

# 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.

### Personal Injury

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Vanessa's practice encompasses all areas of personal injury, including road traffic accidents, public liability and employers' liability.

She has developed an extensive practice in highways cases and is currently co-writing a practitioner text on all aspects of highways law and practice. In this field, she acts predominantly for highway authorities but also accepts instructions from claimants.

She has also appeared in a huge variety of public liability cases, including claims arising out of an allegedly defective football pitch, inhalation of carbon monoxide from a defective boiler, burns arising from the use of public transport and claims under the Defective Premises Act 1972. She also appeared in numerous cases involving all manner of slips and trips. A recent case involved a football being kicked over a fence enclosing a five-a-side pitch and knocking an elderly lady over.

She has acted in a number of cases involving the liability of a school, including an injury caused to a child in PE by a teacher, an injury caused to a child by another child and an injury caused to a member of staff by a child.

Vanessa's practice also includes numerous aspects of employers' liability claims. She acted and continues to act as junior counsel to Andrew Roy in the recent stress at work case of *Marsh v Ministry of Justice* [2017] EWHC 1040 (QB) which involved a three-week trial before Thirwall LJ. She was also instructed as a second junior in the case

of *Wembridge and Others v East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service* [2013] EWHC 2331 (QB) alongside Frank Burton QC and Andrew Roy, in which fire officers were suing the fire service in respect of injuries caused in an explosion of a fireworks factory. More recently, she has acted for a care home in a case involving a service user with severe learning disabilities who injured a temporary worker.

Vanessa has advised on numerous Animals Act 1971 claims, mostly in relation to dog bites and accidents involving horses.

She has given seminars on secondary victims and psychiatric injury, the Animals Act 1971 and hazardous activities.

## **Qualifications & Awards**

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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**

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