

Catastrophic Injury Conference

Our Catastrophic Injury conference returns on **23rd September 2026** at the iconic Bristol Beacon.

Join us for a day of topical sessions delivered by our team of leading barristers and a selection of sought-after experts, who'll be discussing aspects of brain injury following serious/catastrophic Injury. This conference is kindly sponsored by **Temple Legal Protection**.

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This event is aimed primarily at experienced claimant and defendant fee-earners, but there will be something for everyone working in this challenging and ever-changing field.

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CPD
5.5h/APIL
Accredited



**Wednesday 23rd
September 2026**



9:00am-4:30pm



**Bristol Beacon, Trenchard
Street, Bristol, BS1 5AR**

We are delighted to say that the following experts will provide detailed insight into common evidential issues in managing acquired brain injury cases:

- **Dr. Peter Jenkins (consultant neurologist)**
- **Dr. Tracey Ryan-Morgan (consultant clinical neuropsychologist)**
- **Professor Rafey Faruqui (consultant neuropsychiatrist)**

The expert talks will be supplemented by talks from the SJC team

The day will end with a plenary session addressing common issues in severe TBI cases.

Programme



Directory quote “
Directory, year



Time	Registration and refreshments
9:25-9:35	Welcome from Chair
9.35 - 9.55	Sponsor talk from Temple Legal Protection
9.55 - 10.40	Traumatic Brain Injury: Diagnosis, Prognosis and Future Neurological Risk Dr Peter Jenkins, Consultant Neurologist This talk will review the diagnosis and management of traumatic brain injury across the severity spectrum, including common challenges in mild TBI and post-concussion symptoms. It will also address longer-term neurological outcomes, including post-traumatic epilepsy, neurodegeneration and dementia risk, and discuss the current evidence base and its practical relevance in clinical and medicolegal settings.
10.40 - 11.00	Dovetailing experts where brain injury and psychological injury overlap Matthew White KC, Barrister, St John's Chambers
11.00 - 11.20	Provisional Damages: Practical Solution or Inevitable Buy Off? Justin Valentine, Barrister, St John's Chambers
11.20 - 11.40	Break
11.40 - 12.25	Frontal Lobe Paradox and MCA - when two worlds collide Tracey Ryan-Morgan, Consultant Clinical Neuropsychologist
12.25 - 12.55	Running mild to moderate TBI cases Jonathan Lindfield, Barrister, St John's Chambers
12.55 - 13.55	Lunch

Programme



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Directory, year



12.55 - 13.55 Lunch

13.55 - 14.20

Neuropsychiatry in the context of acquired brain injury in medicolegal cases
Professor Rafey Faruqi, Consultant Neuropsychiatrist

14.20 - 14.35

Improving settlement and trial outcomes by focusing on trial throughout
Matthew White KC, Barrister, St John's Chambers

14.35 - 15.05

Traumatic Brain Injury and Liability Issues: E-scooters, helmets and contributory negligence
Ben Handy & Sarah Riley, Barristers, St John's Chambers

15.05 - 15.25 Break

15.25 - 16.00

Interim Payment Application
Demonstrated by two of the countries leading personal injury counsel Nathan Tavares KC & Andrew McLaughlin, with Recorder Rachel Russell presiding.

16.00 - 16.30

Common issues in severe TBI cases
Panel Discussion

16.30

Close for questions and answer - followed by networking drinks and canapes

“A market-leading set on the Western Circuit, St John’s Chambers is ‘a set that you can rely on from start to finish.’”

Chambers UK, 2026



Nathan Travares KC

Year of call: 1992
Year of silk: 2018

“Nathan is a very good advocate, mixing careful persuasion with astute referencing. He is meticulously prepared and he negotiates strongly.”

The Legal 500, 2026

Nathan specialises in clinical negligence, catastrophic personal injury claims, product liability, and professional negligence. He is regarded by solicitors and opponents interviewed by the legal directories for having “sound judgment”, “an industrious approach”, “a measured and independent perspective”, and “a good approachable manner”. He is noted to be “a versatile and quick-thinking communicator”. “He is very hard-working, conscientious and intellectually very strong.”

Other areas of injury litigation in which Nathan has special expertise include travel law, aviation accidents (his first degree was in Aeronautical Engineering and he has acted in a number of claims with significant liability issues), claims involving the MoD, and industrial disease litigation.



Matthew White KC

Year of call: 1997
Year of silk: 2026

“Matthew has an ease in making the complex understandable and a forensic command of the most complex of issues. He has a logical approach to a case, and his attention to detail is impeccable.” The Legal 500, 2026

Matthew is a specialist personal injury barrister who deals with all aspects of personal injury litigation, acting for both claimants and defendants. He aims for a roughly equal split between claimant and defendant work, taking the view that it makes for a more rounded and better lawyer to have insight into the thinking of the opponent.

With over 25 years’ experience, he has considerable expertise in highway law, industrial diseases (particularly asbestos), pain litigation, and inquests. He also deals with the more routine employers’ liability, public liability and road traffic claims. He has been described by clients as “forensically thorough” with “fantastic attention to detail.”

Barristers



Andrew McLaughlin

Year of call: 1993

"Andrew is exceptionally bright, hugely approachable, and works tremendously hard. He is a superb advocate, very strong and adept at case management hearings and at trial." Chambers UK, 2026

Andrew's key fields of expertise lie in fundamental dishonesty, brain and spinal injury and alleged chronic pain, employers' liability for accidents at work and industrial disease, road traffic accidents, bullying and stress at work, sexual abuse, occupier's and public liability.

Andrew is instructed by nearly all major insurance companies as well as private individuals and companies. He is instructed by the Government Legal Service on behalf of various departments of state. He also undertakes work on behalf of NHS Trusts and Local Authorities.



Justin Valentine

Year of call: 1999

"Justin clearly has a very high intellect and a calm manner about him which clients like. He brings clarity to complex issues and claims." The Legal 500, 2026

Justin undertakes all aspects of personal injury work. He has a particular interest in workplace claims (especially where liability expert evidence is required) and claims involving vulnerable road users (children, pedestrians, cyclists, motorcyclists). His approach to personal injury actions is to assist solicitors to take control of litigation via use of the available procedural tools (Part 18s, Replies) which assists in achieving swift outcomes.

Justin has experience in representing interested parties at inquests. He has experience in drafting complex, high-value Schedules of Loss in catastrophic and fatal accident claims.



Rachel Russell

Year of call: 2001

"Rachel's ability to make complex concepts understandable is exceptional." Chambers UK, 2025

Rachel has over 20 years' experience in dealing with personal injury cases, acting for both claimants and defendants with extensive expertise in claims concerning catastrophic injuries of the utmost severity. She is currently instructed as junior counsel to Christopher Sharp KC in a particularly complex traumatic brain injury case. Rachel's regular clients include national insurers and top-tier claimant firms, as well as numerous local authorities throughout England and Wales and the NHS.

Rachel has gained a reputation for her robust advocacy, well-reasoned but no nonsense approach to complicated issues, and her friendly manner with clients. She is highly respected both in chambers and on circuit. Whilst the focus of her practice is on cases of higher value, she will accept instructions on lower value matters where there are novel or complex issues to consider.

Barristers



Ben Handy

Year of call: 2008

"Ben's advice is always well considered and thought through in order to meet the needs of the client. He is very approachable, and a very good communicator." The Legal 500, 2026

Ben is Deputy Head of Chambers' Personal Injury Department, a mediator and part-time Crown Court judge. He is widely recognised for his "resourceful and highly adaptable" trial advocacy and "excellent advice on strategy" in relation to catastrophic injury claims. He is ranked as a leading junior in the major legal directories on the strength of his clients' endorsements. The Legal 500 praises his reliability and "reassuring presence", explaining complex legal issues to clients in a sensitive, down to earth and respectful way.

Ben likes to work very closely with his instructing solicitors, managing cases together as a team and working collaboratively with opposing parties as far as possible.



Jonathan Lindfield

Year of call: 2017

"Jonathan's technical expertise is very sound and he always has a good grasp of the facts. He provides pragmatic legal counsel, carefully balancing sound legal strategy with the best interests of his clients." The Legal 500, 2026

Jonathan is an experienced, specialist personal injury barrister, whose practice encompasses all aspects of personal injury litigation. Jonathan regularly acts for both claimants and defendants on the intermediate and multi-track, in claims worth up to £1m. His caseload often involves claims with multiple expert disciplines, complex factual matrices and causation issues. He is frequently asked to advise and act on cases where fundamental dishonesty or exaggeration is alleged.

Jonathan has expertise and experience in the whole spectrum of personal injury work but has particular interests and specialisms in claims under the Highways Act, the Animals Act, and Employers' Liability claims. He has recently published podcasts on highway claims and on the Animals Act.



Sarah Riley

Year of call: 2021

"Sarah's work on the papers is first rate, and she has always been impeccably prepared for Court work – I observed her win a tricky RTA Trial against far more experienced Counsel and she was hugely impressive. Sarah is great with clients, her calm and down-to-earth nature allows her to easily connect with people. I enjoy working with her greatly" Instructing Solicitor

Sarah maintains a busy court practice covering all areas of personal injury. She is experienced in dealing with a range of road traffic accident, Highways Act, employers' liability, public liability and credit hire claims. Sarah has a particular interest in the Animals Act, and she is rapidly developing her expertise in this field. Prior to studying law, Sarah studied animal behaviour and welfare which makes her well suited to this area.

Sarah is an experienced and tenacious trial advocate, acting for claimants and defendants. She is extremely efficient at turning around written work such as pleadings and advices.

Expert Speakers



Peter Jenkins
Consultant Neurologist

Peter Jenkins is a Consultant Neurologist working in the South of England with specialist expertise in acquired brain injury, including traumatic and hypoxic–ischaemic brain injury. He runs dedicated brain injury clinics and leads a weekly hypoxic–ischaemic brain injury multidisciplinary ward round. Dr Jenkins completed a PhD in traumatic brain injury at Imperial College London and has extensive research experience, having published and presented widely in neurology and brain injury. He has also contributed to national service development in traumatic brain injury and undertakes substantial medicolegal work with extensive expert witness experience.



Tracey Ryan-Morgan
Consultant Clinical
Neuropsychologist

Dr. Ryan-Morgan is a Consultant Clinical Neuropsychologist, and Clinical Director of a substantial private practice (www.talisconsulting.co.uk) having spent many years working in the NHS and independent sectors in the field of acquired brain injury. She works out of 10, Harley Street, London. She has published two commissioned books for Routledge on The Mental Capacity Act (2019 & 2022), is an invited reviewer for the journal, Neuropsychological Rehabilitation (see Web of Science and ResearchGate) and is actively publishing papers in peer reviewed journals. She teaches at post-doctoral level at the Universities of Canterbury and Bristol and is a Regional Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine, a Chartered Scientist and an Associate Fellow of the British Psychological Society. Dr Ryan-Morgan has been involved in a range of professional committees within the BPS including the Clinical Neuropsychology Qualifications Board (Registrar and Chief Supervisor), the Committee for Training in Clinical Neuropsychology (Chair) and a member of the Division of Neuropsychology Awards Panel. She has also been a Lead Assessor for the Statement of Equivalence and a founder member of the process which resulted in Competency Framework for Clinical Neuropsychology (2012). She speaks regularly at national conferences, webinars and training events and is involved in the professional training of doctors, social workers and Case Managers in the field of mental capacity. She is currently working on an edited book (with Professor Gus Baker) and contributing chapters to several other books due out in 2027.



Professor Faruqi
Consultant
Neuropsychiatrist

Adviser for Neuropsychiatry and Case Management Support

Professor Faruqi is a Consultant Neuropsychiatrist and Clinical Director – Forensic & Specialist Mental Health Services, Kent & Medway Mental Health NHS Trust. He is an editor of Oxford Textbook of Neuropsychiatry and a former Chair of Faculty of Neuropsychiatry at the Royal College of Psychiatrists (RCPsych). He has served as a member of RCPsych Council (2012–2016 & 2021–2025) and as a member of RCPsych Board of Trustees (2021–2025). He is appointed as an Honorary Professor at the University of Kent and as a Consultant Neuropsychiatrist at Kent & Medway Mental Health Trust. He has taught 'Professionalism, Law and Ethics' at the Kent & Medway Medical School and worked as a Clinical Research Fellow at Imperial College London. His academic and research interests include health policy, service structure research, workforce development, use of technology in healthcare, lifestyle medicine and forensic aspects of neuropsychiatric practice.

Exhibitors



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Headway Bristol

improving life after brain injury



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