

Vanessa Cashman

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AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Clinical Negligence, Personal Injury, Inquests, Costs, Sport

Vanessa specialises in clinical negligence. She acts predominantly for claimants and her practice encompasses a huge range of medical specialties. She has particular expertise in birth and obstetric injuries, spinal injury and brain injury.

Vanessa is ranked for clinical negligence in both the Legal 500 and Chambers & Partners. She is known for her warmth and sensitivity and her extensive medical knowledge.

She also has considerable experience in personal injury, inquests and costs.

Personal Injury

Vanessa's personal injury practice incorporates all aspects of motor, employers' liability and public liability. She acts for claimants and defendants in both liability and quantum disputes. She is an experienced trial advocate and is frequently led. Her cases have involved a huge variety of injuries, including chronic pain, fibromyalgia and subtle brain injury.

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 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.

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

PIBA

AvMA

PNBA