DEANS COURT CHAMBERS

Matthew Hooper

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Education	Professional Associations	Appointments
LLB Law, University of Leeds, 2:1 Bar Professional Training Course, MMU.	Northern Circuit Personal Injuries Bar Association	Northern Circuit Representative for the Personal Injuries Bar Association

Areas of Specialism

- Personal Injury
- Civil and Insurance Fraud
- Inquests
- Costs

Profile

Matthew has an extensive Personal Injury practice both in court and on paper. He is recognised in the 2026 Legal 500 rankings as a Tier 2 Leading Junior in Personal Injury.

Matthew completed a mixed common law pupillage in 2013, after which he enjoyed a busy practice in both civil and criminal litigation, which afforded an invaluable opportunity to develop his skills of advocacy within both jurisdictions, making him a well-rounded advocate.

Since 2016, Matthew has practised solely in civil litigation, which a particular focus on personal injury work. He has developed a strong personal injury practice and acts for both claimants and defendants in respect of

cases of varying severity, complexity, and value.

Matthew has experience of cases involving serious injury involving complex medical and other expert evidence and is familiar with handling expert evidence (whether by written questions, in conference or at trial).

Matthew's fast track practice principally comprises fraud work and he has considerable experience in the defence of dishonest personal injury claims. He is sought after in the most contentious claims and has a particular interest in QOCS exceptions arising out of such cases. He regularly obtains enforceable costs orders in cases involving fundamental dishonesty and strike outs.

Matthew prides himself on developing good relationships with solicitors and clients. His common sense and analytical approach coupled with his determined court advocacy has resulted in Matthew being a much sought after advocate.

Matthew has developed a busy paperwork practice and welcomes instructions to draft pleadings and advise on fast track, intermediate track, and multi-track cases. He is happy to provide informal advice at any stage and welcomes contact by email or telephone.

Notable Cases

E v P [2026]

Practice Area:

Representing the Defendant, secured a successful outcome on appeal in the County Court at Exeter before HHJ Walsh in a personal injury claim arising out of an alleged accident at work.

At first instance, the trial judge found that the Claimant had not suffered the alleged injury but declined to make a finding of fundamental dishonesty.

On appeal, HHJ Walsh held that the trial judge had failed to properly engage with the principles governing fundamental dishonesty and that such a finding was the only reasonable conclusion open to the Court on the evidence.

The appeal was therefore allowed, with the Claimant ordered to pay the Defendant's costs of both the action and the appeal, with Qualified One-Way Costs Shifting disapplied.

H v A [2026]

Practice Area:

Representing the Defendant, secured dismissal of the claim at trial under section 57 of the Criminal Justice and Courts Act 2015 on the grounds of fundamental dishonesty.

Although liability for the accident and minor injury was admitted, the Court rejected the Claimant's substantially higher value claim in its entirety, concluding that an alleged permanent injury was in fact caused by a second accident which the Claimant denied had occurred.

The Claimant was ordered to pay the Defendant's costs on an enforceable basis.

M v Allianz Insurance Plc [2025]

Practice Area:

Representing the Defendant in a claim arising from a road traffic accident for which liability was admitted but the Claimant was put to proof as to causation. The claim was dismissed with a finding of fundamental dishonesty. DJ Squire sitting in the County Court at Uxbridge observing that the Claimant's evidence was inconsistent and evasive, and he was "simply making it up as he went along".

The Claimant was ordered to pay the Defendant's costs of the action on an enforceable basis.

J v TCFGL [2025]

Practice Area:

Representing the Claimant in an employers' liability claim in which liability was denied and fundamental dishonesty was alleged. Judgment was entered in the Claimant's favour; the Court concluding that the Defendant had breached its duty of care to the Claimant and had "fallen a very long way short of establishing fundamental dishonesty".

The award of damages exceeded a Part 36 offer made by the Claimant, thus engaging the provisions of CPR 36.17.

L v MBC [2025]

Practice Area:

Representing the Defendant local authority in a 'highway tripping' claim for which breach of duty was admitted but causation was denied. The claim was dismissed with a finding of fundamental dishonesty; the Court concluding that the Claimant's injury did not occur in the location or manner he claimed.

V v Allianz Insurance Plc [2025]

Practice Area:

Representing the Defendant/Counterclaimant in a claim for vehicle damage, credit hire charges and personal injury arising from a road traffic accident.

Following dismissal of the Claimant's claim, DJ Ayers in the County Court at Bedford determined that the claim was fundamentally dishonest, entered Judgment on the counterclaim requiring the Claimant to repay the vehicle damage payment, ordered the Claimant's solicitors to reimburse the Defendant in respect of a payment for portal costs made at the outset of the claim and ordered the Claimant to pay the Defendant's costs of the action on an enforceable basis, assessed at over £17,000.

N v Flintshire County Council [2024]

Practice Area:

Represented the Defendant local authority in a personal injury claim brought by an elderly Claimant who sustained serious orthopaedic injury after cycling into collision with a bollard on a cycle path. The Claimant argued that the bollard was dangerous to cyclists; it being an unnecessary obstruction and not sufficiently conspicuous. The claim was dismissed at trial by HHJ Howells sitting in the County Court at

Chester, noting that while more could have been done to make the bollard more obvious to cyclists, it was neither reasonable nor necessary for the Defendant to have done so.

A v Mulsanne Insurance [2024]

Practice Area:

Instructed by the Claimant in a personal injury claim arising from a road traffic accident in which the Claimant was knocked off his motorcycle and sustained serious injury. Provided early advice in conference against an incomplete and challenging evidential background. Case settled pre-action for £185,000.

Esure Holdings Limited v Akinsenya [2024]

Practice Area:

Representing the Claimant insurer in tort of deceit proceedings, Matthew secured an award of £7,000 in exemplary damages upon the Court determining that the Defendant had fraudulently misrepresented that his vehicle, insured by the Claimant, had been written off in a genuine accident. In addition to the award of exemplary damages, the Defendant was ordered to pay back almost £20,000 paid under the policy of insurance and costs exceeding £31,000.

J v Century Claims Ltd [2024]

Practice Area:

Represented the Claimant in a personal injury claim arising from a serious road traffic accident in which the Claimant's mother was tragically killed. The Claimant suffered a severe leg injury and associated psychological reaction. The case involved issues surrounding the functional restrictions caused by the orthopaedic injury and causation of ongoing physical and psychological symptoms against a background of significant co-morbidities. Defendant represented by King's Counsel. Case settled at JSM for £450,000.

CA v Chief Constable [2024]

Practice Area:

Instructed on behalf of the Claimant in a personal injury claim arising from an RTA. Case involved issues surrounding causation of alleged chronic pain disorder and allegations of fundamental dishonesty. Matthew represented the Claimant through all stages of the case, which settled at JSM for £135,000.

Goodchild v Zurich Insurance (UK) Limited – 10th February 2023

Practice Area:

Representing the Defendant in a claim arising from a road traffic accident for which breach of duty was admitted but causation was denied. The claim was dismissed with a finding of fundamental dishonesty. HHJ Gregory sitting in the County Court at Liverpool found the accident was not capable of causing injury and that the Claimant had "hijacked this minor coming together and used it as a vehicle for bringing a claim for compensation to which she is not entitled, driven by nothing more than greed."

Malicka & Ors v Aviva Insurance Limited – 18th December 2022

Practice Area:

Mr Hooper represented four claimants at trial in a claim for personal injuries arising from a road traffic accident which occurred on 3rd November 2018. The defendant admitted breach of duty but denied causation and occupancy. The matter came before HHJ Hedley sitting in the County Court at Leicester on 18th December 2022. HHJ Hedley found in favour of all four claimants. Mr Hooper contended that, having regard to CPR 45.29C, and in particular Table 6B, the claimants were each entitled to recover fixed costs in accordance with that table. The defendant argued that would be an unjustified windfall and contended that only one set of fixed costs should be awarded. HHJ Hedley found in favour of the claimants and awarded four sets of fixed costs and four separate advocacy fees.

French v Advantage Insurance Company Limited – 25th May 2022

Practice Area:

Representing the Defendant in a claim for damages arising from a road traffic accident that occurred on 7th April 2020. The Defendant admitted liability for the collision but denied causation of injury. The claim was found to be fundamentally dishonest and dismissed pursuant to section 57 of the Criminal Justice and Courts Act 2015, on the basis the Claimant had pursued compensation for an 8-month injury despite admitting during the course of cross-examination that he had achieved a full recovery within 4 months of the accident. DDJ Neville sitting in the County Court at Wigan found that the Claimant had failed to give a candid account within his statement and his dishonesty did not relate to a collateral matter; it went to the root of the claim.

Rhodes v Drainage Consultants Limited – 16th April 2021

Practice Area:

Representing the Defendant in a claim brought by an ex-employee for damages arising from an alleged accident at work. Successfully opposed application on the morning of trial to include a claim for handicap on the open labour market and to increase the value of the claim from £15,000 to £30,000. The Claim was subsequently dismissed with a finding of fundamental dishonesty. HHJ Bird sitting in the County Court at Manchester found that the alleged accident did not occur and that the Claimant had 'deliberately set out to create a claim when he knew there was not one.'

What the Directories say

Matthew is an exceptional advocate. His expertise in fraud cases is excellent, and he has a real eye for detail. He is thorough and always prepared, and he provides practical and pragmatic advice. He is calm in the storm and a reassuring and safe pair of hands.

Legal 500, 2027 - Leading Junior (Personal Injury)

'Matthew is a very astute and dedicated barrister. He has an in-depth knowledge of the law and this, combined with his forensic method of preparation, makes him an excellent trial advocate.'

Legal 500, 2026 - Leading Junior (Personal Injury)

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