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King's Bench Walk

Steven Snowden QC

Call: 1989

Silk: 2017



AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Personal Injury, Industrial Disease, Public Inquiries, Group Litigation, Inquests, Insurance, Costs, Clinical Negligence

Steven Snowden QC is recognised in the independent legal directories as one of the leading barristers in the country in his chosen areas of work.

He is one of only three QCs who have been nominated as PI Silk of the Year for the Chambers & Partners Bar Awards in November 2021.

Steven's main areas of practice are high-value, complex or sensitive personal injury and industrial disease cases, group litigation and public inquiries. His practice extends to associated insurance, professional negligence and clinical negligence work. He works for claimants and for defendants.

Steven is a strong and experienced trial advocate and regularly deals with substantial and complex cases in court and in settlement meetings. His current case-load includes the liability and quantum aspects of head injuries, paraplegic and other serious spinal injury cases, amputations, psychiatric injuries and fatal claims. In disease work he deals with mesothelioma and other asbestos claims, and other occupational illness claims involving difficult issues of liability, causation or quantum. He is currently acting for the largest group of the infected and affected individuals and families (1,400+ core participants) in the Infected Blood Public Inquiry.

He is the elected Chair (2020 – 2022) of the Personal Injuries Bar Association, a member of the Bar Council and has for many years been one of the authors of the Judicial College Guidelines for the Assessment of General Damages in Personal Injury Cases.

Public Inquiries and Group Litigation

Drawing on his background in PI and medical work and his experience of dealing with complex medical and scientific evidence, Steven is leading counsel for the largest group of infected and affected individuals and families (1,400+ core participants) in the Infected Blood Public Inquiry. Chaired by Sir Brian Langstaff, it is the largest public inquiry into deaths and injuries in English legal history, involving millions of documents, thousands of witness statements and live evidence from hundreds of individuals. It has been running since 2018 and should report in 2022. It is investigating how, in what has been described as the largest treatment disaster in the history of the NHS, haemophiliacs and others were in the 1970s and 1980s given blood factor products and blood transfusions which were contaminated with HIV, Hepatitis C and other viruses. Many who were given factor products developed AIDS and died in the 1980s and 1990s, having endured terrible symptoms and stigma. The survivors have suffered awful physical and psychological consequences of their illness and treatment. Other patient groups who received infected blood transfusions were infected with Hepatitis C

which, if untreated, ultimately leads to liver failure. Unlike other countries, there has never been an admission of liability by the UK government. The Inquiry has heard heartbreaking evidence from those affected and is now hearing detailed scientific and medical evidence and cross-examining clinicians. The wide terms of the Inquiry involve scrutiny of government decisions, the accountability of clinicians and civil servants, commercial exploitation and political cover-up, medical ethics, the involvement and influence of pharmaceutical companies and the adequacy of current support schemes and Trusts.

Steven is also retained for the group litigation arising from those events, which is presently stayed awaiting the outcome of the Inquiry.