

2019 BRAIN INJURY CASE MANAGEMENT CONFERENCE: EXPLORING COMPLEX RELATIONSHIPS

Speaker Biographies



Robert Horner, 9 Gough Square

Robert's practice encompasses high value personal injury and clinical negligence work together with health professions' regulatory. He was deputy head of the personal injury and clinical negligence group in his former set.

Outside of work Robert enjoys cross-country running, albeit he finds it takes him ever longer to cover ever shorter distances. He is kept amply occupied and amused by his three young children.



Leon Ayree, OFH Care

Leon is a social worker with a special interest in mental capacity and mental health. He trained as an Approved Mental Health Professional (AMHP) in 2000 and practiced for 7 years in several local authorities and NHS trusts, managing the care of acutely unwell patients, patients with chronic conditions, coordinating rehabilitation and community engagement. He was involved in setting up the Early Intervention in Psychosis services in two London boroughs.

He is the director of OFH Care, providing specialist mental capacity assessments for applications to the Court of Protection.



Neelam Kaur-Gupta, Premium Care Solutions Limited

Neelam Kaur-Gupta is an Operations & Business Development Manager within Premium Care Solutions, where she has worked within the business for over three and a half years. Neelam has been working within the Complex Care Industry since 2013, working predominantly with Case Managers and CCG's implementing complex care packages of support across the UK.

Neelam is experienced in providing advice to service users, Case Managers and Commissioners in terms of implementing new packages of care, supporting the clients from injury right through to being supported at home with tailored care packages. Neelam is also experienced in managing care managers, care packages and support teams nationally.

Speaker Biographies



Adrian Mundell, Ashtons Legal

Adrian is a non-solicitor Partner who heads the firm's thriving Court of Protection team which now manages 120 Deputyships. Adrian acts as Professional Deputy in over 80 of these cases.

He qualified as an Associate of the Chartered Institute of Bankers and has been at the firm for over 20 years since setting up the team in 1998.

He receives regular referrals of work from other solicitors, including injury specialist firms such as Leigh Day, Minster Law, Pattinson & Brewer and Huggells amongst others. He also receives referrals from barristers and has many cases where he is acting as Deputy where another firm is dealing with the injury litigation. He frequently provides witness statements dealing with anticipated Deputyship and Court costs to support claims.

His links with US attorneys have continued to grow and he receives referrals on cases where there are UK assets and acts as Deputy for clients who are living in the US.



Hannah Clarke, Ashtons Legal

Hannah Clarke is the Head of Injury Service specialising in catastrophic injury claims and in particular fatal incidents, amputations, spinal injuries, psychiatric injuries and traumatic brain injuries.

She is an experienced advocate and represents clients at Inquests. Hannah has experience in corporate manslaughter cases and claims which involve acting on behalf of multiple claimants, most recently in an industrial incident case which killed four employees.

Hannah also specialises in child brain injury cases and other injuries to children. Her last significant settlement for a brain-injured child was £4.34m, and Hannah has now obtained well over £50m in damages for her clients.

She is accredited as a Fellow by the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL) and is the Co-ordinator of APIL's East Anglian Regional Group. Hannah is a member of the Law Society's Personal Injury Panel, Headway, Spinal Injuries Association and the Lawyers' Christian Fellowship.

She spearheaded a drive to extend the firm's training for Police Family Liaison Officers on the implications and practicalities of serious injury or fatality as a result of accident or crime to a wider geographical audience.

Hannah appears regularly in the regional and legal media and on local radio and won the 'Personal Injury Young Achiever of the Year' category at the 2009 Personal Injury Awards.

Speaker Biographies



Birgit Richardson-Rathje, Green Owl Therapy

Birgit qualified as an Occupational Therapist in 1994 with an Honours degree in Occupational Therapy from St Andrew's School of OT in Northampton. She has acquired a wide range of clinical, managerial and training experience working in the NHS, the private and voluntary sector, in long term rehabilitation, community care as well as acute care.

In 2007 she also completed her post-graduation certificate with Merit in Neurological Rehabilitation.

Birgit has worked as a training consultant with Harrison Associated for a number of years, delivering and writing courses in neurological rehabilitation for postgrad OTs.

Since 2011 Birgit has worked as a case manager holding a case load of adolescent and adult clients who have sustained traumatic brain injuries, trauma and complex needs. She initially worked for Bush and Co and in 2018 joined Green Owl Therapy.

Birgit also continues to work as an Occupational Therapist in private practice running her own business (Independent Rehabilitation Services (IRS)), treating individuals with a number of neurological conditions, mainly brain injury and spinal injury, medical and orthopaedic needs.

When not working, Birgit enjoys dancing, travelling, yoga, walking and spending time with her family, friends and pets.



Jo Cotgrove, Ashtons Legal

Jo joined Ashtons Legal in 2016 and is experienced in dealing with a wide range of family matters. Joanna has a particular interest in the financial aspects of the breakdown of relationships, whether acting for married couples or cohabittees, and in particular advises on cases where assets involve family businesses and where issues arise in respects of pensions.

Jo advises increasingly on pre-nuptial agreements, particularly dealing with agreements involving personal injury trusts. Joanna also advises on cases which involve children, including cases which involve complex issues such as domestic violence and parental alienation. Joanna also has particular experience in acting for Special Guardians in both Children Act and Adoption proceedings. Joanna is a member of Resolution.

Speaker Biographies



Wendy Ruffle, Jacqueline Webb

Wendy qualified as an Occupational Therapist in 1995 and has been a Case Manager for the last 10 years. In her capacity as a Case Manager, she undertakes initial needs assessments on a joint and unilaterally instructed basis, and works with clients who have sustained severe and complex orthopaedic injuries, poly trauma, brachial plexus injury, amputation and moderate brain injury. She also works with clients with co-morbidity, significant psychological distress and has a background in mental health.

As a Case Manager, Wendy supports, manages and co-ordinates the needs and challenges of clients with complex physical disability, mental health and psychological trauma. She works with a mix of clients who are pre or post settlement, and has given evidence in Court as a Case Manager/Witness of Fact.

Wendy has co-ordinated bespoke community based pain management programs with psychologists, physiotherapists and OT's who specialise in pain management. She works closely with clients to help them achieve their personal life goals; this can often include facilitating their return to work, managing a property move, co-ordinating their care plans, and supporting them to return to competitive sports or other leisure pursuits previously enjoyed. She also oversees directly employed care packages for clients with complex needs.



Andrew Kerr, BLM

Andrew is a partner at BLM in the catastrophic injury department specialising in catastrophic and large loss claims, ranked in Chambers & Partners and the Legal 500.

He is a named individual for a number of insurers on their select panels to handle their highest value cases and currently manages a portfolio of claims with a combined value in excess of (£150m). He has many years of experience acting exclusively for insurers, corporate policy holders and local authorities handling claims of the utmost severity and complexity.

Andrew's caseload comprises public liability, employers' liability and motor claims especially brain injuries, severe spinal injuries and amputations. He also has expertise in handling infant brain injury claims.

Andrew is a member of BLM's national catastrophic injury forum and severe brain injury subject matter group. He has written a number of articles commenting on legal issues and developments and regularly provides seminars and training for insurers, policyholders and customers.