

Rebecca Henshaw-Keene

Call: 2021
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AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Personal Injury, Industrial Disease, Group Litigation, Costs & Litigation Funding, International & Travel, Inquests, Insurance, Abuse



Rebecca has an active practice in Chambers' core areas of expertise and is developing specialisms in group actions, disease, international and travel law, and costs work.

In **personal injury**, Rebecca maintains an established court practice and acts for both Claimants and Defendants in CCMCs, applications and trials. As part of her multi-track practice, she has a particular interest in employers' liability claims.

In **group litigation**, Rebecca is instructed on multinational actions in product liability, toxic torts and aviation.

In **disease**, Rebecca is instructed in claims arising from exposure to asbestos as both sole and junior counsel. She is also experienced in work-related diseases and military claims.

Rebecca is instructed as a second junior to Steven Snowden KC and Dr Achas Burin on the Lampard Inquiry.

Prior to pupillage, Rebecca worked as a paralegal to a silk specialising in catastrophic injury, which has given her a sound understanding of high-value and complex personal injury work.

She taught contract administration and law at University College London. Rebecca studied History at Newnham College, Cambridge, where she graduated with a first-class degree.

Personal Injury

Recent instructions include as junior counsel in a complex claim raising issues of *res judicata*, sole counsel in claim following a fall from height resulting in a traumatic brain injury, and a claim arising from the assault of an NHS clinician.

Rebecca has experience in fundamental dishonesty and fraud actions for Defendants and their insurers, both in her own right and assisting senior counsel with extensive disclosure reviews.

She has also represented clients appealing awards determined by both the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority and the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme.

Industrial Disease

Rebecca is instructed in a range of industrial disease matters both as sole and junior counsel. She is instructed mesothelioma cases, and claims for pleural thickening and asbestosis.

She has recently been instructed as junior counsel on behalf of a Claimant in a solvents case, and as second junior in a mesothelioma claim with an international element (led by Michael Rawlinson KC).

Rebecca represents Claimants against the Ministry of Defence in group litigation claims for non-freezing cold injuries and has advised on military hearing loss.

She is assistant editor of the 12KBW Asbestos Blog

Group Litigation

Rebecca is instructed on a number of complex, multinational group actions covering product liability, toxic torts and aviation.

She is a responsive junior and works well in a team.

Costs & Litigation Funding

Rebecca has established herself in the costs team at 12KBW and her practice continues to grow in this area.

She has experience in the following:

- Advising on costs recovery after strike out;
- Securing costs following interim applications;
- Show cause orders for wasted costs;
- Securing a four-figure sum for costs arising from 'unreasonable conduct' on the small claims track;
- CCMCs.

Rebecca is assistant editor of the 12KBW Costs Blog with Deputy Costs Judge Andrew Roy KC.

Her recent article on wasted costs was published in the Association of Costs Lawyers' Journal.

International & Travel

Rebecca is instructed on matters against major tour operators arising from accidents abroad and at sea, both under the Package Travel Regulations and the Athens Convention.

During pupillage, she assisted with appeals concerning Spanish Penalty Interest.

Inquests and Inquiries

Rebecca acts for families at Inquests, including those arising from industrial disease.

Rebecca is instructed as a second junior on the Lampard Inquiry.

She has experience preparing for prison and healthcare inquests as a paralegal in a public law firm. She is able to work quickly and accurately with large amounts of disclosure. She has experience of working in the health, adult social care, and prison systems.

Insurance

Rebecca has experience in advising on coverage disputes, including in the context of employers' liability claims, and more generally in litigation arising out of construction disputes and property damage.

She routinely acts for the Motor Insurance Bureau in interlocutory hearings and at trial. She has experience of cases under the Uninsured Drivers Agreement.

She regularly gives training on motor indemnity issues.

Abuse

As a paralegal, Rebecca assisted with claims brought under the Lambeth Children's Homes Redress Scheme.

She will consider cases on a pro-bono basis.

Qualifications & Awards

BPTC, City Law School (2021)

GDL, BPP (2019)

MPhil, Economic and Social History, University of Cambridge (2014)

BA (First-Class Honours), History, University of Cambridge (2013)

Lord Denning Scholar, Lincoln's Inn

Rebecca BPP GDL Awarding Committee, 2019

Rebecca BPP GDL Awarding Committee, 2019

Rebecca BPP GDL Awarding Committee, 2019

MPhil Awarded and Scholarship Awarded by the Economic and Social History Society, University of Cambridge, 2014

Rebecca BPP GDL Awarding Committee, 2019

Rebecca BPP GDL Awarding Committee, 2019

Appointments & Memberships

- Personal Injury Bar Association
- Attorney General's Junior Panel

Publications

Considering failures to represent non-English speaking witnesses, and resultant wasted costs (re-printed by the Association of Costs Lawyers' Journal)

<https://costsandlitigationfunding.com/2024/04/19/non-english-speaking-witnesses-and-wasted-costs/>