

Vanessa Cashman

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AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Clinical Negligence, Personal Injury, Inquests, Costs & Litigation Funding, 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 Joint Head of our Clinical Negligence Team.

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.

Clinical Negligence

Clinical negligence is Vanessa's principal area of practice. She predominantly acts for claimants but also accepts instructions on behalf of defendants.

A significant proportion of Vanessa's work is birth injury and obstetric injuries. She is frequently led and has extensive experience of both liability and quantum disputes in such cases. She has acted in numerous cerebral palsy cases alongside William Featherby KC:

[Family of disabled child receive £8m High Court settlement following maternity failings at Royal Glamorgan Hospital | ITV News Wales](#)

[Blackpool hospital trust pays out £6m in baby brain injuries case – BBC News](#)

[Royal Preston Hospital birth family receives £5 million settlement after poorly baby did not receive neonatal care for almost a day | Lancashire Evening Post \(lep.co.uk\)](#)

[£Multi-million settlement approved for birth injury more than 30 years ago – Diane Rostron](#)

[Lancashire Evening Post, 7th December 2020 \(dianerostron.co.uk\)](https://www.dianerostron.co.uk)

She appears at interim hearings to handle applications for interim payments and approvals.

She acted as junior to William Featherby QC in the ground-breaking case of *RE (a minor) v Huddersfield and Calderdale NHS Foundation Trust* [2017] EWHC 824 (QB) and is regularly instructed on secondary victim claims within the clinical negligence setting.

She also has extensive experience of spinal injury cases and is frequently led in these instructions.

Vanessa's cases have included:

- Delayed cancer diagnoses (including cervical, breast, lung, oropharyngeal)
- Cosmetic surgery (including all aspects of breast surgery, rhinoplasty, brachioplasty, abdominoplasty and labiaplasty). She appeared in *Castello v Gonschior* [2021] EWHC 2742 (QB), a rhinoplasty case.
- Failure to diagnose and treat strokes
- Vaginal mesh cases
- Extravasation injuries
- Awareness under anaesthetic cases
- Delayed diagnoses of orthopaedic injuries
- Inappropriate and substandard surgical treatment

She is also frequently instructed by families for inquests arising out of deaths in the clinical setting. She is then instructed on the civil claims.

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