

KIRSTY LEA

Year of call
2014



Kirsty Lea is a civil practitioner, whose areas of practice include clinical negligence, inquests and personal injury.

She is regularly instructed as an advocate in the High Court, County Court and Coroner's Courts across England and Wales. She has extensive experience in acting in all of these areas in her own right.

Kirsty joined 7BR after successful completion of her pupillage under the supervision of Richard Baker (Personal Injury, Clinical Negligence and Inquests), Gareth Weetman (Crime and Personal Injury) and Brendan Roche (Child and Family). After 2 years of maintaining a mixed practice and gaining considerable advocacy experience, she opted to specialise in civil matters.

Prior to commencing pupillage, Kirsty completed the Bar Professional Training Course at Kaplan Law School, having graduated from Oxford University with a first class law degree.

Kirsty has received numerous awards for academic and legal excellence, including top scholarships from Lincoln's Inn and prizes for ranking highest at Oxford University and best in the country.

Kirsty is currently acting as Counsel to The Lampard Inquiry, investigating mental health inpatient deaths in Essex.

LEGAL EXPERTISE

Clinical Negligence

Kirsty has extensive experience acting for Claimants in matters of clinical negligence. Recent instructions include claims against NHS Trusts, General Practitioners and Dentists.

Specifically, her recent advisory work includes advising in respect of various aspects of the claim in respect of:

- Failures to diagnose and appropriately treat deviated septum and tissue loss;
- Erroneous tooth extraction;
- Failure to diagnose gestational diabetes resulting in stillbirth;
- Failure to obtain informed consent for gastric surgery;
- Failure to diagnose and treat acute appendicitis, resulting in rupture;
- Pharmacological dispensing error in relation to a diabetic prescription;
- Failure to obtain informed consent and to undertake plastibell circumcision to the required standard;
- Retained Products of Conception ('RPOC');
- Various failures at birth;
- Failing to make a timely diagnosis of endophthalmitis, resulting in the loss of an eye; and
- Failing to appropriately manage the Claimant's Warfarin regime

Kirsty has a meticulous and precise approach to pleadings, and frequently advises in respect of all aspects of clinical negligence claims, including: liability, merits, causation, quantum and evidence. She also regularly advises in conference with experts.

In addition, Kirsty has considerable inquest experience. Having represented bereaved families in complex inquests and subsequent claims pursuant to the Fatal Accidents Act 1976 and Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1934, she is acutely aware of the particular challenges and sensitivities of such tribunals.

Personal Injury

Kirsty's personal injury practice goes hand in hand with her clinical negligence practice.

Kirsty maintains a broad personal injury practice. She accepts instructions to represent both Claimants and Defendants at all levels of proceedings, utilising her hands on experience of all aspects of a claim, including: liability, causation, quantum and drafting pleadings.

Kirsty is regularly instructed to attend interim applications, case management conferences and trials. She has considerable experience in dealing with both Fast Track and Multi-Track matters. She also regularly, and successfully, represents Claimants confronted with allegations of fraud.

Her work regularly includes occupier's liability claims, employer's liability claims, road traffic collision claims, Highways Act claims, and claims arising from fatal accidents.

Specifically, her recent advisory work includes:

- Advising regarding an accident at work resulting in a fractured shoulder with persisting symptoms;
- Advising regarding an oil spillage on the Highway;
- Advising regarding excess water on the Highway; and
- Advising regarding a Road Traffic Accident involving a pedestrian.

Inquests & Inquiries

Kirsty has considerable inquest experience and accepts instructions on behalf of all parties concerned.

Having represented bereaved families in complex inquests and subsequent claims pursuant to the Fatal Accidents Act 1976 and Law Reform (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1934, she is acutely aware of the particular challenges and sensitivities of such tribunals.

Kirsty's inquest experience spans a range of matters, including treatment provided to a voluntary psychiatric patient, where the Coroner summoned a jury

Alongside her Civil practice, Kirsty has worked on the Pitchford Inquiry (Undercover Policing) for 2 years before joining the Grenfell Tower Inquiry in November 2018 where she is now Junior Counsel on the Government Team.

Kirsty is currently acting as Counsel to The Lampard Inquiry, investigating mental health inpatient deaths in Essex.

Court of Protection

Kirsty specialises in clinical negligence and personal injury work, which goes hand in hand with her developing Court of Protection practice. She has considerable experience in representing vulnerable individuals and their families, in both the civil and coroners' courts: as such, she is acutely aware of the particular challenges and sensitivities that are inherent in this type work. Her extensive experience of clinical negligence litigation means that she is particularly well-suited to cases involving complex medical issues, and consequently Kirsty is particularly interested in cases involving welfare issues and the provision of medical treatment.

Memberships

- AvMA
- PIBA

Education

- Sunley Scholarship, Lincoln's Inn
- Lord Mansfield Scholarship, Lincoln's Inn
- Hardwicke Scholarship, Lincoln's Inn

- Gluckstein Scholarship, Lincoln College, Oxford University
- Oldfield Exhibitioner, Lincoln College, Oxford University
- Sweet & Maxwell Prize, Best in Year, Oxford University: Law Moderations
- AQA English Language Award, Best in Country: A' Levels