

Nicholas Grimshaw

1988 Inner Temple, Grimshaw@deanscourt.co.uk



Education

Keble College, Oxford
Inns of Court School of Law

Professional Associations

Northern Circuit Personal Injury Bar Association

Appointments

Pupillage Secretary (2002-2023) For more than 20 years Nicholas has been responsible for graduate recruitment in Chambers. During that time Chambers has grown from 60 members to more than 100.

British Fencing Nicholas has lifelong involvement in the sport of fencing, as a competitor and community club coach. For many years he sat on the Panel of British Fencing's Disciplinary & Grievance Committees. During the period 2010 – 2012 he acted for several elite athletes in selection appeals and grievance processes at the highest level.

Areas of Specialism

Personal Injury

Employers Liability

Public Liability

Industrial Disease

Insurance Contract

Civil and Insurance Fraud

Professional Negligence

Profile

Nicholas is a personal injury specialist. He is Counsel of choice for many institutional clients and insurers facing multi-track claims, particularly in cases of serious injury or fatal accident.

The consistency of strong advice and advocacy Nicholas provides to clients has typically generated repeat instructions over very many years. He is accustomed to working as part of a team in litigation involving multiple experts and professionals. He has frequently been instructed in cases involving fraud or fundamental dishonesty, often because of video surveillance or social media evidence. He is regularly instructed by insurers applying ethical standards and/or Codes of Conduct to the management of their claims, and particularly welcomes instructions on this basis. He has a significant sports law and field sports practice, variously dealing with claims made against participants, venues and NGBs.

Nicholas is particularly sought after for his vast experience and handling of Joint Settlement Meetings in high value/catastrophic injury claims and is regularly instructed without a leader in cases having pleaded value in excess of £1million. He has acted in numerous mediations, often involving multiple parties and sensitive issues e.g. fatal accidents, terminal disease, confidentiality.

Longstanding experience in cases of industrial deafness has led to a busy practice for insurers dealing with these claims, often involving highly technical expert evidence as to medical causation and/or limitation disputes.

Paperwork is provided across the full spectrum required by his solicitor client base., e.g., Counter-Schedules, Questions for Experts and Advice on Liability/Quantum/Settlement Parameters.

Nicholas is happy to provide informal support and assistance by telephone.

Notable Cases

Caillet v O'Hare Holdings [2023]

Practice Area: Personal Injury

Instructed for the Defendant in a high-profile case involving injury to an International DJ and her alleged loss of earnings. Reported in The Times, Daily Mail and Daily Mirror.

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-11815877/DJ-suing-injury-lying-not-perform-posts-showed-playing-Burning-Man.html>

D v V [2023]

Practice Area: Personal Injury - JSM

Instructed for the Defendant in a case of alleged brain injury to a small business owner, resulting in £3.5m claim for damages, mainly loss of income and care. Case taken on at short notice and settled at a JSM.

AB v Bus Company [2023]

Practice Area: Personal Injury

Instructed for the Defendant in a brain injury claim pleaded at £4m, resulting from a child running out from behind an ice cream van into the path of a bus. Liability resolved by negotiation with Leading Counsel for Claimant, shortly before trial.

E v Sports Centre [2022]

Practice Area: Personal Injury – Fundamental Dishonesty

Instructed by Kennedys (Sheffield), in the dismissal of an action for damages brought by a former professional footballer in relation to severe knee injuries. The Claimant alleged his injuries were attributable to a defect in the artificial pitch surface, which caused him to catch his foot, twist and fall awkwardly.

After a 3-day trial before Her Honour Judge Evans at Manchester Civil Justice Centre, it was found that whilst the Claimant had undoubtedly sustained severe knee injuries, they had resulted from a football tackle during ordinary play. The Judge went on to make a finding that the Claimant had been fundamentally dishonest in the presentation of his claim against the venue. The usual QOCS order was disapplied and the Defendant's costs of the action can be enforced to the full extent of their entitlement.

S v M (2022)

Practice Area: Personal Injury

Instructed by the Defendant in a case of allegedly catastrophic pain syndrome following a foot injury, apparently resulting in total immobility. The claim for damages was pleaded at £4.5m. There were contentious interlocutory hearings, including successful applications to withdraw an admission, and introduce dermatological evidence to establish the true cause of incapacity. Case settled, based on the Defendant's evidence.

A v County Council [2022]

Practice Area: Personal Injury - JSM

Instructed by the Defendant Council in a sensitive and lengthy claim, involving severe abdominal injuries and gastrointestinal problems following an assault at work. There was complex medical evidence and dispute over causation, Settled at a JSM.

YYY, Aviva Insurance v ZZZ [2021] EWHC 632

Practice Area: Personal Injury

Instructed for the Insurers at the High Court trial of a contribution claim against a motorcyclist following an RTA in which the pillion passenger sustained catastrophic injury.

Clough v P&O Trans European (Holdings) Ltd [2005] EWCA Civ 430 7 Apr 2005

Practice Area: Personal Injury – Court of Appeal

Instructed by the Defendant in a claim brought against them by an employee injured in the rupture of a vehicle suspension system. The Claimant was the only eyewitness to what had happened, but the trial judge rejected his account and preferred the analysis of the Defendant's engineer, dismissing the action. The Court of Appeal considered the correct approach to evaluation of factual vs expert evidence. The decision of the trial judge was upheld, and the Claimant's appeal was dismissed.

Burridge v Airwork Ltd [2004] EWCA Civ 459 19 Mar 2004

Practice Area: Personal Injury – Court of Appeal

Instructed by a professional football coach who sustained severe personal injuries in a road traffic accident in Oman. A vehicle door was opened directly into the path of his bicycle. Primary liability was established at trial and allegations of contributory negligence were dismissed. The Court of Appeal addressed the evidential burden in cases of this kind and application to the circumstances of the case, upholding the decision of the trial judge.

H v D (January 2018)

Practice Area: Personal Injury

Instructed by Defendants in personal injury claim following shooting accident on a grouse moor resulting in serious injury to gamekeeper.

H v M (December 2017)

Practice Area: Personal Injury

Instructed by Claimant at Appeal Hearing concerned with procedural points arising from an industrial disease claim. Defendants' appeal dismissed.

H v A (December 2017)

Practice Area: Personal Injury

Instructed by Claimant in personal injury claim following RTA, in which he had sustained serious chest injuries and chronic pain. Settled shortly before trial.

W v D (November 2017)

Practice Area: Personal Injury

Instructed by Defendants in personal injury claim following an agricultural accident which resulted in an upper arm amputation. Claimant's case pleaded at £6-8 million. Settled at Mediation.

Q v C (November 2017)

Practice Area: Personal Injury

Instructed by Defendants in personal injury claim following a construction accident which resulted in serious foot injury. Claimant's case pleaded at £2 million. Settled at JSM.

H v E (October 2017)

Practice Area:

Instructed by Defendants in product liability claims which followed a double fatality. Both claims settled at JSMs.

S v S (July 2017)

Practice Area: Personal Injury

Instructed by Defendants in brain injury claim following RTA. Settled at JSMs.

W v P (June 2017)

Practice Area: Personal Injury

Instructed by Defendants in spinal injury claim following accident at a school. Trial on liability, resulting in agreed apportionment for contributory negligence.

P v C (May 2017)

Practice Area: Personal Injury

Instructed by Claimant in brain injury claim following RTA. Settled at JSM.

C v MIB (April 2017)

Practice Area: Personal Injury

Instructed by Defendants in RTA involving serious multiple injuries. Settled at JSM.

S v Leeds CC (March 2017)

Practice Area: Personal Injury

Instructed by Defendants in multitrack trial by a parent following slipping accident at school during winter weather. Claimant's action dismissed on liability.

T v O (March 2017)

Practice Area: Personal Injury

Instructed by Defendants following serious injuries to multiple Claimants from high speed RTA involving uninsured driver. Settled at JSM.

What the Directories say

Nicholas identifies the strengths and weaknesses of cases. He makes rightful concessions and is often spot on.
Chambers & Partners, 2026

"Nicholas Grimshaw is unflappable. He is a very safe pair of hands and great with clients. He is my go-to junior for large or complex work.
Chambers & Partners, 2026

His advice is comprehensible and concise, and he maintains a serene manner under pressure.'
Legal 500, 2026

"Nick is user-friendly and always prepared."
Chambers & Partners, 2025

"A top-quality barrister who is incredibly attentive and user-friendly."
Chambers & Partners, 2025

"He's excellent with clients."

Chambers & Partners, 2025

'Nicholas consistently has a steady, calm approach to litigation, whatever pressures are being brought to bear regarding complexity, value, or timescales. That calm, level approach makes Nicholas ideal to represent clients at JSMs or similar.'

Legal 500 2025

"He is very sensible and has a persuasive approach in and outside court room."

Chambers & Partners, 2024

"Nicholas' calm demeanour can help when dealing with the most difficult cases. He is a real asset when conducting settlement discussions, with JSMs being a real speciality."

Chambers & Partners, 2024

"Nicholas is very thorough and attentive to detail, with excellent communication skills."

Chambers & Partners, 2024

Nicholas is a very capable barrister who is well able to confidently handle cases of very high value. He is able to get to grips with complex and unusual medical issues, and his advice on strategy is clear, to the point, and easily understandable by expert witnesses and clients alike.

Legal 500, 2024

Nicholas is always fully prepared with total attention to detail, and he spots non-obvious and novel issues. He is extremely good with lay and professional clients and has a very measured and sensible approach. He works well at settling difficult cases and gets good results at directions hearing.

Legal 500, 2023

He is very calm and measured.

Chambers & Partners, 2023

Offers detailed and sensible advice and is excellent with clients.

Chambers and Partners, 2022

Very thorough, personable and always attentive to detail. He has a great ability to simplify complex issues. He is very astute and gets to grips with the issues in the case quickly. He builds a good rapport with his clients.

Chambers and Partners, 2021

Mr Grimshaw is extremely measured and has a calming influence on all around him, particularly when dealing with witnesses and lay clients. Technically, he is excellent and will always respond to requests for advice in a timely manner.

Legal 500, 2021

He's excellent in pleadings and always goes the extra mile to give further tips and advice.

He's very personable and easy to deal with.

Chambers and Partners, 2020

An excellent communicator both on paper and on his feet.

Legal 500

A broad-based personal injury barrister who is principally instructed by insurers on cases stemming from catastrophic injury, fatal accidents and industrial disease. Commentators praise his witness-handling skills and his efficacy in negotiations.

He prepares well and is very considered with strong attention to detail. He takes a pragmatic approach and clients like him.

He displays a calm and measured approach that is persuasive to judges.

Chambers UK

Principally represents defendants in a broad range of personal injury claims, including industrial disease, fatal accidents and serious injuries. He also has a niche practice in cases related to farming and equestrian activities.

Chambers UK

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