

Lucy Coulson

Call: 2013

"Lucy is an excellent advocate in disciplinary matters. She combines rigorous and perceptive analysis with a clear, calm, non-confrontational approach in the hearing room which ensures that the regulator's case is advanced ethically, efficiently and effectively. She is one of the best."

Legal 500 2025 - Professional Disciplinary Law - Tier 1 Leading Junior - Midland Circuit



Lucy Coulson is a specialist in the fields of personal injury, inquests and professional discipline.

Lucy specialises in all aspects of personal injury, with a particular emphasis on employers' liability and public liability cases. Lucy was appointed to the Attorney General's Civil Regional B Panel in 2023 and is regularly instructed by government departments. She was ranked as a Tier 3 Leading Junior in Personal Injury in the Legal 500 2024.

Lucy also has a burgeoning practice in regulatory proceedings. She has a particular specialism in misconduct proceedings before the Teaching Regulation Agency (formerly the NCTL/GTC). She was recognised as a Tier 1 Leading Junior in Professional Disciplinary Law in the Legal 500 2024 and a Band 2 Junior in Professional Discipline in Chambers and Partners 2024.

Lucy is also an Honorary Assistant Professor at the University of Nottingham.

Expertise

Personal Injury

Lucy specialises in all aspects of personal injury and civil law, with a particular emphasis on employers' liability and public liability cases. She takes instructions on the full range of personal injury cases including multi-track and fast-track trials, disposal hearings and interim hearings including applications and costs and case management conferences.

Lucy has a busy paperwork practice, both advisory and drafting. She appreciates the importance of engaging with cases at an early stage in order to identify issues, provide practical advice and prepare cases thoroughly. Lucy is experienced in undertaking conferences with clients and experts covering complex issues including liability, causation and quantum. Lucy is adept at advising in cases involving vulnerable clients: her manner allows for thorough examination of the issues whilst remaining sensitive to the needs of the lay client. She is known to be approachable and professional.

Lucy receives instructions from both claimants and defendants and will accept instructions on a Conditional Fee basis where appropriate. Lucy is often able to offer an urgent turnaround of paperwork where required.

Birmingham

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Lucy was appointed to the Attorney General's Civil Regional B Panel in 2023. Lucy is regularly instructed by government departments, including the Ministry of Justice, Home Office and Department for Work and Pensions, to provide advice, pleadings and representation at hearings. She has advised on sensitive and legally complex matters.

Notable Cases

T v Trustees of the Alley Estate (2024)

Succeeded at trial in establishing liability under the Occupiers' Liability Act 1957. The Claimant slipped on a wet dance floor at a wedding. The Defendant were found to have failed to institute a reasonable system of inspection.

L v Super Smart Service Ltd (2024)

Succeeded at trial in establishing liability against an employer for failing to institute a safe system of work, resulting in the Claimant sustaining significant injury when a box fell on her leg.

J v M (2024)

Attended Joint Settlement Meeting for the Defendant for an injury to the Claimant arising at work with a samurai sword, resulting in early discharge from the army. Claim settled for £950,000.

D v M D T (2023)

The Claimant was attacked by a dog whilst at work in a dogs rehoming centre. Due to faulty radios provided by her employer, she was trapped in a kennel with the dog for some time without help and was in fear for her life, resulting in PTSD. Advised the Claimant on liability and causation.

K v N T D Ltd (2023)

Advised and represented the Claimant following a serious crush injury which was sustained when the Claimant's arm was dragged into machinery. Advised on causation of complex injuries to the wrist, elbow, shoulder and neck which prevented the Claimant from returning to manual work.

F v MOJ (2023)

Advised and represented the Defendant to trial in a liability claim arising from a prisoner on prisoner assault. The prisoner alleged vulnerability due to his recent sentencing for a sexual offence, resulting in a targeted assault.

F-O v S M Gates (2022)

Successfully established liability for the Claimant at multi track trial involving expert engineering evidence. The Claimant was crushed by an electric gate which fell off its rollers when manualised. The Defendant had altered the gate to manual on a temporary basis whilst providing a quote, but failed to warn the Claimant of the risks of the gate falling off its rollers. The Claimant was crushed and sustained serious injury. The claim subsequently settled for £80,000.

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S v P G G Ltd (2022)

Advised the Claimant following a serious crush injury whilst at work. The Claimant sustained fractures to L1, affecting his ability to return to high skilled work as a Rope Access Technician and Roofer. The claim subsequently settled for £150,000.

R (a child) v G (2021)

Advised on liability and quantum in a product liability claim. Child was injured by a needle when he bit into a doughnut, resulting in a severe psychiatric injury.

H v E (2021)

Advised and drafted pleadings for a Claimant in relation to an employers' liability multitrack claim. Proceedings were issued several months after limitation had expired due to file handler error. Liability remained in dispute and a limitation defence raised. Preparations were made for an application to disapply limitation pursuant to Section 33 of the Limitation Act 1980, following which the claim was settled at £50,000.

U v H (2021)

Advised on pre-action letter of claim and quantum: employee sustained a psychological injury sustained when they were given sight of a disturbing threatening letter from a third party, breach of duty alleged based upon the manner the information was disseminated.

T v AA Underwriting (2020)

Successfully represented a Claimant in an RTA liability trial. The Defendant alleged that no accident had taken place and sought a finding of fundamental dishonesty against the Claimant. To the contrary, the court found that the Defendant driver caused an accident and was under the influence of alcohol at the time. The Defendant driver was found to have wholly misled the court in evidence.

M v H (2020)

Advised and drafted pleadings in a multitrack public liability case. The Claimant had sustained a long spiral comminuted fracture of her mid and distal femur when she fell down an open manhole cover. The psychological trauma also resulted in the development of Crohn's disease and Irritable Bowel Syndrome. Advised on the extensive care and assistance, aids and equipment claim, as well as the complex and unusual gastrointestinal injuries sustained. Considered causation issues due to the Claimant's pre-existing health conditions. Following issue, the claim settled in the sum of £175,000.

N v UK Insurance (2020)

Represented a Claimant at fast track trial whose breast implant was dislodged as a result of a road traffic accident. The implant moved out of place, resulting in the Claimant's breast being asymmetrical and necessitating breast re-augmentation surgery under general anaesthetic.

Williams v Bolton Borough Council (2019)

Successfully represented a Claimant cyclist and established 100% liability against a pedestrian who stepped out from behind a refuse wagon without looking.

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M v Ministry of Justice (2019)

Represented a Claimant who fell ill with food poisoning after breaking his Ramadan fast in an immigration detention centre. Successfully established causation of post infective irritable bowel syndrome which was likely to be permanent.

Regulatory

Lucy practices the following areas:

Notable Cases

TRA v Watt and Kelly (2022)

Instructed for the TRA in a misconduct hearing relating to SATS malpractice, including passing off guided work as independent work and over scaffolding work. All allegations proven against both teachers and found to amount to dishonesty.

TRA v Blake (2022)

Presenting Officer for the TRA in a misconduct hearing relating to failure to disclose ongoing investigations and prohibition from teaching in a foreign jurisdiction. Allegations found proven and to demonstrate a lack of integrity.

TRA v Culver (2022)

Presenting Officer for the TRA in a misconduct hearing relating to unreasonable use of force against young children.

P Ltd v CQC (2022)

Instructed for the CQC in an appeal against a Notice of Decision to cancel a care home's registration to provide regulated services. Advised and drafted Scott Schedule for the CQC in preparation for appeal hearing in the Health, Education and Social Care Tribunal.

TRA v Lay, Prestoe & Stalker (2021)

Presenting Officer for the TRA in a complex multi-handed hearing involving allegations of census maladministration (known as 'off rolling') and coursework malpractice.

TRA v Radford (2021)

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Represented the TRA as Presenting Officer in a case involving allegations of a historic sexual relationship between a student and teacher. Hearing took place via video over 4 days. It involved preliminary applications relating to admissibility and whether the panel ought to recuse themselves in the circumstances. The case required sensitive witness handling given the nature of the allegations, the passage of time and the online forum of the hearing. All the allegations against the teacher were found proven. The teacher has been prohibited from teaching indefinitely, with no opportunity for review.

NCTL v Pedley (2018)

Secured a finding of unacceptable professional conduct arising from the use of racist and/or derogatory language in front of pupils. M v G (2018): Advised Claimant on liability and quantum in an employer's liability claim where the Claimant lost his forefinger in machinery. The Claimant had not received training on that particular machine but did have significant experience in industry and similar machines which gave rise to an argument of contributory negligence.

NCTL v Rogers (2017)

Assisted in securing a finding of unacceptable professional conduct arising from the use of inappropriate language towards pupils and actions that were found to be sexually motivated.

HSE v B (2017)

Advised Defendant in a HSE prosecution for breach of duty involving alleged breaches of duty by removing asbestos from a site without a licence and represented at sentencing hearing.

Professional Misconduct

Lucy has a burgeoning practice in professional disciplinary proceedings and accepts instructions in aspects of regulatory law.

Lucy is a specialist in misconduct proceedings before the Teaching Regulation Agency (formerly the NCTL/GTC). Lucy is often called upon in complex or sensitive cases where independent counsel is required.

Lucy has dealt with a wide range of conduct issues before the TRA, including physical assault, sexual assault, exam malpractice and off rolling. Lucy regularly engages with vulnerable witnesses and implements protocols for achieving best evidence.

Lucy has previously been instructed to represent the Care Quality Commission in the Health, Education and Social Care Tribunal and the Nursing and Midwifery Council.

Inquests, Public Inquiries & Coronial Law

Lucy has experience in inquests particularly representing government bodies as Interested Persons following the death of individuals in state custody. She is experienced in dealing with Article 2 inquests and those heard before a jury. Her personal injury practice complements her inquest practice, enabling her to advise in both civil proceedings and linked coronial proceedings.

Lucy recently appeared for HMPPS in a 2 week inquest examining the circumstances of a

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prisoner's death by suicide, including how his self harm and suicide risks were managed. Lucy provided sensitive support to staff and practical advice as to how to address the coroner's concerns relating to preventing future deaths.

Clinical Negligence

Lucy has a burgeoning practice in clinical negligence. She accepts instructions in fast track and multitrack trials, as well as in inquests. In addition, she is able to assist with the drafting of pleadings as well as providing advice on liability and quantum.

Awards



Accreditations

- Nottingham Law School Scholarship 2013
- University of Nottingham – Law Graduates Association Moot Prize 2012
- University of Nottingham – The MacGregor Award 2012

Appointments

- Honorary Assistant Professor – University of Nottingham – 2024
- Attorney General's Regional Civil B Panel – 2023
- Attorney General's Regional Civil C Panel – 2020

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Qualifications

- University of Nottingham – LLB (Hons)
- Nottingham Law School – BPTC

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