

To the Practice Manager or Head of Recruitment.

**LETTER OF INTRODUCTION**



Dear Sirs,

**Dated: 26 January 2023**

**Re: Civil Law & Litigation Vacancies**

I am writing to inquire if you have any legal vacancies in civil litigation as I am now looking to return to professional practice after taking time out due to personal losses due to the Corvid pandemic.

That said I am now very keen to work personal injury and the civil litigation industry,

I am/would bring:

- Have a vast experience in,
  - i) All Personal Injury seats ( RTA, EL/PL/OCC),
  - ii) Contract Law
  - iii) False Imprisonment,
  - iv) Unlawful Arrest,
  - v) Professional Negligence,
  - vi) Debt Recovery;
  - vii) all aspects of Legal Costs
  - viii) a handful of Clinical Negligence claims and Tenancy Repossessions;

The above is supported and evidenced by I having:

- Almost 20 years of experience of professional practice in Solicitor firms at management level;
- Being able to work solely on the Fast Track and Multi Tracks completely unsupervised;
- Been a very successful ‘head of department’ at 4 firms of solicitors and, despite my management responsibilities, I still billed revenue in excess of £275,000 per annum ( If I was placed in a non-management role I would surpass this figure)
- Over the last 20 years I have been the sole advocate at countless hearings in England & Wales having attended over **48 different Courts / hundred of court hearings**
- I am skilled in multiple case management systems including Pro-Claim/Opsis;
- I understand the **commercial side** of running a private practice;
- When fee earners make errors, I am the one they can come to for guidance and support, I do the fire-fighting.

Finally, I would be grateful for your kind contemplation for any challenging roles that you consider I may be of benefit to the practice.

Yours Faithfully

**Mr. Gavyn J LAtkinson** Tel: 07878277769

## **Mr. Gavyn Atkinson**

### **Personal statement**

I am a very highly experienced civil lawyer/litigator with 20 years of vast experience in multiple disciplines of civil law. I have been Head of Department at 4 firms of Solicitors, two of which I was the main architect in their creation. I am known for being highly self-motivated with an ability to undertake any task asked of me.

Further I am a talented, competent advocate who has the innovation and knowledge to perform anything required, despite complexity, in civil law and litigation to a very high degree.

In addition I conducted hundreds Court hearings in over 42 different Courts in England & Wales, this goes hand-in-hand with my ability to draft all pleadings, applications and prepare for hearings/Trials.

I also have a formidable billing record where I can easily surpass £250,000.00 per year (whilst managing). In addition, I am technically and tactically gifted when it comes to procedure and assessing the best way to proceed and litigate.

Over the years my colleagues have considered me to be the ‘go-to-man’ when things have gone wrong, a mistake has been made and needs rectifying, or simply for a second pair of eyes as to how to proceed. I am able to hit the ground running, work with minimum supervision and run a mixed case load.

Personally, I am easy to get along with, no high-and-graces, a brilliant team player who lifts the spirits of the department and overall a good personal to work with (am told)

Thank you.

Mr G Atkinson

Email: atkinson77vc@gmail.com

## **Work Experience**

### **RTA Litigation Fee Earner & Advocate, Optimal Solicitors**

*02/2021 - 06/2021*

Responsibilities & Achievements

### **RTA and Technical Manager, Lance Mason Solicitors – Blackburn**

*09/2018 - 04/2019*

Responsibilities & Achievements

Managed the RTA Team. Set costs targets. Trained Staff. Handled a case load of about 100 due to management responsibilities. Held develop the case management system, dealt with costs. conducted all interlocutory hearings in person by telephone.

### **Head of Personal Injury and Civil Litigation, Howard Solicitors**

*01/2009 - 06/2018*

Responsibilities & Achievements

On 23 January 2009 I began working for Howards Solicitors. Howards is predominantly a criminal legal aid firm but I saw an opportunity in the market to diversify. I was drafted in to create the civil litigation department and had total autonomy over every aspect of the day to day running and development of my department. I started on my first day with 6 RTA files and with no case management system/ or assistance, almost 10 years later, I had grown my department and had turned over millions in legal fees from a standing start, it was a complete success. Here is what Howards had to say: (**Write up from Howards website at the time of posting**) *Gavyn manages the firm's Personal injury department. Gavyn joined the firm In January 2009 shortly after we made the decision to establish a personal injury department to service existing clients. He boasts a wealth of experience in this area and is headed by Gavyn Atkinson who has more than 13 years experience in this area of law and has previously worked for the insurance industry and so understands how the opposition work.*

*"Gavyn's role is to prepare cases and advise clients whilst at the same time advising the management of the firm on growing a successful personal injury department. Thanks to Gavyn's hard work and commitment to the clients' cause and determined approach to the issue of the client's the firm has achieved growth year on year and Howards is now recognised as an expert in*

*the field of personal injury law. Gavyn not only manages the department but he also runs his own caseload and thanks to his reputation as a serious injury specialist the firm now enjoys referrals from other law firms and professionals who are not able to offer such expertise to their own clients. In addition my experience and knowledge comes in part from his near 10 years working in one capacity or another within the insurance industry. His injury claim clients now benefit as a result. Most recently Gavyn has enjoyed successes that have resulted in the establishing of precedent and law in very important areas of Law"*

### **Head of Employers & Public Liability, HCC Solicitors**

**09/2007 - 01/2009**

#### **Responsibilities & Achievements**

Managed the EL & PL Department tasked with all day to day management

#### **Qualifications**

General Council of Bar now BSB

*2006 - 2006*

Certificate of Academic Standing

#### **Hobbies**

Avid Manchester City fan and accomplished pianist, having played since I was 12.

#### **Ref:** Mr Oliver Gardner Director

Mr Robert Horner of counsel ( Below) ( Gough Square)

Mr David Boyle of Counsel ( Deans Court Chambers{})

REFER OF MR ROBERT HORNER NOW OF DEKA CHAMBERS

Ref: Dated: 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021

To whom it may concern

I have known Gavyn professionally since 2014 when he first instructed me as Counsel on a personal injury claim that arose from a road traffic accident. Since then I have worked with Gavyn on a number of cases.

My experience of working with Gavyn is that he is conscientious in pursuing his client's cases, taking a keen interest in the factual detail as well as the legal aspects of the case. He has a ready knowledge of the law and is able to apply it with skill and persuasion.

He is good at thinking ahead in litigation to potential problems and how they are best navigated. He thinks pragmatically and confidently. He has good manner with clients both putting them at their ease but also ensuring that they understand the realities of their case and therefore maintain a realistic perspective and expectation.

On a personal level, Gavyn is professional and personable, I have enjoyed working with him very much. Yours faithfully

**Robert Horner | Barrister**

**9 Gough Chambers**  
Chambers of Jacob Levy QC  
5 Norwich Street | London | EC1A 1DR

**Tel:** 0207 832 0500  
**DX:** LDE 139 Chancery Lane



**9 GOUGH CHAMBERS**



## **Button on Taxis: Licensing Law and Practice (4ed)**

Publisher: Bloomsbury Professional

ISBN: 9781780434933

Author(s) Button, JTH

Edition 4

Format Hb

Publication Date 28/02/2018

### **Taxi driver runs foul of the law as he imprisons passengers over fare dispute – new court case should act as a warning by Oliver Gardner in Criminal Law, motoring law, News, Personal Injury, Taxi**

Taxi law experts Howards & Henry's Solicitors are warning taxi drivers not to take the law into their own hands, even if they believe they are being provoked, after a new landmark ruling.

The case of ***Eve Lamb v Equity Red Star*** has set a new precedent for the duty of care demanded of taxi drivers towards their passengers and other road users.

The taxi driver who was insured Equity Red Star had been found liable of false imprisonment after he refused to let his passengers leave his vehicle over a fare dispute.

In the ensuing confrontation between the driver and Ms Lamb's partner, she suffered a broken hip requiring 6 weeks in hospital after the driver lost control of his vehicle.

The taxi driver had decided to take the couple to a police station despite repeated requests to be allowed to exit – an action that was deemed false imprisonment by the Court.

This has led to a key ruling that the driver had a strict liability, which makes him legally responsible for the damage and loss caused by his acts regardless of fault – Ms Lamb was awarded £13,250 in damages.

Deputy District Judge Jones also commented in his judgement that the driver had the option to stop his vehicle but continued and so posed a significant danger to other road users as well as his passengers.

Howards & Henry's Solicitors, which works closely with the taxi trade, represented Ms Lamb, believes that taxi drivers must take away key lessons away from this case.

**Gavyn Atkinson, head of personal injury and civil litigation**, who handled the case at Howards & Henry's Solicitors, advises: "If you are a taxi driver that believes that they have been wronged do not take the law into your own hands, pursue other options.

If you find yourself in a difficult position call the Police if possible, drop off passengers outside their homes or places of work and note the address, install cameras in your cab." Atkinson continues: "Only in cases of self-defence where you honestly believe that there is a threat to your physical well-being would we acknowledge that there might not be any reasonable alternative. However, cases that go to Court are often not clear cut in regards to self-defence."

Oliver Gardner managing partner of Howards & Henry's Solicitors, which specialises in criminal and motoring law comments: "The law is still far from satisfactory for taxi drivers. There are few, if any, cases that give much needed guidance to taxi drivers in this area.

Moreover, Gavyn's research showed that no approved guidelines are in place, from councils or colleges offering NVQs for taxi drivers. It is a situation that needs to be resolved quickly to protect taxi drivers and their passengers."



Certificate No: 164

**This is to certify that: Mr Gavyn James Lee Atkinson**

**of:**

**2103 City Central Tower  
Victoria Bridge Street  
Manchester  
M3 5AS**

*has been assessed as eligible to undertake the Common Professional Examination (CPE) or an Approved Graduate Diploma in Law Course by virtue of having been accepted by the Joint Regulations Committee.*

*Satisfactory completion of the CPE or an Approved Graduate Diploma in Law Course will qualify this student to apply to proceed to the Vocational Stage of Training for the Bar.*

*Certificates of Academic Standing issued by the Bar Standards Board apply only to those persons wishing to qualify as Barristers in England and Wales. Neither the award of a Certificate of Academic Standing or the successful completion of the CPE or an Approved Graduate Diploma in Law Course guarantees a place on the Bar Professional Training Course.*

**Date issued: 16 September 2005 (re-issued 7 July 2022)**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sophie Maddison".

**Sophie Maddison  
Senior Regulatory Officer (Authorisation)**

*This certificate is not a legal qualified barrister. It does not provide you with any title, nor should this certificate be used as evidence that you have been issued with a qualification by the Bar Standards Board. You are not permitted to use this certificate for any purpose other than to apply for those graduate courses listed above.*

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