



Rory Holmes



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Rory has specialised in PI and associated areas of work over the past 12 years. He is an experienced advocate with a caseload which overlaps a number of Chambers' specialisms. He is instructed to handle cases on his own, or as part of a Counsel team. He has significant Trial experience for his level of call, and has appeared in the Supreme Court as Junior Counsel. During his time at the Bar he has spent time working both in-house and on secondment within various law firms. For further details of work undertaken please follow the links.

Personal Injury

Rory has a broad practice, and is instructed in cases involving physical injuries, psychiatric injuries, chronic pain syndromes, and functional/somatoform disorders. He has particular experience in proceedings where fraud or dishonesty is alleged or intimated.

Rory deals with claims against local authorities, public providers, manufacturers, occupiers, and employers. He also has a particular interest in injuries arising from or in connection with professional sport. He has experience in advising in cases of accidents abroad and accidents in this jurisdiction involving foreign nationals.

He has particular interest in abuse, workplace bullying, and stress at work claims, including where there is overlap with previous employment tribunal proceedings.

Rory advises on all aspects of litigation including limitation, liability, and quantum, either at conference or in writing. His cases regularly involve the drafting of detailed schedules and counter schedules of loss. He delivers seminars on a range of topics to solicitor and insurer clients.

Rory enjoys a mixed practice, and acts for both claimants and defendants. He is instructed by major insurers on a repeat basis and also regularly carries out work for various Local Authorities. He is willing to act on a CFA in appropriate cases.

Selected Cases

Representative examples of Rory's recent work are as follows.

For Defendants:

- P v B (2021) – Acting for an international bank in a stress at work claim brought by a former trading director. Claim pleaded at £4M+. Led by Patrick Blakesley QC.
- S & P v E (2021) – Acting for a university in relation to bullying/harassment claim brought by two members of academic staff. Claims pleaded at total of circa £10M. Led by Patrick Blakesley QC.
- R v O PLC (2021) – Acting for a stocktaking/supply chain provider following an assault in the workplace. Injuries said to have necessitated early retirement. D successfully withdrew a pre-issue admission of liability at a contested hearing. Matter settled thereafter.
- H v VW Ltd (2021) – Acting for refuse operator. Claim struck out following successful opposition of C's application for permission to serve at alternative address and/or retrospective extension of time.
- Various (2021) – Acting for various pharmacies in relation alleged discrimination/harassment/bullying arising from COVID-19 policies.
- M v CM (2021) – Acting for a package holiday provider in relation to skiing accident said to have arisen due to negligence of Ecole du ski Francais instructor.
- S v R&C (2020) – Acting for a Mexican offshore vessel developer, following an electrical fire on a service vessel. The claim was ultimately discontinued.
- C v A (2020) – Acting for appliance manufacturer. Claim struck out following successful opposition of C's application for prospective extension of time for service of proceedings, both at first instance and on appeal.
- P & others v P (2020) – Acting for a national care home operator providing services to vulnerable adults, where assaults by service users on staff have given rise to multiple large chronic pain claims. The claims have all been successfully brought to a conclusion at JSM.
- N v R (2020) – Acting for a commercial coach company, following a workplace assault where it was alleged that the employer was both primarily liable and vicariously liable for its employee. The Defendant obtained summary judgment on all allegations of breach.
- J v WJ (2020) – Acting for a regional pub/bar chain in a £3M+ amputation claim following an accident on its premises. The claim was compromised shortly before Trial for a fraction of pleaded value.
- G v FB & T & ML (2020) – Acting for a principal contractor in multi-party dispute following a fall from height at development in central London. The claim was compromised at JSM.
- L v F & B & P (2020) – Acting for a landlord following a collapsed ceiling occurring during the course of soft strip demolition works. The claim was compromised at JSM.
- S v C (2020) & others – Advising various defendant insurers on deployment of surveillance evidence at its implications, including: FD, s.57 CJCA 2015, and disapplication of QOCS by various routes.
- T v M (2018) & others – Acting for a national theme park operator in a host of EL/ PL claims across a range of sites. All claims taken to Trial have been successfully defended.

For Claimants:

- V v H (2021) – Acting for a claimant following a high-speed RTA giving rise to significant orthopaedic injuries. Led by Eliot Woolf QC. Claim settled at £1.6M shortly before Trial.
- T v J & others (2021) – Acting for driver following high-speed RTA, giving rise to life threatening injuries. Insurer reduced status to Article 75 insurer following declaration of policy voidance.
- P v P (2020) – Acting for dependants following a fatal RTA. Claim pleaded at £2.4M and settled at

JSM.

- B v R & F & S (2020) – Acting for a claimant in a multi party dispute following an amputation in a construction site accident. Claim settled following completion of pleadings.
- S v TCG (2020) – Acting for a claimant who was subject to crushing injury in a garage, giving rise to serious knee injuries. Claim pleaded at £500K, which is ongoing.
- R v MOJ (2019) – Acting for a claimant following an assault in prison by a fellow inmate giving rise to severe cognitive deficit requiring an extensive treatment regime. The claim was compromised the day before Trial.
- A v C (2019) – Acting for a young claimant following RTA where chosen career was no longer possible due to orthopaedic injuries. Claim compromised.
- G v G (2017) – Acting for a claimant following an armed robbery in her workplace giving rise to PTSD, involving expert evidence from security consultants. Claim compromised.
- L v B (2017) – Acting for a claimant in a fatal accident action where a large financial services dependency upon a teenage child was achieved in settlement. Claim compromised.

Inquests

Rory has an established practice in the Coroner's Court which dovetails with his practice in other areas.

He is frequently instructed on behalf of a variety of interested persons including families, companies, local authorities, and insurers. He has experience of a range of coronial proceedings, including Article 2 inquests and those where a jury is called.

He has experience of inquests involving complex issues across a wide range of areas such as transport, highways, medical and social care. He is often instructed at the outset of a case, where his involvement runs from the initial stages to the final hearing.

Selected Cases

Examples of Rory's work include:

- (2021) – Article 2 Inquest touching upon suicide of patient under care of mental health services.
- (2021) – Inquest touching upon death of patient following embolic stroke where central venous line was disconnected in unknown circumstances.
- (2021) – Inquest touching upon care home death following unwitnessed fall. Inquest dealt with issues surrounding training of agency workers.
- (2020) – Inquest touching upon issues relating to pressure sore management of geriatric patient at hospital and care home.
- (2018) – Article 2 Inquest with Jury touching upon supervision within residential home of an epileptic resident with learning difficulties.
- (2018) – Inquest touching upon care home death following unwitnessed fall.
- (2017) – Inquest touching upon care home death in which various allegations of physical abuse and neglect were raised against staff.
- (2017) – Inquest touching upon care home death focusing upon allegations of failure to provide adequate nutrition and hydration.
- (2014) – Inquest touching upon death following tree fall on highway where inadequacy of local



authority's inspection regime was in issue.

Industrial Disease

Rory has a broad practice and deals with a variety of work related conditions.

He has experience of matters relating to asbestos-related disease, occupational asthma, HAVS, WRULD, COSHH, and NIHL.

He advises on all aspects of litigation including limitation, liability, and quantum, either at conference or in writing. He appears at show cause hearings, CCMCs and at Trial. His cases regularly involve the drafting of detailed schedules and counter schedules of loss. He delivers seminars on a range of topics. He has experience of working in-house and on secondment to assist with drafting statements of case.

He is instructed by several of the major insurers on a repeat basis and also regularly carries out work for various Local Authorities.

Selected Cases

Examples of Rory's work include:

- S v C (2020) – Acting for a Defendant at a show cause hearing in respect of allegations of asbestos exposure against a non-employee.
- T v O (2020) – Acting for a manufacturer faced with various occupational asthma claims which involved complex issues of medical causation.
- D v N & N (2020) – Acting for a Local Authority in respect of allegations of asbestos exposure whilst non-employees worked at housing estates.
- H v DA (2019) – Acting for a manufacturer whose processes allegedly gave rise to occupational asthma.
- L v S2 & F & T (2019) & others – Acting for a defendant in a NIHL claim.
- F v S & P (2018) – Acting for co-Defendants in a HAVS claim.
- B v RNT (2017) – Acting for a defendant in a stress at work claim following alleged racial harassment in the workplace, which overlapped with previous employment tribunal proceedings.

Clinical Negligence

Rory undertakes work in a broad range of clinical disputes.

He acts for claimants, various medical defence organisations and medical insurers.

He has acted and advised clients in regards to claims proceeding in both the County Court and High Court. He drafts pleadings, and advises on liability and quantum. He will accept instructions on a CFA basis.



Selected Cases

Examples of Rory's work include:

- F v C&W (2021) – Acting for a claimant in relation to failure to promptly diagnose and act upon development of sepsis
- G v H (2020) – Acting for a dentist following negligent distal canal instrumentation.
- B v W (2020) – Acting for a claimant following failed sigmoid colectomy giving rise to anastomotic leak.
- B v SW AT (2019) – Acting for executrix of the estate following negligent transfer of geriatric patient giving rise to ankle fracture.
- T v O & G (2019) – Acting for a claimant following negligent misdiagnosis and removal of a dermoid cyst giving rise to chemical peritonitis.
- C v C (2018) – Acting for a claimant following obstetric failures giving rise to a somatoform disorder.
- P v B (2018) – Acting for a Claimant on claim involving issues of consent and surgical negligence following failed knee surgery.

Qualifications

- Modern and Medieval Languages BA (Hons) (Cantab) (2003-2007)
- La Universidad de Complutense, Madrid (2004-2005)
- GDL (City University) (2007-2008)
- BVC (City University) (2008-2009)
- BVC-LLM (City University) (2010)
- MA (Cantab) (2010)

Before coming to the Bar, Rory read Modern and Medieval Languages at St. John's College, Cambridge, and at La Universidad de Complutense, Madrid.

He has previously played rugby professionally in Spain, and has represented England Universities XV.

In 2013 Rory was seconded to the commercial department of Rajah & Tann, Singapore, as a Pegasus Scholar, where he assisted on various commercial cases.

Languages

Spanish and French

Memberships

- PIBA