

ROBERT SOWERSBY

CALL: 2000

"The work he produces is always of a high standard. He is very down to earth and is well received by clients."

Chambers UK 2019

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Rob undertakes personal injury and clinical negligence work, but specialises particularly in clinical cases: he is well regarded in the field, and is consistently recommended as a leading junior in the main legal directories. He has been praised for being down to earth and client-friendly, and for his skill in dealing both with experts, and with unusually difficult cases.

PRACTICE AREAS

- Clinical Negligence
- Inquests
- Personal Injury

CLINICAL NEGLIGENCE

Rob's clinical negligence cases almost all involve a serious untoward outcome or death. They are often claims of unusual factual or medical complexity. In terms of financial value; the majority fall within the £50,000 to £1m range. He undertakes both claimant and defendant work, providing robust practical advice.

He regularly provides advice and representation in cases involving:

- Surgical negligence
- Errors in the provision of primary and/or emergency care
- Failure to diagnose cancer
- Negligence in the provision of psychiatric care
- "Secondary victim" psychiatric claims

Examples of his recent case load include claims arising from:

- Alleged attempts by a GP to deliberately poison one of his patients with opiate drugs
 - Complex cardiac surgery involving multiple procedures
 - The misprescription of drugs leading to permanent impotence
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INQUESTS

Rob sits part-time as an Assistant Coroner in Avon, and has extensive experience of large and high profile inquest work as an advocate.

The majority of his instructions are on behalf of bereaved families, and he has been involved in a large number of cases where the coroner or jury have concluded that neglect contributed to the death.

RECENT CASES

- **Re Carl Smith (2015)** - Mr Smith died of methadone toxicity while on remand in Exeter Prison. He was on a methadone stabilisation programme but had obtained illicit methadone in addition to his prescribed dose. The jury returned a conclusion of 'drug-related death'; adding a narrative which indicated that both the welfare checks performed by the prison's healthcare provider, and the overnight observations carried out by the prison staff, were insufficient for a prisoner in Mr Smith's vulnerable position.
 - **Re Shaun Beasley (2012)** - Acted for Mr Beasley's family in the inquest following his suicide in a privately run prison. Mr Beasley had killed himself while purportedly under a scheme of increased observation in the prison's healthcare unit. Both the prison and the unit were run by different companies: there was a double finding of neglect by the jury (<http://www.itv.com/news/wales/2012-06-29/prisoners-suicide-contributed-to-by-neglect/>).
 - **Re Charles Lowden (2011)** - Represented the dependants of Mr Lowden, a 20-year old scaffolder who died when the hospital he attended failed to follow its own deep vein thrombosis protocol and wrongly discharged him. Liability was admitted after the inquest, leaving an unusual dependency claim: Mr Lowden had been the biological father (through sperm donation) of two children born to his aunt's same sex partner (<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/8229868/Secret-sperm-donor-fathered-aunts-children.html>).
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PERSONAL INJURY

Although the majority of Rob's work is clinical, he undertakes a wide range of personal injury work, and receives instructions in high value, complex or unusual personal injury claims. He advised the family of one of the victims of the July 7th bombings in London, and has represented a multi-national energy company following the death of one of its workers at an on-shore gas storage facility: he is also happy to take on more 'straightforward' personal injury cases!

RECOMMENDATIONS

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

- Assistant Coroner (Avon)
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MEMBERSHIPS:

- PIBA
 - The King's Fund
 - The Coroners Society
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EDUCATION:

- BVC, IC SL
 - PgDip Law, UWE
 - MA, History & Anthropology
 - First Class Hons, History, UCL
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RECENT NEWS

- Rob Sowersby comments on Inquest heard yesterday of little girl who died of asthma after being turned away from doctors
 - Personal Injury Case Updates - December 2015
 - Rob Sowersby - Appointed Assistant Coroner
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