



Peter Freeman

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Peter Freeman has specialised in civil litigation for over 25 years, having enjoyed being a Criminal advocate throughout his formative years at the Bar.

Peter undertakes virtually all types of personal injury work, with particular emphasis on high value claims, complex causation and apportionment for contributory negligence. He also undertakes clinical negligence cases and Inquests.

He also has a niche practice in accidents concerning air travel. He takes cases from Inquest through to resolution of the civil claims, for example, the helicopter crash that killed Lord Ballyedmond and three others.

Peter is renowned for his expertise in evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of both sides' cases and accurately evaluating the likely outcome of trial from an early stage. Somehow, throughout his years of practice, Peter has managed to maintain an equal balance between instructions for claimants and defendants.

From 2013 to 2019, Peter was at the forefront of the evolution of Early Neutral Evaluation with the Independent Evaluation & Facilitation Service, headed by Dame Janet Smith. He continues to serve as the Deputy Registrar for CAHA (dealing with third party claims against the railway industry).

Peter is mindful of the difficulties posed by the pandemic and the ensuing Court backlog and delays. Peter never loses sight of the fact that at the heart of these cases are real people whose lives have been shattered and who interests are better served by alternatives to litigation. Peter is fully up to speed with the Civil Justice Council's direction on ADR and able to advise clients fully in relation to all available modalities.

Expertise

Personal Injury

Peter has been ranked as a 'Leading Junior' in the field of Personal Injury for each of the last 5 years.



Peter's practice spans the entire spectrum of claims. He has seen the almost infinite different ways in which people have sustained injury and experienced the development of types of injury such as CRPS, subtle brain injury and, more recently 'Functional Neurological Disorder'.

Notable Personal Injury cases

OVU (Administratrix of the Estate of Ovu, Dec) v TfL

Instructed by D in relation to a claim arising out of a death on a TfL station. Trial of 3 preliminary issues, namely (i) was the Dec a trespasser at the time of death? (ii) was a duty of care owed by D to the Dec at time of death; and in so far as necessary (iii) what was the extent of that duty? Judgment for D; Claim dismissed.

Samwell (Dec) & Samwell V (1) Gibbons (2) Eui Insurance (3) Mib & (4) Sec Of State For Transport

Representing the Claimants. Couple disturbed burglars who, in attempting to escape, stole the couple's car, used it as a weapon, killing the husband and injured the wife on their own driveway. Considerable legal significance: ability to claim against their own car insurance; extent of insurance cover; whether 'private property' as opposed to public road had to be covered, pursuant to European Law. The Deceased was young, respected nuclear engineer and quantum ran into the millions.

Millan v Cardiff CC

Gale Force winds funnelled through City Centre buildings, blew over a street sign, which struck C, a young serving soldier, a glancing blow on the head. Over time, C's complaints varied enormously, ranging all over his body until manifesting as Chronic Pain in the foot for which C underwent below-knee amputation. Liability, causation and quantum were all contested. Claim was put at £5+ million.

X (by his litigation friend, Y) v JMH

A functioning alcoholic, crossed road while intoxicated and was struck by taxi. He sustained life-threatening injuries, brain injury and injuries to multiple anatomical, including internal injuries. Causation was particularly complex due to C's pre-existing health issues and alcoholism, and also C's wife's health issues. Numerous contested interlocutory hearings re Interim Payments, alternative accommodation, care, rehabilitation, Periodical Payments and Provisional Damages. Liability, causation and quantum were all vigorously contested. Proceedings were subject to anonymity and confidentiality order.

Cunningham (by his litigation friend) v Dickinson

Representing D, who took an incredibly proactive and pragmatic approach to injuries arising from a tragic RTA. D had admitted liability early; both parties had expert evidence in 9 specialist fields. Instructed to value quantum and negotiate a settlement to facilitate early closure of the dispute for C.



Amy Louise Sinclair v Fastsource

Liability admitted claim. Young mother sustained truly horrific, life-threatening facial and brain injuries as a result of a rock penetrating her car windscreen as she drove her young child. The claim was for multi-millions and there was contested expert evidence in 9 specialist fields.

Parker v (1) Balfour Beatty Utility Solutions (2) Canim Fruit & Veg Ltd

Consolidated claims covering two separate accidents that befell C, who had a potentially very significant medical and psycho-social history. C and both Ds produced expert evidence in the fields of orthopaedics, psychiatry, neurology and pain management. Complex causation issues required resolution.

Alexander Judd v Southend on Sea BC

C sustained life-threatening physical injuries and psychological sequelae as a result of a motorbike accident. No other vehicles were involved; C alleged the accident was caused by reason of highway defects, specifically recently re-laid surface and manhole covers. Diametrically opposed expert evidence.

Shah Rahena Begum v Arriva London South Ltd

Trial arising from a serious pedestrian v bus accident in which C ultimately lost her leg.

Gonzalez-Ramirez v First Eastern Counties Buses Ltd

Hard fought litigation resulting from failed settlement meeting. The injury was an alleged TBI with cognitive and psychological sequelae, which was denied by D. Liability / Contributory negligence was contested before David Pittaway QC. D achieved a finding which meant that C could not better the Part 36 offer that had been made at the 'long-ago' JSM.

Sean Green v Network Rail Infrastructure

Liability admitted claim for ankle injury, which C contended had left him 'disabled'. Under cross-examination, C admitted that prior to the accident he was in the gym every day and, subsequent to the accident had been crowned British Powerlifting Champion.

Jacqueline Brown v Arriva London North Ltd

C sustained serious lower limb injuries when she stepped off a pavement into a marked Bus Stop as a bus was pulling up. Ultimately, C's injuries lead to below knee transtibial amputation and significant psychological sequelae. Contested before HHJ Cotter QC, who apportioned fault. Quantum settled at a

subsequent JSM.

Lord Ballyedmond v (1) Dickerson (2) Campbell (3) Bradbury (4) Haughey Air Ltd

Instructed by insurers in relation to the Inquest and subsequent fatal accident claim arising from the crash that claimed the lives of all on board a state of the art helicopter owned by Lord Ballyedmond, one of the UK's wealthiest individuals.

Louise Lucas (Dec) & Others v (1) City & County Of Swansea (2) First Cymru (3) Others

Appearing at the numerous Inquests and civil claims relating to a catalogue of accidents that occurred in the aftermath of a major city centre re-development and new road lay-out.

Appointments

- Deputy CAHA Registrar

Memberships

- Personal Injuries Bar Association

Recommendations

- "Peter Freeman is a top-performing barrister for claimant and defendant solicitors seeking detailed advice and robust advocacy in catastrophic injury cases, particularly RTAs. He is frequently instructed in cases involving aviation and sporting accidents. He also handles third-party claims against the railway sector." **Chambers & Partners**
- "... blessed with an ability to cross-examine which is almost second to none. Gains credit for the fact that he is particularly good at sympathising with clients and dealing with people without a hint of condescension." **Chambers & Partners**
- "An outstanding catastrophic injury junior who represents both claimants and defendants, and regularly goes head to head with QCs." **Chambers & Partners**
- "He is noted for his specialist expertise surrounding causation and complex liability issues." **Chambers & Partners**
- "He is extremely user-friendly, detailed, thorough and excellent in negotiations." **Chambers & Partners**
- "Always thoroughly prepared ... puts clients and witnesses at ease and is a fantastic courtroom lawyer who combines legal knowledge and ability with presence and gravitas." **Chambers & Partners**



- "...extremely commercial and knows which buttons to press with defendant insurers." **Chambers & Partners**
- "...greatest strength is his ability to adapt to the personalities around him and gain favourable results even against the most belligerent of opposition." **Chambers & Partners**
- "Noted for his skill in handling difficult liability and causation matters, and is further celebrated for his knowledge of sporting injuries." **Chambers & Partners**
- "Highly experienced in a range of complex personal injury matters, including catastrophic and psychiatric injury claims." **Chambers & Partners**
- "... especially recommended for ... handling of liability." **Chambers & Partners**
- "... acts for claimants and defendants, and singled out for praise by peers and solicitors." **Chambers & Partners**
- "...no signs of weakness in court." **Chambers & Partners**
- "Charming, easy-going and unflappable." **Chambers & Partners**
- "A fantastic lawyer in a technical sense, who is also very down to earth and good with lay clients and witnesses." **Chambers & Partners**