

SELENA PLOWDEN

CALL: 1991

"Her level of detail, particularly on liability, is second to none. She knows which points to fight and which ones to leave."

Chambers UK 2019

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Selena has been shortlisted at the Chambers & Partners Bar Awards 2019 for Clinical Negligence 'Junior of the Year'.

Chambers and Partners have consistently ranked Selena as a leading junior and "Star Individual" since 2014 for her Clinical Negligence work. She is recognised as "one of the standout Clinical Negligence barristers at the Western Bar for cases concerning birth injury, catastrophic neurological injury and fatalities". Instructing solicitors describe her as "very thorough, careful and experienced" with a "voracious attention to detail". She is said to be "superb with her clients" and to have a "very practical approach to case strategy".

PRACTICE AREAS

- Clinical Negligence
- Personal Injury
- Inquests

CLINICAL NEGLIGENCE

Selena is regularly instructed in high value, medically complex clinical negligence cases.

Her caseload covers a wide spectrum of injuries including:

- patients with catastrophic brain injuries following sub arachnoid haemorrhage, anaesthetic injury & basilar artery stroke;
- cerebral palsy and developmental amnesia following obstetric mismanagement;
- spinal injuries including paraplegia & cauda equina syndrome;
- loss of vision;
- maternal birth trauma;
- cardiothoracic surgery;
- delayed diagnosis of cancer.

Recent illustrative cases:

- **AB v An NHS Trust [2017]** - Represented the Claimant who suffered a catastrophic brain injury following delayed treatment of viral encephalitis. With Edward Bishop QC. Confidential settlement at joint meeting for high value lump sum and periodical payments.
 - **AM v An NHS Trust: [2017]** - Represented the Claimant who lost his leg after negligent vascular treatment following a stabbing injury. Complex vascular issues.
 - **Tranckle v North Devon NHS Trust [2017]** - successfully represented Claimant at 5 day liability and quantum trial for injuries following orthopaedic surgery.
 - **AB v 2 NHS FTs [2018]** - Represented Claimant who suffered paraplegia caused by a spinal TB abscess.
 - **SJ v 2 Hospital Trusts [2018]** - Represented Claimant where delayed surgery for an evolving Cauda Equina Syndrome caused bowel, bladder and mobility issues. Negotiated settlement at RTM.
 - **S & H v Cardiff Vale University HB [2018]** - Transplant surgery: Successfully represented the families of two men who died as a result of inadequate vetting of organs from the same donor.
 - **B v An NHST [2019]** - Represented mother at Inquest and in successful civil proceedings for the loss of her child and maternal injuries following labour at a midwifery led unit. Involved issues of consent and complex obstetric & neonatology evidence.
 - **GC v A GP [2019]** - Represented the Claimant who had complete loss of sight caused by dehydration. Negotiated substantial settlement at RTM.
 - **GW v A GP [2019]** - Represented the family of a mother who died following delayed diagnosis and treatment of bowel cancer. Negotiated substantial settlement at RTM despite ongoing denials of liability.
 - **LC, ERH & AC v 3 NHS Trusts** - ongoing cases involving brain injury/ cerebral palsy arising from obstetric delays.
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PERSONAL INJURY

Selena continues to undertake fatal accident and personal injury work in addition to her clinical negligence practice, particularly where it involves complex medical issues. Recent cases involved acquired brain injury following a road traffic accident in an already psychiatrically compromised child and a fatal fall in a DIY setting.

INQUESTS

Selena regularly appears on behalf of families; NHS and commercial healthcare providers; individual clinicians and other commercial organisations. Recent cases involve fatalities arising out of the management of a haematological condition; cardiac surgery; placement of a gastrostomy tube; electrocution and drug abuse.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- [Chambers UK 2015](#)
 - [Chambers UK 2014](#)
 - [Legal 500 2014](#)
 - [Chambers UK 2013](#)
 - [Chambers UK 2012](#)
 - [Legal 500 2012](#)
 - [Chambers UK 2011](#)
 - [Legal 500 2011](#)
 - [Chambers UK 2010](#)
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APPOINTMENTS:

- Tribunal Judge (Mental Health) 2007 – current
 - Legal Assessor MPTS/ GMC 2010 – 2015
 - WCWF (steering committee Western Circuit Womens' Forum)
 - Senior Lecturer Inns of Court School of Law (1998 - 2002)
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MEMBERSHIPS:

- AvMA
 - PNBA
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EDUCATION:

- City University Diploma in Law
 - BA Hons, English, London
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RECENT NEWS

- Guildhall Chambers shares best practice alongside Prime Minister Theresa May in The Parliamentary Review
 - Personal Injury Case Updates - December 2015
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