

12

King's Bench Walk

Vanessa Cashman

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AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Clinical Negligence, Personal Injury, Inquests, Costs

Vanessa is a very experienced advocate whose main area of practice is clinical negligence. Her practice encompasses a range of medical specialities and value, including up to multi-million pound claims. She also has considerable experience in the fields of personal injury, inquests and costs.

Vanessa combines a friendly approachable manner with her warmth and sensitivity towards both vulnerable and demanding clients.

Acting on behalf of both claimants and defendants, Vanessa is often instructed to assist leading Counsel. She has a strong paperwork practice which includes pleadings, advices on liability, quantum, procedure and tactics and drafting schedules and counter schedules.

Clinical Negligence

Vanessa has an extensive clinical negligence practice. One of her particular specialisms is cosmetic surgery claims. Her cases have included all aspects of breast surgery (including augmentations, reductions, mastopexies, reconstructions), rhinoplasties and brachioplasties along with more minor cosmetic procedures, such as laser hair removal, permanent make up and fillers.

She is also rapidly gaining extensive experience in birth cases (including wrongful birth) and is instructed as a junior on a number of such cases which are coming up for trial. She recently appeared in the ground-breaking case of *RE (a minor) v Huddersfield and Calderdale NHS Foundation Trust* [2017] EWHC 824 (QB) as a junior to William Featherby QC. She has now been instructed on a number of cases involving secondary victim claims within the clinical negligence setting.

Some of her other cases have involved the following:

- Bilateral knee replacement surgery. The decision to carry out bilateral replacements was in itself negligent and the outcome was compounded by the negligent failure to provide appropriate aftercare;
- Extravasation injury sustained during abdominal surgery, requiring release of compartments and permanent functional impairment;
- Delay in diagnosis of kidney disease;
- Delay in diagnosis of bladder dysfunction leading to permanent ongoing disability;

- Negligent surgical technique following a sporting injury resulting in amputation;
- Failure to diagnose acute renal dysfunction at birth;
- Negligent mandibulectomy and reconstruction, resulting in permanent loss of function in the donor arm and mandible;
- Failure to diagnose a fractured shoulder;
- Unnecessary and unwarranted abdominal surgery;
- Dental negligence.

She acts predominantly for claimants but also accepts instructions on behalf of defendants.

Qualifications & Awards

Bar Vocational Course (Very Competent), City University, London

Graduate Diploma in Law (Commendation), City University, London

B.A.(Hons) Music (First Class), St Hilda's College, Oxford

Lord Denning Scholarship, Lincoln's Inn

Music scholarship (St Hilda's College, Oxford)

Memberships

Personal Injuries Bar Association, Lincoln's Inn, South Eastern Circuit, Professional Negligence Bar Association