



Hannah Godfrey

Year of Call: 2002

Call Clerk on 020 7827 4000

PRACTICE AREAS

Clinical Negligence | Personal Injury

HIGHLIGHTS

"She is extremely thorough and has tremendous empathy with her clients." "She provides very clear advice and is very detail-oriented." **Chambers & Partners 2021**

"Exceedingly thorough. She never misses a detail and is determined to fight for the clients". **Chambers & Partners 2018.**

"Whether in a cross-examination or a negotiation, she'll be someone you know will achieve results." **Chambers & Partners 2017.**

OVERVIEW

Hannah Godfrey is a specialist in clinical negligence and personal injury.

She is recommended as a leading junior in clinical negligence by Chambers & Partners (Band 3) and the Legal 500.

Hannah has an unusual breadth of advocacy and negotiation experience for a specialist junior in her field, drawn from a busy employment and immigration tribunal practice in her early years at the bar.

Hannah is regularly instructed as sole counsel in a wide range of clinical negligence claims by solicitors firms with specialist clinical negligence departments. She is also regularly led in maximum severity cases resulting in multi million pound settlements. Hannah has experience of a wide range of clinical negligence claims, from high value brain injury (cerebral palsy, diabetic coma) and spinal injury cases (two current cases of tetraplegia resulting from failure to diagnose infective discitis, in one of which she is led and one as sole counsel), to negligent management of a private psychiatric patient, negligent laparoscopic cholecystectomy, negligent chiropractic manipulation, fatally negligent ascitic drainage (pierced spleen), negligent appendicectomy (severe diathermic injury to caecum causing fistula), negligent administration of peribulbar anaesthetic during cataract operation, fatally negligent failure to diagnose acute bowel obstruction, negligent management of private breast enlargement, failure to lock an intramedullary humeral nail, use of wrong (inorganic) sponge to support graft in a myringoplasty, pressure ulcer on infant's leg due to poor positioning during surgery, brachial plexus injury due to poor positioning during cardiac surgery.

Her personal injury experience ranges from RTAs, occupier's liability, employer's liability, dangerous animals, defective products, occupational stress, Protection from Harassment Act 1997, industrial disease, construction accidents, tripping and slipping and others.

Hannah has experience of the full range of quantum issues, and is skilled at producing complex and detailed schedules of loss using excel workbooks. She

has a particular interest in the claims of injured young people, and the construction of complex future lost earnings claims, in fatal accident claims, and in claims with a human rights element.

Hannah has represented many families at inquests into deaths including deaths in hospital or after hospital treatment. She accepts work on a CFA basis and accepts instructions pro bono in appropriate cases.

Hannah has recently been appointed an Assistant Coroner to the South London Coroner Area.

REFERENCES

Chambers & Partners 2021: "She is extremely thorough and has tremendous empathy with her clients." "She provides very clear advice and is very detail-oriented."

Chambers & Partners 2020: "Hannah has an excellent grasp of the issues in each case and provides clear and practical advice. She's very good with clients and is a great negotiator." "She takes an extremely thorough and pragmatic approach to cases."

Legal 500 2020: "She excels in cross-examination and has a strong understanding of medicine."

Chambers & Partners 2018: "Regularly instructed by leading firms to handle maximum severity cases. She has handled a number of matters concerning cerebral palsy, spinal injury and breast enlargement surgery. She devotes her practice to the representation of claimants." "Exceedingly thorough. She never misses a detail and is determined to fight for the clients".

Chambers & Partners 2017: "Whether in a cross-examination or a negotiation, she'll be someone you know will achieve results."

APPOINTMENTS AND MEMBERSHIPS

Appointed Assistant Coroner, South London Coroner Area 2021

Member of PIBA, APIL, AVMA, INQUEST

Hannah is a pupil supervisor, trained by Lincoln's Inn.

2004- Judicial assistant to Lord Justice Mummery in the Court of Appeal from September - December.

2004 - Joint runner up in the Bar Pro Bono prize (for her work with BID: a charity making bail applications for immigration detainees)

PUBLICATIONS AND TRAINING

Hannah has lectured widely both from chambers and on tour to solicitor's firms on relevant topics including patient confidentiality, human rights, causation, Part 36, Fatal Accidents claims, procedural points, maximising damages in catastrophic claims.

Publications:

"Multiple Defendants : Who to sue? Practical and cost considerations" (Personal Injury Law Journal January 2015)

'Human Rights' chapter in '7th Edn Lewis & Buchan: Clinical negligence a practical guide'

Expertly Done - Managing Expert Evidence (PILJ January 2010)

Making the most of Medical Evidence (Parts I and II published in two consecutive issues of Claims Management Autumn 2009)

Future Care awards - Who Pays? (Legalweek December 2008))

QUALIFICATIONS

Social Anthropology BA Cantab (First Class)

PG Dip, BVC

HIGHLIGHT CASES

Majrowski v Guys and St Thomas [2006] UKHL 34

House of Lords authoritative case deciding that employers could be vicariously liable for statutory harassment by their employees (second junior to Robin Allen QC)

C v D (2010)

Claimant who was 'walking wounded' frontal lobe injured in an rta and required up to 3 carers to facilitate his functional and social life, most losses agreed but care and case management issues determined at trial for periodical payments equivalent to 3.5 million (junior to James Badenoch QC)

Re the estate of TB deceased (2011)

Mother killed by joyrider, claim for her only young child was complicated by complex family situation (sole counsel), settled

B v X NHS Trust (2011)

Negligent administration of anaesthetic during a cataract operation pierced eye globe causing permanent restricted sight. Liability denied. Successful settlement.

E v Z NHS Trust (2010)

Failure to secure patient's arms during cardiac surgery such that they fell off the operating table causing permanent brachial plexus damage, liability denied on grounds of non negligent explanation (sternal stretch), successful settlement

L v GP1 and GP2 (2012)

Current case where persistent vegetative syndrome was caused by hypoglycaemia, liability and quantum in dispute, trial April 2012 (junior to Simon Taylor QC)

S v NHS Trust (2012)

Current birth injury cerebral palsy case, quantum only, drafted schedule of loss claiming just under 10 million (junior to Simon Taylor QC)