Gordon Catford specialises in clinical negligence and personal injury and is recognised by Chambers & Partners and the Legal 500 as a leading junior.

Legal 500 2015 describe Gordon as “a strategic thinker who is good with witnesses” and Chambers and Partners 2015 as “very thorough, his written work is excellent and he really knows his stuff” and “from the client's point of view he is very user-friendly and provides clear advice”.

He also sits as a recorder and is Vice Chair of the Inns of Court Conduct Committee.

**Clinical Negligence**

Gordon has extensive experience in a broad range of clinical negligence, including cases involving obstetric management, neonatal medicine and paediatrics, orthopaedic and neuro surgery, ophthalmology and optometry, A&E, cardiology, nephrology, oncology, plastic surgery and general practice. He has also acted in claims against mental services relating to suicides whilst in care and has been involved in claims involving the paramedical services, including the nursing, ambulance and blood services.

His experience also includes the advising of private clinics on family planning related claims and policy (termination of pregnancy, male and female sterilisation, consent and counselling) and is frequently instructed by Professional Associations in connection with charges of professional misconduct against members before Disciplinary Tribunals.

In the last year Gordon has settled a number of high value birth injury claims on behalf of minors, involving lump sums and periodical payments; and is currently conducting a number of obstetric claims in excess of £4 million, including one of £8 million.
Selected Cases

- **Idzam v Skeen** – Trial in High Court of claim by brain damaged infant – of note, as evidence heard entirely by videolink with Malaysia.

Personal Injury

Gordon is frequently instructed in catastrophic injury claims, usually involving acquired head and spinal injuries. These cases usually involve detailed consideration of care and case management needs, as well as issues of prognosis and life expectancy. He is happy to travel out of London to meet clients and expert witnesses.

He handles the full range of employers’ liability work.

He is frequently instructed by Local Authorities and NHS Trusts, advising in connection with health and safety related issues. He has acted in proceedings arising out of fatal accidents on school trips and in the provision of public services, representing clients at Coroners’ inquests and in the Crown Court. He has also been involved in the drafting of health and safety policies for education authorities.

Selected Cases

- **Melhuish v Clifford Others** – Duties of unincorporated associations to their members in the area of occupiers’ liability.

Qualifications

- LL.B (Lond)
- Kennedy Scholarship & Buchanan Prize (Lincoln’s Inn) 1980
- Recorder
Recommendations

‘A solid barrister, who is able to make clients feel at ease.’
Legal 500, 2017

"he is good at assessing the quality of the evidence and identifying gaps"
‘Leader at the Bar’ in Clinical Negligence (The Legal 500, 2016 Edition)

"he is approachable, professional, good with clients and organised"
‘Leader at the Bar’ in Clinical Negligence (Chambers & Partners, 2016 Edition)

"a strategic thinker who is good with witnesses"
‘Leader at the Bar’ in Clinical Negligence (The Legal 500, 2015 Edition)

"he's very thorough, his written work is excellent and he really knows his stuff" and "from the client’s point of view he is very user-friendly and provides clear advice"
‘Leader at the Bar’ in Clinical Negligence (Chambers & Partners, 2015 Edition)

“his practice is complemented by expertise in personal injury”
‘Leader at the Bar’ in Clinical Negligence (The Legal 500, 2014 Edition)

“produces extremely good work.” Solicitors favour him as he has “an exceptional way of empathising with the client”
‘Leader at the Bar’ in Clinical Negligence (Chambers & Partners, 2013 Edition)

described as "brilliant"; as having an "amazing ability with clients" and as being "very efficient and turns round papers with great speed"
‘Leader at the Bar’ in Clinical Negligence (Chambers & Partners, 2012 Edition)

described as being “always well prepared”

described as “very authoritative and highly able”, and as having “particularly good communication skills”
‘Leader at the Bar’ in Clinical Negligence (Chambers & Partners, 2011 Edition)

described as “thorough”, “well researched”, “efficient with paperwork”, and is credited with “excellent” people and communication skills.