

Dealing with psychosomatic & functional symptoms in personal injury litigation

Tuesday, 14 December 2021
14:00 - 15:00

This webinar will explore some of the complexities that arise in cases involving psychosomatic or functional disorders. Such cases give rise to a number of legal, medical, evidential and practical challenges that lawyers need to find a way through.

This talk will consider:

- What are these conditions? Is it “all in their minds” or is there something else going on? We consider the key characteristics of functional disorders, and look at the medical terminology and the main diagnoses you may encounter in such cases
- The medical and legal considerations that arise in linking such disorders to an accident or injury. How can sometimes minor injuries lead to life-changing conditions? Are there predisposing, precipitating or perpetuating factors? How do the courts deal with symptoms and losses that are out of proportion to the original injury? Which experts should you use?
- What treatment is available for these disorders, and how should you approach rehabilitation?
- The issues with prognosis - how do you deal with a range of possible outcomes?
- The issues of exaggeration and dishonesty that frequently arise in these cases and consider if these can be distinguished from variability and inaccurate reporting of symptoms

Richard Geraghty is a partner with Irwin Mitchell where he specialises in catastrophic injury cases.

He heads the Serious Injury team in Irwin Mitchell’s London office, which consists of over 40 lawyers dealing with complex and high value personal injury cases including both national and international litigation.

He is also the national lead partner for training and education for the complex personal injury department.

He is on the editorial board for the Journal of Personal Injury Law. **Tu**



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