

SOPHIE WALMSLEY

CALL: 2017

Email: sophie.walmsley@guildhallchambers.co.uk

Tel: 0117 930 9000



Sophie joined Chambers as a full tenant in February 2021, after completing her pupillage with us. She is a member of the Personal Injury Bar Association, is an appointed Attorney General's Junior Counsel and specialises in personal injury and clinical negligence-related matters, representing claimants and defendants. Sophie has gained expertise during her early tenancy in claims involving fundamental dishonesty and is a strong advocate, with an eye for detail.

Developing from her work in personal injury and clinical negligence, Sophie has been instructed to undertake matters in the Court of Protection, coroners' court and in regulatory proceedings. She is also developing a busy Costs practice.

PRACTICE AREAS

- Personal Injury
- Clinical Negligence
- Court of Protection
- Costs
- Regulatory & Inquests

PERSONAL INJURY

Sophie has experience in a wide range of personal injury claims including road traffic collisions, occupiers' liability, employers' liability, product liability, Animals Act and Highways Act 1980. She is regularly instructed to draft pleadings and frequently advises upon prospects, and quantum. Sophie is also experienced in preparing Part 35 questions for experts and advising in conference, both with and without medical experts.

Interlocutory experience includes:

- Applications for relief from sanctions
- Applications for strike out
- Applications under section 33 of the Limitation Act 1980
- CCMCs and directions hearings
- Pre-action and specific disclosure

Sophie is regularly instructed in claims involving allegations of fundamental dishonesty in the context of low-velocity impacts, exaggerated injuries, exaggerated damages and inconsistent injury reporting. She frequently advises in writing and in conference on the prospects of success of arguments involving dishonesty and the implications should a finding of fundamental dishonesty be made.

Sophie has a busy court practice; she is often instructed to deal with interlocutory applications and to attend trials including quantum-only trials and infant approval hearings.

CLINICAL NEGLIGENCE

Sophie was seconded to an NHS Trust whilst working in private practice, before coming to the bar and has built a practice of claimant and defendant work since. She has experience in advising on prospects, drafting pleadings, advising in conference and conferences with experts.

Examples of cases that Sophie has dealt with include:

- Delayed diagnosis
 - Misdiagnosis
 - Development of pressure sores
 - Delayed and incorrect treatment
 - Medication errors
-

COURT OF PROTECTION

Sophie specialised in mental capacity and mental health law during her LLM and in practice, she has gained experience in the Court of Protection. Sophie has been instructed by the Official Solicitor on behalf of P, as well as local authorities and health authorities. She is often instructed to attend section 21A hearings, section 16 matters and has experience in the inherent jurisdiction, specifically dealing with those under age 16 who are deprived of their liberty.

Examples of Sophie's experience includes:

- Capacity determinations
 - Best interests' determinations in relation to care, residence and contact
 - Supported living arrangements
 - Physical and chemical restraint and deprivations of liberty
-

COSTS

Sophie has insight and experience in various matters involving costs, examples include: CCMCs, provisional assessment, summary, and detailed assessment, pre-LASPO Conditional Fee Agreements and Damages Based Agreements.

She continues to develop her experience in this area, and regularly advises on issues of costs that arise in the context of personal injury disputes including: the validity and potential impact of Part 36 offers, the applicability of QOCS (particularly in cases involving fundamental dishonesty), the parameters of the fixed costs regime, costs budgeting and the recoverability of costs.

Sophie welcomes instructions on costs matters particularly in the context of personal injury and clinical negligence claims.

REGULATORY & INQUESTS

Sophie has an interest and experience in coronial law and has been instructed on behalf of the families of the deceased and health professionals at inquests. Sophie typically represents parties at inquests where the death arises from negligence of employers, road users or medical professionals.

In addition, Sophie has been instructed to represent medical professionals in regulatory proceedings, she has experience in advising on potential sanctions, evidence and representing parties at a final hearing.

APPOINTMENTS:

- Attorney General's Junior Junior Counsel
-

MEMBERSHIPS:

- Personal Injury Bar Association
 - Western Circuit
 - Middle Temple
-

EDUCATION:

- LLB (Hons) Law, University of Manchester
 - LLM Healthcare Law and Ethics, Distinction, University of Manchester
 - BPTC, Very Competent, BPP Law School Manchester
 - Harmsworth Scholar, The Honourable Society of the Middle Temple
-

Guildhall Chambers, 23 Broad Street, Bristol BS1 2HG Tel: 0117 930 9000 DX: 7823 Bristol

sophie.walmsley@guildhallchambers.co.uk | www.guildhallchambers.co.uk