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Clerks: **020 7643 5000**

Thomas Crockett

Call: 2009



Overview

Thomas specialises in clinical negligence, professional negligence, and personal injury law.

He is regularly instructed in a wide range of clinical negligence claims against all manner of medical professionals. He has an interest in claims concerning alleged surgical negligence, consent issues, and alleged incorrect diagnoses. He drafts pleadings, regularly advises on both claimant and defendant parties on paper and at conference and his advocacy experience extends from all forms of interlocutory applications to trials. He is adept at negotiating settlements at joint meetings and at mediations.

Thomas receives regular instructions in cases concerning alleged negligence by a range of professionals, including solicitors in respect of historic litigation. He is developing a practice specialising in allegations concerning the litigation of previous personal injury and clinical negligence claims.

In his personal injury practice, Thomas has a particular interest in claims involving complex causation disputes, complex psychiatric and spinal injuries, and cases where fraud is alleged. He has experience of coronial law and inquests acting for both families and interested parties.

Medical law

Thomas is listed as a leading individual by Chambers & Partners and the Legal 500 where he has been described as being “clear, concise, very quick and his attention to detail is marvellous”, possessing “a wonderful no-nonsense approach to cutting through a claim”, being "junior who is reliable in a crisis and knows how to achieve strong results for his client", and being “super: very accessible and responsive, thorough and pragmatic”.

He is regularly instructed on behalf both claimant and defendant parties in a wide range of clinical negligence claims brought against all manner of clinicians.

He has experience as both sole counsel and having been led in claims of the most significant injuries and highest value, including representing litigants unled in claims valued at around £10m, and led by leading counsel in claims of up to £30m.

He has been recently instructed (led by David Pittaway KC) in two novel cases concerning the liability private companies providing (respectively) intraoperative spinal monitoring during a scoliosis operation (BXL v Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust (1) Bespoke Healthcare Group Ltd (2) (High Court District Registry at Manchester)) and a private ambulance service for a boxing bout (XX v British Boxing Board of Control & 3 Ors (KBD)), both of which have recently settled at mediation. He is currently being led by Julian Picton KC in a complex case concerning the alleged development of a functional neurological disorder, and has recently (unled) negotiated seven figure settlements at JSMs in cases concerning (respectively) injuries from a delayed diagnosis of childhood meningitis, unilateral sight loss for a surgeon, and delayed diagnosis cases, including cancer, bon fractures and caudal equina syndrome.

He has specific experience of so-called 'wrongful birth' cases, having been instructed on behalf of the defendants in KP v An NHS Trust (High Court District Registry at Sheffield), AC v A Welsh Health Board (High Court District Registry at Swansea), and in a professional negligence context, led latterly by Jamie Carpenter KC, in P v SR (High Court District Registry at Newcastle).

Thomas has extensive trial experience in both the High Court and County Court including:

- Parker v North West London Hospitals NHS Trust [2016] EWHC 1662 (QB), a case concerning an allegation by a surgeon on laparotomy to diagnose acute diverticulitis and proceed to colectomy
- Meynell v Croydon Health Services NHS Trust [2018] EWHC 2431 (QB), a case concerning an allegation of a failure to diagnose timeously established appendicitis at an A&E department
- Bowden v RDE NHS Foundation Trust (26/11/18, HHJ Gore QC, Exeter County Court), a complicated case concerning the provision of a Hepatitis B booster which allegedly led to the development of neuroretinitis with unilateral blindness
- Mallinson v Murray (28-29/8/19, HHJ Gore QC, Exeter County Court), a case against a GP concerning the alleged failure diagnose DVT in a patient who developed a fatal pulmonary embolism
- Docherty v Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (25-27/11/19, HHJ Clarke, County Court at Oxford) a claim concerning allegedly negligent post-natal care by obstetricians and midwives
- KW v North West Anglia NHS Foundation Trust (14/10/20, Mr Recorder Warncok QC, County Court at Lincoln) a claim about an allegedly missed diagnosis of a psoas abscess by a urological surgeon
- JB v Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (19-21 & 28/10/20, HHJ Bloom,

County Court at Luton) a claim relating to allegedly negligent triage and treatment at A&E
- MJ v Chadwell Heath Dental Practice (25-26/10/21, HHJ Baucher, County Court at Central London) a claim relating to the consent for dental treatment
- KI v Dr MC (19-20/5/22, HHJ Mitchell, County Court at Plymouth) a causation and quantum claim in a dental negligence case
- CR v Dr EN (27-28/10/22, DJ Woosnan, County Court at Blackpool) a dental negligence claim
- DB v Dr HS (27-30/1/25, HHJ Truman, Counter Court at Birmingham) a claim against a GP about an alleged failure to inform a patient of blood test results
- Way v University Hospitals Plymouth [2025] EWHC 1078 (KB) a claim about a delay to providing rectopexy surgery

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Personal injury

Thomas is cited as a leading PI practitioner by the Legal 500, where published feedback describes him as a “brilliant technical expert and an innovative strategist”; “Thomas pays great attention to detail and always provides quick and concise advice”.

He regularly acts for claimants and defendants in mostly higher value and complex cases concerning multiple catastrophic, and complex spinal, neurological and psychiatric injuries. He is instructed as sole counsel on behalf of claimants in several complex ongoing cases where damages are valued at over £2.5M, and for defendant insurers in a number of cases where damages are said to likely exceed £1M. He has been instructed in cases of the highest value when led by leading counsel, including recently in a case concerning a construction accident valued by the claimant at over £11.5M and a cyclist head injury claim valued by the claimant at almost £14M.

He is adept at achieving optimal settlements at ADR, at joint settlement meetings, mediations, or after early neutral evaluations. Acting for Claimants, he recently obtained seven figure settlements for the dependants of a deceased motorist and a surgeon facing the prospect of having to abandon private practice upon the further development of post-traumatic osteoarthritis following a wrist fracture caused in a cycling accident, and high six figure settlements for a young father who sustained polytraumatic orthopaedic injuries in a serious motorcycle accident; and an employee of an educational establishment seriously assaulted by a pupil.

He frequently acts for insurers and public bodies in cases raising substantial allegations of fraud, malingering or ‘fundamental dishonesty’. On behalf of the defendant insurer, he was recently led by Dominic Nolan KC in a complicated case concerning alleged c.£14M business and other losses flowing from a cycling accident, which settled for less than 1% of its value just 3 days prior to a listed 5-day High Court trial.

Professional liability

Failed, mismanaged or under-settled clinical negligence / injury litigation

Thomas' professional indemnity practice has a particular focus on cases pertaining to failed clinical negligence or personal injury litigation and allegedly under-settled claims. Representative work includes:

- acting for the claimant in a claim for damages for loss of a chance to bring a successful injury claim, which was struck out by the admitted negligence of solicitors, where there were some complex issues as to causation
- acting for a defendant insurer a potentially very high claim brought by litigants in a claim for 'wrongful birth' against their former solicitors following the striking out of the underlying claim
- acting for a barrister in a complex claim brought against a firm of solicitors in respect of allegedly mishandled clinical negligence litigation where there was a discontinuance due to threats of 'fundamental dishonesty'
- acted for a firm of solicitors alleged to have mishandled a complicated and potentially extremely high value claim clinical negligence claim struck out at an early stage
- acting for a barrister in a claim where it was alleged that the underlying personal injury claim was substantially under-settled

Legal Professionals

He also represents both claimant and defendants in cases concerning negligence by lawyers in other forums. Representative work includes:

- acting for a conveyancing firm concerning the alleged failure to advise the purchaser of development land as to the existence of adverse covenants
- acting for former clients of a solicitors firm who allege a failure to advise appropriately as to the terms of a long lease
- instructed on behalf of a large number of claimants in a claim against their former conveyancing solicitor regarding allegedly negligent advice as to their involvement in a Stamp Duty Land Tax avoidance scheme

Financial, Construction and Other Professionals

Thomas has experience in claims brought against all manner of financial and construction professionals, including matters concerning complex areas of accounting, financial and other advice. Representative cases include:

- instructed on behalf of the defendant accountants concerning the scope of the firm's retainer and whether tax advice should have been volunteered
- acting for the defendant accountant in a matter concerning allegedly defective advice as to a share buy-back agreement by a foreign company
- involved in the settlement of a case on behalf of a construction company in a multi-defendant matter involving damage to computer servers following the demolition of part of a party wall
- acted on behalf for defendant IFA in complex case alleging breach of fiduciary

duty and a right to ‘pierce the corporate veil’ due to alleged fraud through to trial

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What others say

"His pleadings are well drafted and he provides clear advice." *Chambers UK, 2027*

"Thomas has a warm and friendly manner and is excellent in conference with witnesses, taking the time to put them at ease and create a supportive environment in which they feel comfortable." *Chambers UK, 2027*

"He is incredibly responsive, has a keen eye for detail and is an excellent advocate." *Chambers UK, 2027*

"He is an excellent, concise advocate with brilliant attention to detail. He is very quick, always willing to assist, and great with clients." *Legal 500, 2027*

"Thomas is extremely knowledgeable; his advice is sound and reliable, and he has always been reliable himself. He is a force in his advice and in his approach to matters, providing excellent advice." *Legal 500, 2027*

"He is knowledgeable, capable and reliable. He is friendly and approachable." *Chambers UK, 2026*

"He has a proven track record of successfully defending claims to trial. He has a real eye for detail and excellent in conference with experts and witnesses." *Chambers UK, 2026*

"He is highly commercial and he cuts through the case. He is a real pleasure to work with, always available, incredibly responsive and all over the detail." *Chambers UK, 2026*

"He is clear, concise, very quick and his attention to detail is marvellous." *Legal 500, 2026*

“A well prepared and thorough advocate.” *Legal 500, 2026*

"Thomas is such a clean pleader. There is no irrelevant nonsense. He is also very good in conference with experts." *Chambers UK, 2025*

"Thomas has an excellent manner with those instructing him and clients, putting them at ease while providing clear guidance on the direction of travel on a case." *Chambers UK, 2025*

"All round, Tom is a great performer. His service delivery is amazing and he is really very incisive." *Chambers UK, 2025*

"Thomas is very good. He is very good with defences and gets down to the nitty gritty. He is very user-friendly, responsive and a lovely man." *Chambers UK, 2025*

"Thomas is extremely responsive and a pleasure to work with, He is charming and his style is direct and robust and his advocacy at JSMs is impressive." *Legal 500, 2025*

"Tom is very knowledgeable, quick to respond and not scared to take on a difficult case." *Legal 500, 2025*

"Thomas is a junior who is reliable in a crisis and knows how to achieve strong results for his clients." *Chambers UK, 2024*

"Tom is super: very accessible and responsive, thorough and pragmatic. A very capable advocate who gets the results." *Chambers UK, 2024*

"He has brilliant service delivery, knowledge and approach." *Chambers UK, 2024*

“Thomas is a rising star – super quick, incisive, sensible, and knowledgeable” *Legal 500, 2024*

“Thomas is excellent when dealing with contentious issues on liability and causation.” *Legal 500, 2024*

"Thomas has a keen eye on the commercial perspective." *Chambers UK, 2023*

"Tom is a junior of choice in high-value claims. He is hardworking and reliable with excellent drafting skills, judgment and first-class analytical skills." *Legal 500, 2023*

“He has excellent advocacy and drafting skills and is very personable and professional. He always responds promptly and is good with clients, experts and witnesses.” *Chambers UK, 2022*

“He gets to the heart of the issues and is knowledgeable when discussing complex medical issues with experts.” *Chambers UK, 2022*

“Thomas has a wonderful no-nonsense approach to cutting through a claim.” *Legal 500, 2022*

“Adept and diligent in terms of considering the wider strategy of cases.” *Legal 500, 2022*

“Thomas pays great attention to detail and always provides quick and concise advice.” *Legal 500, 2022*

“A brilliant technical expert and an innovative strategist.” *Legal 500, 2021*

Further information

Education:

- Bar Vocational Course, BPP Law School, London (2008-2009)

- Graduate Diploma in Law, City University, London (2007-2008)
- BA (Joint Hons), History & Politics, University of York (2004-2007)

Awards:

- Advanced Advocacy Course Scholarship, South Eastern Circuit & the Florida Trial Lawyers Section (2012)
- Edmund Davies Award, Gray's Inn (2008)
- David Karmel Award, Gray's Inn (2007)

Professional Memberships:

- Professional Negligence Bar Association
- Personal Injuries Bar Association

Appointments:

- Fee-Paid Judge of the First Tier Tribunal, Social Entitlement Chamber (2023 ongoing)
- Advocacy and Ethics Trainer, Gray's Inn (2018 ongoing)

Outside Interests Include: travel (South America and Indian Subcontinent especially), cricket, ballet, countryside, fly fishing, and bagpipes.

ICO Data protection registration number: **Z2311886**.

Thomas Crockett is a barrister regulated by the Bar Standards Board. Click to view Thomas Crockett's Privacy Notice.