, way forward meetings or mediations in high-value disputes. He has particular expertise in quantum and causation issues with a substantial proportion of his work involving paediatric injuries.

- **Spinal Cord Injury (SCI)**

Including complete and incomplete spinal cord injuries, paraplegia and tetraplegia, involving complex care regimes across institutional and community settings, statutory funding (including ICB and local authority provision), double recovery issues, accommodation, reduced life expectancy, periodical payments, and syrinx complications.

- **Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)**

Acting in both adult and paediatric cases, including subtle and severe brain injuries involving capacity, frontal lobe syndromes, complex care regimes and all aspects of deputyship issues.

- **Amputation Claims**

Including (traumatic, elective and revisionary) involving both below and above knee amputations, upper limb amputations (including brachial plexus injuries) and total hand/foot amputations. He has a special interest and experience in contentious elective amputations.

- **Fatal Accidents**

High-value dependency claims, financial loss analysis, parental services claims, and associated inquest proceedings.

- **Chronic Pain**

All forms of chronic pain, including CRPS, fibromyalgia, somatoform disorders, FND, perceived injustice and factitious disorders. Matthew has expertise in chronic pain litigation involving wheelchair-dependent claimants.

- **Fundamental Dishonesty**

Liability claims where dishonesty is central to a core issue as to the accident circumstances and quantum claims where there is significant fabrication or malingering. Cases have included an informant inside the Claimant's family (alleged 24/7 care claim) and a semi-professional Muay Tai kickboxer.

Matthew has advised claimants with severe and life changing injuries arising from the 2017 Manchester Arena incident.

Notable Trials

- **Shaw v Wilde [2024] EWHC 1660 (KB)**

Led by Chris Kennedy KC in a 10-day fundamental dishonesty trial involving a £6.47 million claim. Matthew conducted substantial cross-examination of key lay witnesses and medical experts in addition to delivering written and closing submissions on causation and quantum in a case widely regarded as one of the largest of its kind.

- **Jones v Persimmon Homes & Macob Scaffolding [2023] EWHC 2597 (KB)**

Liability trial concerning a fall from scaffolding involving complex engineering and safety evidence.

- **Lewin v Gray [2023] EWHC 112 (KB)**

Spinal cord injury claim raising issues concerning the scope of duty under the CDM Regulations 2015.

- **AB v MH [2023]**

Successful defence of a fundamentally dishonest tripping claim following a six-day trial resulting in successful contempt of court proceedings.

- **NS v AH [2022]**

Defence of a large RTA claim involving surveillance, international evidence and alleged exaggeration of chronic symptoms.

Notable Appeals

- **Campbell v Advantage Insurance [2021] EWCA Civ 1698**

Appeal concerning contributory negligence and the application of Owens v Brimmell [1977] QB 859.

Andrew Bond v Tom Croft (Bolton) Ltd [2018] EWHC 1290 (QB)

Successfully defended appeal involving expert engineering evidence and defect causation in a ladder fall accident.

Inquiries and Inquests (with a P.I. or medical content)

Matthew has extensive experience in coronial law, regularly appearing in complex and high-profile inquests involving:

- Fatal construction and workplace accidents;
- Deaths in custody and institutional settings;
- Medical and care-related deaths;
- Road traffic fatalities;
- Deaths involving restraint and positional asphyxia in both private security and police settings.

He is experienced in jury inquests, Article 2 cases, and sensitive, multi-party proceedings involving complex expert evidence.

Insurance Litigation

Matthew is widely recognised for his expertise in fraud litigation, particularly in high-value and multi-track claims.

His work includes:

- **Fundamental Dishonesty (s.57 CJCA 2015 / CPR 44.16)**
- **Contempt of Court proceedings** under CPR 32.14 and CPR 81. Matthew led PIBA's response to the Law Commission consultation on reform of the law of contempt.
- **Organised fraud rings**, including nationwide investigations;
- **High-value exaggerated injury claims**, including TBI and psychiatric cases;
- **Insurance law disputes**, including indemnity and non-liability issues.

He is frequently instructed by major insurers and is known for his strategic approach to complex fraud litigation.

Lectures, Seminars and Publications

Matthew regularly writes and lectures on personal injury and insurance law. His publications include articles in the *Journal of Personal Injury Law*, *New Law Journal*, and *PI Focus* on topics such as chronic pain, PPOs and intoxication.

Directory Comments

Matthew is consistently recognised in **Chambers & Partners** and **Legal 500** as a leading practitioner. He is described as:

"An exceptional trial advocate with forensic attention to detail";
"Strategic, pragmatic and highly effective in complex litigation";
"Meticulous in preparation and outstanding in cross-examination".

Other

Interests
Trail running, ultramarathons, fell running, mountain marathons, skiing (on and off-piste), and orienteering. Matthew is a member of the Safety Advisory Group to the British Orienteering Federation.