

12

King's Bench Walk

Aliyah Akram

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AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Personal Injury, Industrial Disease, Group Litigation, International & Travel, Inquests, Product Liability, Aviation

Aliyah Akram is acknowledged as a leading junior in personal injury, industrial disease and product liability litigation. She is renowned for her expertise and experience in group litigation in all of the core areas in which she practices. Many of her cases have an international aspect and give rise to both jurisdictional issues and conflicts of laws.

The value and complexity of Aliyah's cases means that the vast majority of her work is in the High Court of Justice.

Aliyah is a robust and persuasive trial advocate. She prides herself on working closely as a team with instructing solicitors, not just in group litigation, but in every case in which she is involved. Her focus is always on maximising the client's prospects of success. She is able to cut through the background noise and gets straight to the issues.

She is a contributing author of *Asbestos: Law & Litigation* (Sweet & Maxwell, 2019). She has been described by *Chambers & Partners* as a 'rising star'.

Personal Injury

Aliyah's personal injury practice tends to involve cases that are high value, complex or both. She acts for claimants and defendants in claims that involve serious injury, including injuries of the utmost severity, and often with an international law element. For example, she is currently instructed in a claim on behalf of a young girl who was nearly drowned in a swimming pool while on holiday in Spain and suffered a catastrophic brain injury. The estimated value of the claim is in excess of £20M. She recently secured damages of more than £8M for a young Romanian woman injured in road traffic accident.

More generally, Aliyah's analytical approach, which does not take received legal wisdom for granted, has led to her being regularly instructed in cases that give rise to novel legal issues and a number of test cases in different areas. She has been instructed as the senior junior in a large group action against the Ministry of Defence for non-freezing cold injuries. She is currently instructed in a claim arising from 'sick building syndrome', a condition developed as a result of living in a defective new build home.

Aliyah has particular expertise in high-value fatal accident claims. Unusually, since most cases of this type settle, she has appeared in the High Court in a number of such cases and has real experience of how the Courts deal with these cases. This experience has proved invaluable in nearly all areas of her practice. She frequently lectures on related issues.

Industrial Disease

Aliyah has appeared in the Court of Appeal and in numerous High Court trials for mesothelioma claimants. She is the junior of choice for ground-breaking cases, including an ongoing product liability test case pursued by the leading industrial disease solicitors against a major asbestos manufacturer and another test case, being lined up to go to the Supreme Court, which seeks to redefine public liability insurance for asbestos claims

Notable cases include:

- *Carder v The University of Exeter*
- *Davey v Shaw-Saville*
- *Weyer v Prescott (No 1)*
- *Stephens v Buckinghamshire County Council*

She is regularly instructed in all kinds of industrial disease claims, including noise-induced hearing loss, organophosphate exposure and from lead poisoning.

Her industrial disease practice also involves representing serving and former military personnel in claims arising from non-freezing cold injuries and noise induced hearing loss.

Group Litigation

Aliyah is particularly well known for her work on group litigation, cutting across all her key practice areas. She is renowned for strategic thinking and her tactical acumen. As a result, she is a much sought after junior in high profile group litigation and she has been involved in some of the largest group actions ever brought in the UK.

She is currently instructed in multiple group actions brought by military personnel against the Ministry of Defence. She is instructed by leading industrial disease solicitors in ongoing product liability test cases pursued against a major asbestos manufacturer.

She has been instructed in a number of cross-border group claims, including in *Vilca & Ors v Xstrata Plc & Xstrata Tintaya* in which she dealt with quantum issues for Peruvian environmental protestors who had been attacked and tortured as a result of their involvement in a demonstration and *The Bodo Community v The Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria* where she assisted with preparation for a mediation in a claim brought by a fishing community for extensive environmental damage caused by an oil spill in the Niger Delta.

International & Travel

Aliyah is frequently instructed in high-value cross-border personal injury cases. These cases frequently involve serious personal injury and private international law and so combine some of the key elements of Aliyah's practice. Her advice is often sought in difficult questions concerning jurisdiction or the conflict of laws. She regularly acts in aviation and maritime claims too.

Notable cases include:

- *Howe v MIB*
- *Nelson v Jet2*
- *Anderson v British Airways*

Her practice is wide ranging and has included acting on behalf of security personnel injured in the course of their work in Syria and Iraq and for holiday makers involved accidents across Europe and from as far afield as Sri Lanka, Thailand and the Caribbean.

Her international litigation experience includes cross-border group claims, such as *Vilca & Ors v Xstrata Plc & Xstrata Tintaya* in which she dealt with quantum issues for Peruvian environmental protestors who had been attacked and tortured as a result of their involvement in a demonstration and *The Bodo Community v The Shell Petroleum*

Development Company of Nigeria where she assisted with preparation for a mediation in a claim brought by a fishing community for extensive environmental damage caused by an oil spill in the Niger Delta.

Inquests

Aliyah is experienced in acting in the Coroner's Court. Her work complements her specialism in fatal accident claims.

Qualifications

Bar Professional Training Course, Kaplan Law School

LLM in European Law, Newnham College, University of Cambridge

MA, Law, Newnham College, University of Cambridge

Publications

Contributor: *Asbestos: Law & Litigation*, Sweet & Maxwell, 2019 (Chapters; Asbestos: history and use, Product liability, Causation)

Contributor: *Butterworths Personal Injury Litigation Service*, 2018 (Jurisdiction)

Advisory Board member: *Gendered Experiences of Mesothelioma Study* (2020)

Memberships

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