

Steven Snowden KC

Call: 1989

Silk: 2017

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AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Personal Injury, Industrial Disease, Clinical Negligence, Public Inquiries, Sport, Court of Protection, Inquests, Insurance, Costs & Litigation Funding, Group Litigation



Steven Snowden KC is Head of Chambers at 12KBW. He is recognised in the independent legal directories as one of the leading barristers in the country in his chosen areas of work. He is ranked in band 1 for personal injury and industrial disease in both the C&P and the L500 guides and also ranked for Public Inquiries and Inquests by the Legal 500.

Steven's main areas of practice are high-value, complex or sensitive personal injury and industrial disease cases. His practice extends to associated clinical negligence and professional negligence work, Court of Protection, insurance, sports, group litigation and public inquiries. He works for claimants and for defendants.

Steven is a very experienced trial advocate and regularly deals with substantial and complex cases in court and in settlement meetings. His current caseload includes the liability and quantum aspects of head injuries, paraplegic and other serious spinal injury cases, amputations, psychiatric injuries and fatal claims. In disease work he deals with mesothelioma and other asbestos claims, and other occupational illness claims involving difficult issues of liability, causation or quantum. He represented the largest group of the infected and affected individuals and families (1,400+ core participants) in the Infected Blood Public Inquiry. He is instructed in the professional footballers' concussive injury claims. He is retained to represent patients and families in the Essex Mental Health Public Inquiry.

He was the elected Chair (2020 – 2022) of the Personal Injuries Bar Association, a member of the Bar Council (2020-2022), a Director of BMIF (2022 to 2024) and has for many years been one of the authors of the Judicial College Guidelines for the Assessment of General Damages in Personal Injury Cases.

Public Inquiries and Group Litigation

Recognised as a leading silk in the Legal 500 (Tier 4).

The Infected Blood Public Inquiry

Drawing on his background in PI and medical work, the historical aspects of industrial disease litigation and his experience of dealing with complex medical and scientific evidence, Steven was from 2018 leading counsel for the largest group of infected and affected individuals and families (1,400+ core participants). Chaired by Sir Brian Langstaff, this is the largest public inquiry into deaths and injuries in English legal history, involving millions of documents, thousands of witness statements and live evidence from hundreds of individuals. It investigated how, in what has been described as the largest treatment disaster in the history of the NHS, haemophiliacs and others were in the 1970s and 1980s given blood factor products and blood transfusions which were contaminated with HIV, Hepatitis C and other viruses with devastating consequences. The wide terms of the Inquiry involved scrutiny of government decisions, the accountability of clinicians and civil servants, commercial exploitation and political cover-up, medical ethics, the involvement and influence of pharmaceutical companies and the inadequacy of current support schemes and Trusts. The Chair was persuaded to take the highly unusual step of recommending interim payments to some of those infected and affected in 2022, before the evidential hearings concluded. Steven and his juniors delivered detailed written closing submissions in December 2022 and in January 2023 he was the first lawyer for represented groups to make oral closing submissions. After further exceptional hearings in July 2023 (which included evidence from the Prime Minister and the Chancellor of the Exchequer), the final report is now expected in March 2024.

The Essex Mental Health Public Inquiry

Steven is retained to act as leading counsel for patients and families in this Inquiry which has recently been converted into a formal, statutory Inquiry under the 2005 Act. It will investigate a wide range of issues including avoidable and unnecessary deaths, avoidable harm, intentional maltreatment by staff, cover-up, inadequate learning from previous incidents and inadequate response to Coroners' reports – at individual and structural levels – across NHS Trusts in Essex over the last 20+ years.