

# 12

King's Bench Walk

## Catherine Peck

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### AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Personal Injury, Clinical Negligence, Professional Negligence, Insurance, Costs, Fraud, Mediation

Catherine specialises in high value complex personal injury and clinical negligence disputes. She has a loyal following from both claimant and defendant solicitors.

In a claimant capacity, much of Catherine's work involves catastrophic injury which has had a life-changing impact on her clients. Whether the injuries have resulted in severe pain, mobility restrictions, disfigurement, reduced life expectancy or bereavement, Catherine's approachable nature and excellent care skills mean her clients are able to feel fully engaged. She deals with claims in a practical and productive manner and gains job satisfaction from knowing that she is able to help her clients not only through the litigation process, but also to move on with their lives.

Catherine is regularly instructed by most of the country's leading defendant solicitors, who value her sound practical and tactical advice as much as her experience of the claimant's perspective/motivation. Catherine's interest in the detail of a claim equips her to anticipate what will be the decisive issues even in the most document heavy of cases. Whilst Catherine always has an eye on the commerciality of litigation (and finding a commercially acceptable resolution if possible) she equally has a skill for spotting the cases on which her clients should stand firm. As a result of successful outcomes in even the most difficult of claims, Catherine is also regularly instructed by most of the country's leading insurers.

Whether acting for claimants or defendants, Catherine has built strong working relationships with those instructing her, resulting in regular repeat instructions.

Catherine is an accredited mediator (civil and commercial disputes; workplace disputes) and has a particular interest in the psychology and tactics of negotiation. She regularly provides talks to solicitors and is a very experienced advocacy trainer.

Aside from regularly acting on her own in very high value claims, Catherine has acted as junior counsel on a number of occasions being led by Frank Burton QC, Andrew Hogarth QC, Ronnie Walker QC, William Featherby QC and Susan Rodway QC.

### Clinical Negligence

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Catherine acts predominately for claimants in the field of clinical negligence. She is regularly instructed in a wide range of clinical negligence claims.

Recent cases include:

- Birth trauma (both mother and child)
- Failed breast reconstruction surgery (resulting in disfigurement, pain and psychiatric injury)
- Delayed diagnosis of cancer resulting in death (with complex causation issues).
- Delayed diagnosis of cancer causing reduced life expectancy and additional surgical/therapeutic input (with complex causation issues).
- Inappropriate wound management in diabetic patient leading to limb amputation.
- Misdiagnosis of hydrocephalus.
- Over-prescription of medication with permanent impact on health.
- Negligent post-operative care leading to a fall in geriatric patient.
- Delayed diagnosis of appendicitis.
- Failed IVF (including causation issues)
- Stillbirth (requiring sensitivity of approach given limited value of claim, despite devastating impact on mother).

Catherine's interest in people is evident in conference when discussing sensitive issues. Her attention to detail and understanding of this area of the law, mean she is well equipped to deal with complex disputes (both on breach and causation) and is regularly instructed to advise in conference with expert witnesses. Although most clinical negligence claims do not go to trial, Catherine's extensive trial advocacy experience mean in appropriate cases, she is well placed to represent claimants at trial. She has recently provided solicitor training on causation in clinical negligence claims.