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# Edward James

**Year of Call:** 2002

**Telephone:** 0115 947 2581

## Overview

**Ed is an experienced and successful Barrister of more than 20 years Call.**

Having undertaken pupillage and secured tenancy with Chambers in London, Ed practiced there for several years before joining Ropewalk Chambers in 2008.

Ed specialises in serious injury work (mainly high value personal injury and clinical negligence cases) and regularly deals with claims involving fraud.

He is a very experienced barrister who is used to dealing with high value, complex cases and has a number of loyal solicitors, on both sides, who repeatedly instruct him for his sound advice and representation at settlement meeting or trial.

Ed is a personable and articulate advocate, who prides himself on getting the best result for his lay and professional clients, whether that be in negotiation through to settlement, or at trial.

His practice over the years has provided him with a wealth of litigation and advocacy experience in the Magistrates' Court, Crown Court, County Court, Administrative Court, Coroner's Court, High Court, Court of Appeal and the Old Bailey.

Ed has been consistently recognised as a Leading Junior in the Legal 500 and Chambers and Partners.

Away from the Bar, he is a keen rugby supporter and ex player (Sussex County Rugby Captain and Wasps Development), Lead Coach to an U11 Rugby Team and an RYA Day Skipper.

# Expertise

## Serious Injury

Ed has a busy and successful serious injury practice, acting for both claimants and defendants, principally in high value cases involving the brain, pain, spinal or other orthopaedic injuries leading to amputation or other life long disability.

He is an experienced barrister who receives repeat instructions from a wide client base including many of the leading claimant injury firms and major insurers, along with a number of local authorities throughout England.

Ed is frequently instructed to deal with conferences involving experts, whether that be medical experts, reconstruction experts or forensic accountants, and to attend Joint Settlement Meetings.

Recent cases have included two very high value claims where he has acted alone against King's Counsel at Joint Settlement Meetings.

Ed has also recently been led on two complex, serious injury cases by [Jayne Adams KC](#).

## Personal Injury

Ed has a busy, established and successful personal injury practice, acting for claimants and defendants, in the County Court and High Court.

He is repeatedly instructed by some of the leading claimant injury firms and major insurance companies, along with local authorities, to bring or defend claims usually involving injuries of the utmost severity.

Ed's current caseload includes workplace accidents, road traffic accidents, defective premises claims, public liability accidents, travel law claims, claims against the occupier and those involving sports related injury.

Ed has a wealth of experience as an advocate in the County Court and High Court.

He is regularly instructed by claimants and major insurers to bring or defend product liability claims, which have usually resulted in serious injury.

He is instructed in relation to defective products and claims brought under the provisions of the Consumer Protection Act and the Sale of Goods Act.

His recent caseload has included cases for the defendant insurer involving defective ski boots/skis (involving experts in multiple disciplines; biomechanics, forensic engineer and winter sports expert) and a claim where the handlebars of a bike broke as the claimant was cycling across London Bridge.

## Counter Fraud

Ed is consistently instructed on serious injury cases where fraud is involved.

He is regularly instructed on behalf of several major insurers (Hiscox, Aviva, Zurich, AXA, Allianz, AIG) in respect of allegations of dishonesty and his background in conducting criminal jury trials has greatly assisted him in challenging these types of claim in the civil courts, including Contempt of Court proceedings in the High Court.

Ed is well versed in drafting Contempt of Court proceedings and representing the defendant client in the District Registry of the High Court.

In light of his criminal law background, Ed feels equally at home in the civil and criminal courts.

## Sports

Ed has a particular interest in claims arising from the field of sport, or other outdoor adventure sports, and is regularly instructed by individuals, sporting bodies and insurers to bring or defend sport related, principally injury claims, in the County Court and High Court.

His recent caseload has included claims relating to accidents in gyms, on the rugby and football pitch, the ski slopes, road cycling accidents, karate lesson incidents and those involving horse riding and golf.

Ed is also becoming increasingly involved in the disciplinary and regulatory side of sports law and is keen to expand this area of his practice going forward.

He co-authors a Blog on the Chambers website entitled 'Concussion in Sport'.

## Inquests

Ed has been instructed to attend numerous inquests on behalf of a range of interested parties, including the family of the deceased, insurers, employers and private clients.

Over the years, his exceptional client care skills have been particularly sought after in difficult and sensitive cases in the Coroners Court.

Ed has recently undertaken a weeklong jury inquest for the family which involved a residential gas explosion in the East Midlands. To read more about this case, please [click here](#).

## Motor

Throughout his practice, Ed has dealt with motor insurance claims and is still regularly instructed to bring and defend higher value injury claims emanating from accidents on the road.

Ed is regarded in motor insurance circles as a specialist counter fraud practitioner and is frequently called upon to defend claims where fraud is involved.

## Clinical Negligence

Ed has a busy and rapidly expanding clinical negligence practice, principally advising and representing claimants at settlement meeting or trial.

His practice encompasses all aspects of medical and dental law including but not limited to cases involving misdiagnosis, plastic surgery, negligent surgery and treatment or general surgery.

Ed has recently advised on three cases where negligent treatment or operations resulted in death. One involved a stillborn infant (failure to identify and treat gestational diabetes), another involved a negligently performed heart operation and the third a negligently performed open nephrectomy.

He fully understands the sensitivities that are required when advising and representing clients in these cases and he is often sought out for his exceptional client care skills in dealing with these types of claims.

## Costs & Litigation Funding

For many years now, Ed has been called upon to advise and represent clients in cases involving costs, particularly discrete costs disputes in the County Court and High Court.

Almost every case he is involved in his 20 years or so of practice has resulted in Ed having to deal with and consider the commercial and costs consequences of any settlement or trial.

## Criminal Regulatory

Ed has substantial experience in defending and mitigating on behalf of corporate clients, employers and individuals in Health and Safety related matters in the Magistrates' Court, Crown Court and representing clients when necessary in the Coroner's Court.

## Animals & Equine

Ed is experienced in dealing with disputes involving animals and he has a good working knowledge of the provisions of the Animals Act 1971.

He has advised and represented both sides in cases involving animal attacks, principally dog bite claims and escaped animal claims, horse riding accidents on the highway and trespass and nuisance claims involving animals and pets.

## Professional Memberships

Personal Injuries Bar Association

Criminal Bar Association

Nottinghamshire Medico-Legal Society

## Qualifications

MA (Hons) History, University of Edinburgh

## Notable Cases

Representing the Defendant in a complex, high value injury claim with a pleaded value of £2.4 million. Claimant was represented by a notable Kings Counsel at the JSM.

Representing the Claimant in a complex, high value case, which was valued at a little under £1 million. The client had sustained homonymous hemianopia (a serious eye injury) in a road accident. The defendant was represented by King's Counsel. Complex issues of causation arose between the Ophthalmologists. The Claimant, who lived in South West Wales, had to change his career and was no longer able to drive resulting in a huge impact on his life and ability to find employment. Claim settled successfully at JSM.

Representing the Defendant in a complex, high value claim brought by a woman who had fallen, sustaining a serious spiral fracture to her leg whilst skiing in the French Alps. Well known national claimant firm represented the Claimant and but ended up discontinuing the claim once experts in multiple disciplines were involved (forensic engineer, ergonomics and winter sports expert) and arguments advanced which undermined the claim and also the Claimant's credibility.

Representing the Claimant in a long running serious injury claim where the client was knocked off his bicycle sustaining extremely serious physical injuries, including a spinal cord injury and a subtle brain injury (no helmet was being worn at the time of the accident). There were issues as to capacity along with experts in multiple disciplines involved. Claim steered to

a successful conclusion prior to trial.

Representing the family at a weeklong jury inquest, and the husband of the deceased in the fatal accident claim, arising from a residential gas explosion in the East Midlands. The explosion had killed the grandmother, injured several others and damaged properties and cars along the residential street. The family secured a Regulation 28 Report at the Inquest (report to prevent future deaths) and the civil fatal accident claim is now being prepared.

Representing the Claimant, a firefighter, who was very seriously injured when he collided with a partially submerged plastic bollard whilst undertaking a Water Safety Technician Course at the International White Water Centre in Cardiff. Claim settled successfully by way of Part 36.

Representing the Defendant (instructed by the insurer of a large care home organisation), defending a care home stabbing claim. Parallel Health and Safety Executive proceedings running alongside in the Crown Court. Claim settled successfully at JSM.

Representing a young claimant (13 year old boy) who was mauled by a police dog in a public park in the middle of the day. The police released the dog when a group of young children had run away, having been tampering with the nearby cricket pavilion. The dog was released, failed to obey commands and caused the Claimant serious life changing injuries to his face and body. The police sought to argue that the release of the dog had been reasonable given the children had failed to stop. The claim settled successfully shortly before trial (listed for 5 days), by way of Part 36.

Representing the Claimant, a Deputy Command Supervisor at a colliery, who was involved in a terrifying underground gas explosion. The Claimant was unable to use his life saving oxygen mask (Sav-Ox) as a result of a defect with the equipment. Incredibly, the Claimant managed to escape the mine but not without suffering and being diagnosed with lifelong Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Claim settled successfully, for substantial damages, at JSM.

Representing the Defendant in committal proceedings for contempt of court in the Kingston-upon-Hull District Registry of the High Court.

Representing the Claimant, later being led by [Jayne Adams QC](#), in this complex, high value injury claim, resulting from the serious road traffic accident. Multiple medical experts were involved throughout the life of the claim. The claim was pleaded in excess of £2 million.

Representing the Defendant in committal proceedings for Contempt of Court in the Sheffield District Registry of the High Court. The Claimant brought a serious injury claim but investigations undertaken by the Defendant proved that the claim was a fraud. The Claimant discontinued his civil claim and the Defendant brought Contempt of Court proceedings. The Claimant was sent to prison for six months. Ed appeared at the sentencing hearing for the Defendant.

Representing the family of the Deceased in a case where a negligently performed open nephrectomy resulted in the death of a young father (who had two children), who was only 48. The Defendant admitted breach of duty and the fatal accident claim is now being prepared.

Representing the family of the Deceased in a case where a negligently performed heart operation resulted in the death of a young mother (who had two children). Complex causation evidence is being obtained in order to further the civil Fatal Accident claim.

Representing the family of the Deceased in a case where the hospital failed to identify and treat gestational diabetes resulting in the mother giving birth to a stillborn infant. The claim is being pursued through the civil courts at the moment.

Numerous cases involving serious injuries emanating from the field of sport or adventure sports, particularly those with a heavily contested dispute as to liability and the need for expert involvement (for example, accidents in gyms and those involving rugby, football, skiing, cycling, karate and golf).

Representing claimants in a number of serious injury claims involving the police and the military.

# Recommendations

*"A safe pair of hands who is good to work with."*

- Chambers UK 2025

*"Nothing is too much trouble for Ed. He builds strong client relationships and at trial he thrives in the atmosphere."*

- Chambers UK 2025

*"Edward is personable, pragmatic and has an excellent manner with clients. His written advice is always clear and confident. He is able to identify a clear path through cases and uses that skill to his advantage when conducting advocacy."*

- The Legal 500 2025

*"Ed is good on his feet in court, is very well prepared and puts witnesses at their ease but is robust in cross-examination. He is good with clients and put his advice in concise and straightforward language, exactly as required by clients."*

- The Legal 500 2025

*"Edward's advocacy at inquest is extremely polished and he has a manner with witnesses which is considerate yet straightforward."*

- The Legal 500 2025

*"Edward is a safe pair of hands to have on a case."*

- Chambers UK 2024

*"Edward is a very skilful advocate."*

- Chambers UK 2024

*"Edward has a calm and reasoned approach to dealing with clinical negligence claims. He has an excellent manner with clients enabling them to understand key legal concepts and how they affect the claim. His attention to detail is exceptional."*

- The Legal 500 2024

*"Edward is a formidable advocate and wonderful with clients. His attention to detail and trial preparation is superb, and he is not afraid of a challenging case."*

- The Legal 500 2024

*"Edward can address the concerns of the family sympathetically and takes on board their concerns and position. He is able to use his advocacy skills to address those key points using tenacious and succinct questions."*

- The Legal 500 2024



*“Edward is always well prepared, organised, and has good strategic thinking. He is extremely personable and clients like him on a personal level enormously.”*

- The Legal 500 2023

*“Edward is a conscientious and diligent barrister with a personable approach. His knowledge of the coronial process is extensive.”*

- The Legal 500 2023

*“Edward is an excellent communicator and a skilled advocate. He deals with matters in a calm and efficient manner.”*

- Chambers and Partners 2023

*“A compassionate and professional manner with clients, a thorough attention to detail to the facts of a case and the application of those facts to the law.”*

- The Legal 500 2022

*“He puts clients at ease.”*

- Chambers and Partners 2022

*“An excellent advocate both in court and during conference, with a knowledgeable and reassuring manner that puts clients at ease.”*

- The Legal 500 2021

*“A very good trial advocate. Very professional, knowledgeable and great with clients.”*

- Chambers and Partners 2021

# Ropewalk Chambers

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