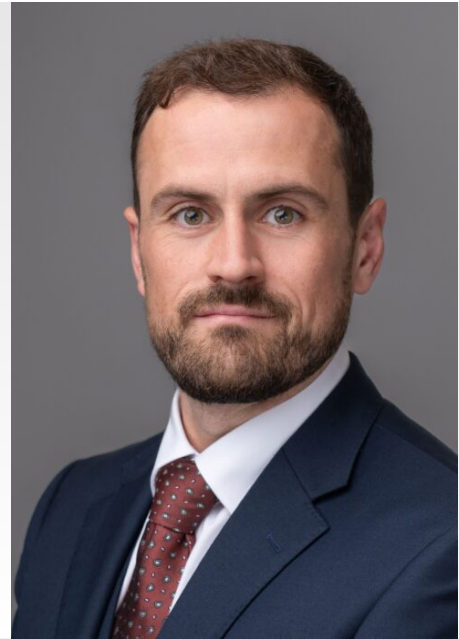


Matthew Baron

Call 2020

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Matthew Baron joined St Pauls Chambers in 2024 and is currently accepting Instructions across a wide range of civil matters. Please contact his clerks, Jayne Drake or Abigail Mayoh to instruct.

Matthew already has a well-developed practice within Clinical Negligence, Personal Injury, and Inquests, and is now gaining further experience in both Professional Discipline & Regulatory Law and Data Protection & Privacy Law.

Matthew has extensive experience of acting for both Claimants and Defendants through all stages and at all levels of Personal Injury and Clinical Negligence litigation, including appearing in Multi-Track Trials, Pre-Trial Reviews, Costs and Case Management Conferences (CCMCs), Applications, Disposal Hearings, Infant Approval Hearings, and claims that have come through the new Official Injury Claim (OIC) system.

In addition, Matthew regularly appears in the Coroners' Courts of England Wales, acting on behalf of individual clinicians, local authorities, and private healthcare providers, as well as for the families of the deceased. His past Inquest experience includes acting in cases involving alleged breaches of Article 2 of the European Convention on Human Rights, deaths involving neglect, deaths in state custody, and deaths within a clinical setting. Matthew continues to accept new instructions to advise and represent the families of the deceased and other interested persons at Inquests and is also available to further sustain his involvement in such cases during any associated civil and regulatory actions that follow them.

Recently, Matthew has been involved in a three-week-long Fitness to Practice Hearing before the NMC, during which he acted on behalf of a Nurse/Registrant, taking his instructions from the Royal College of Nursing. At this hearing, Matthew was able to secure a favourable outcome for his client, and one that did not result in a striking-off or suspension order. Further to acting in such final hearings, Matthew also has experience of advising practicing clinicians on the Regulatory and Disciplinary processes that they have been involved in as part of his broader Inquest practice.

Further, Matthew has also recently become a member of the Government Legal Department's 'Junior Junior Panel' and, through this, often accepts instructions that are routinely reserved for B and C panel members. Most recently, Matthew has acted on behalf of the Ministry of Justice in a series of applications for strike out and summary judgement in cases being brought by inmates on European Convention grounds.

Before being called to the Bar in 2020, Matthew studied Physics and Geology (Joint Hons.) as an undergraduate, earned a Ph.D. in Earth Sciences, and then went on to gain his graduate diploma in law and Bar professional qualifications. Matthew was a Scholar of Gray's Inn throughout both his GDL (the David Karmel Scholarship) and his BPTC (the Lord Bingham Scholarship).

Expertise

Inquests

Matthew regularly acts for families and other interested parties (primarily healthcare professionals and local authorities) across all types of Inquests. He has experience of acting in both Article 2 and non-Article 2 cases of varying complexity and scope.

"Matthew has now handled several inquests for us ranging from the straightforward to complex Article 2 jury claims. He is always thoroughly prepared and is an impressive advocate. Importantly, the clients who have appeared as witnesses in the cases he has handled have been universally complimentary about his insight into their concerns and his reassuring and supportive manner."

Particular areas of experience

- Psychiatric treatment, particularly decisions as to discharge
- Deaths in custody
- Self-inflicted deaths
- Deaths involving drug/alcohol misuse
- Delays in diagnosis and missed opportunities to escalate in clinical settings

Notable Cases

- Inquest touching the death of a young mother following her release from the care of a local Mental Health Service; the authority had not communicated with the deceased's family prior to discharge and had not adequately followed up on a previous serious incident reported within the ward setting – Matthew represented the family in this week-long inquest, the outcome of which included the making of a Regulation 28 Prevention of Future Deaths report as well as the Coroner writing a letter to the then Health Secretary, Sajid Javid, recommending a nationwide review of safety protocols within mixed-sex mental health wards.
- Inquest touching upon the death of an inmate at HMP Manchester – a jury inquest that focused primarily upon the supply and use of controlled substances within the prison setting.
- Jury inquest into death of an inmate at HMP Durham who complained of bullying and mistreatment.
- Inquest touching the death of a farmer who died of respiratory disease resulting from poor living conditions at his home – Matthew acted for the family and the executors of the deceased estate in this matter, following concerns that the care provided by the local trust included numerous and substantive delays; the Coroner described "significant delays" in reporting in the matter and criticised elements of the trusts' care provision.
- Inquest touching upon the death of a man with a history of substance misuse after a fatal overdose of fentanyl that was oversubscribed by a General Practitioner.

Other Training and Experience

- MBL Seminar Series: How to Make the Most of Your Pre-Inquest Review

Notable Inquests cases

Inquest touching the death of a young mother following her release from the care of Mental Health Services

Inquest touching the death of a young mother following her release from the care of a local Mental Health Service; the authority had not communicated with the deceased's family prior to discharge and had not adequately followed up on a previous serious incident reported within the ward setting. Matthew represented the family in a week-long inquest, the outcome of which included the making of a Regulation 28 Prevention of Future Deaths report, as well as the Coroner writing a letter to the Health Secretary recommending a nationwide review of safety protocols within mixed-sex mental health wards.

Inquest touching upon the death of a young father who died at home after suffering Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy (SUDEP)

Inquest touching upon the death of a young father who died at home after suffering Sudden Unexpected Death in Epilepsy (SUDEP); opportunities had been missed to correctly diagnose the deceased's epilepsy over a significant time period, and this then led to a failure to properly manage the condition and to avoid the fatal event

Inquest touching upon the death of a patient at Birmingham Heartlands Hospital

Inquest touching upon the death of a patient at Birmingham Heartlands Hospital – Matthew acted for the family of the deceased in this matter and was able to secure a finding of Neglect against the trust for failure to provide basic medical care.

Inquest touching upon the death of an inmate at HMP Manchester – a jury inquest that focused primarily upon the supply and use of controlled substances within the prison setting.

Jury inquest into death of an inmate at HMP Durham who complained of bullying and mistreatment.

Inquest touching upon the death of a man with a history of substance misuse after a fatal overdose of fentanyl that was oversubscribed by a General Practitioner

Clinical Negligence and Healthcare

Matthew regularly undertakes work for both Claimants and Defendants across a broad spectrum of Clinical Negligence cases. Matthew is currently accepting instructions to draft pleadings, defences, questions to experts, and any other court documents in Clinical Negligence, as well as to provide opinions and advices to all types of prospective party.

More recently, a fair proportion of Matthew's Clinical Negligence experience has developed from his role representing families and other dependants of those who have died whilst receiving medical treatment or in hospital care. Matthew regularly serves as an advocate for families in the Coroners' Courts and typically continues thereafter to advise and represent the families in the subsequent civil actions. This type of work in particular has given Matthew much exposure to and experience of acting in some of the more difficult and emotionally charged areas within Clinical Negligence law.

Matthew continues to maintain a wide area of active interest within Clinical Negligence, however, and is not restricting his practice to fatal claims alone. Matthew is also willing and able to pick up new instructions in Clinical Negligence at any stage of the litigation process, from Pre-Action, through Interlocutory Hearings, to Trial.

Notable Clinical Negligence and Healthcare cases

Matthew acted for a Claimant in a Clinical Negligence claim centred on a substandard debridement procedure of an infected foot wound – the matter settled following issue.

Successfully settled a claim for damages in a clinical negligence matter pertaining to a failure to diagnose a ruptured bicep – the Claimant was left with physical disfigurement of his left bicep, as well as with significant loss of strength. The latter impacted his ability to work as an Engineer and Ground Worker, and part of his claim included a *Smith v Manchester* for the handicap placed upon the Claimant in the open job market.

Personal Injury

Matthew acts for both Claimants and Defendants across all formats and in all tracks, from stage 3 hearings to multi-track cases. Matthew has a national practice with respect to trial work and other forms of advocacy, and he regularly accepts instructions for parties seeking representation, advice, and drafting services. Matthew also regularly acts for insurers, local authorities, and healthcare trusts in all stages of the litigation process.

Particular areas of experience

- Road traffic accidents (RTAs)
- Credit Hire claims
- Official Injury Claim (OIC) cases
- Infant Approvals
- Occupiers' Liability and Defective Premises Act cases
- Employers' Liability
- Cases involving Fundamental Dishonesty

Notable Serious Injury cases

Secured a finding of Fundamental Dishonesty against a Claimant in a claim for loss of earnings and personal injury where the CRU certificate of work benefits alone exceeded £60,000.

Represented a Claimant who was left with permanent mobility issues and complex psychological sequelae following a road traffic accident. The matter was settled by the Defendant before trial.

Represented an energy firm in a claim against it for pure psychiatric damage resulting from a breach of GDPR provisions – the Claimant’s claim for pure psychiatric harm was successfully dismissed.

Succeeded in a claim brought on behalf of a minor by her family against a company operating a holiday park following an injury to the Claimant on a park ride during a family holiday.

Successfully resisted a finding of Fundamental Dishonesty being made against a client Claimant who had a complex medical background that had not been fully disclosed to all of the instructed experts.

Notable Personal Injury cases

Successfully settled a claim for damages on behalf of a minor who was left with permanent hearing loss and the need for bone-anchored hearing aids following a delay in diagnosis of Cholesteatoma by his GP and local NHS Trust.

Secured a finding of Fundamental Dishonesty against a Claimant in a Personal Injury where the CRU certificate of work benefits alone exceeded £60,000.

Represented a Claimant who was left with permanent mobility issues and complex psychological sequelae following a road traffic accident. The matter was settled by the Defendant before trial.

Succeeded in a claim brought on behalf of a minor by her family against a company operating a holiday park following an injury to the Claimant on a park ride during a family holiday.

Successfully resisted a finding of Fundamental Dishonesty being made against a client Claimant who had a complex medical background that had not been fully disclosed to all of the instructed experts

Acted for the Claimant in a complex injury matter involving the interplay of physical and psychological symptoms in a minor with Autism and ADHD – the medical evidence from psychological and pain management experts were conflicting and difficult to untangle. Fortunately, the matter settled pre-trial, avoiding the need for the Claimant to have to give evidence in court (a desirable outcome in the circumstances.)

Healthcare Professional Discipline

Data Protection & Privacy Law

Matthew acts for both Claimants and Defendants in data compliance cases; in particular, GDPR cases relating to personal injury/pure psychiatric harm.

Notable Data Protection & Privacy Law cases

I represented a national energy firm in a claim brought against it for pure psychiatric damage resulting from an alleged breach of UK GDPR provisions – the Claimant's claim for pure psychiatric harm was successfully dismissed.

Education

2019-2020

Bar Professional Training Course (Outstanding)

2018-2019

Graduate Diploma in Law (Commendation)

2013-2018

PhD – Earth Science

2009 – 2013

BSc Physics – Geology

Memberships

- The Honourable Society of Gray's Inn
- North Eastern Circuit