

Vanessa McKinlay  
Head of Clinical Negligence



YEAR OF CALL: 2000  
INN: MIDDLE TEMPLE



Vanessa has a broad medical law practice, derived from past experience as a senior physiotherapist. 'She is responsive, good with clients, grasps the key issues and is good with detail, without getting lost in it.' 'Her advocacy is impressive and her professionalism at joint settlement meetings has resulted in settlements being achieved in very difficult situations.' "

CHAMBERS UK, 2020  
CLINICAL NEGLIGENCE

## Practice Overview

Vanessa worked as a Senior Physiotherapist in the NHS before studying law and being called to the Bar in 2000. She leads a successful and expanding Clinical Negligence team. She brings a strong medical knowledge to her extensive clinical negligence practice and to personal injury cases in which complex medical issues arise and is a trained mediator.

Her kind and very thoughtful approach to claims makes an often frustrating process more bearable for the client. Peers praise her for her pragmatic approach, and being able to filter out the wheat from the chaff and boil it down so she can give practical advice in understandable terms. Clients have said that her medical background is really helpful in cases with technical medical issues.

## Areas of Expertise

### Clinical Negligence

Vanessa leads a successful and expanding Clinical Negligence team. Having worked as a Senior Physiotherapist in the NHS before studying law, she brings a strong medical knowledge to her extensive clinical negligence practice and to personal injury cases in which complex medical issues arise. She is also a trained mediator.

Vanessa acts for claimants and defendants, dealing with all aspects of clinical negligence arising in NHS hospitals, GP surgeries and other primary care centres, private clinics and ambulance services.

She is experienced in high-value and complex litigation involving all areas of medical care. Her cases cover areas such as surgical negligence, delayed cancer of diagnosis, obstetric and midwifery care, delayed treatment of sepsis, pharmaceutical negligence, cardiac treatment and the treatment of renal conditions.

### Inquests & Public Inquiries

She regularly provides representation at inquests, including Article 2 and jury inquests. She is experienced in cases involving deaths in hospital (including psychiatric units) and deaths in which questions arise regarding GP and ambulance service care. Vanessa regularly undertakes inquests on a conditional fee basis.

She brings a strong medical knowledge to her extensive clinical negligence practice and to personal injury cases in which complex medical issues arise and is a trained mediator.

### Personal Injury

Vanessa is experienced in employers' liability claims, road traffic matters, occupiers' liability and fatal accidents. She has particular expertise in cases involving complex medical issues. She regularly provides representation at inquests on a conditional fee basis.

### Mediation

Vanessa has recently been appointed as a Mediator with Trust Mediation. Vanessa will be carrying out personal injury and clinical negligence mediations in due course. She will specialise in clinical negligence mediations.

Trust Mediation has been appointed by NHS Resolution to provide specialist independent mediation to resolve personal injury and clinical negligence claims. For more information about Trust Mediation

### Recent cases

- ▶ [Payne v South Devon Healthcare NHS Trust](#) – 6-day trial involving alleged delay in abdominal surgery.
- ▶ [Lunn v Royal Devon & Exeter NHS Foundation Trust](#) – 4-day trial involving stillbirth.
- ▶ [Ilayesa v North Bristol NHS Trust](#) – 3-day trial involving alleged negligent surgical treatment.
- ▶ [Titchener v Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust](#) – 4-day trial involving alleged obstetric negligence.
- ▶ [Young v Fraser](#) – 400,000 settlement following drug-induced renal failure.
- ▶ [Worth-Catherall v Warwick House Medical Centre](#) – 250,000 settlement following drug-induced peripheral neuropathy

## Recommendations

"A clear strategic thinker, who is good with clients."

LEGAL 500 , 2020  
CLINICAL NEGLIGENCE

"She has a medical background so she understands things more easily, which is helpful. She can identify the issues and get to them straight away; she is also good with clients. Always in control of the situation and very reassuring."

CHAMBERS UK , 2019  
CLINICAL NEGLIGENCE

"She fights her client's corner."

LEGAL 500 , 2019  
PERSONAL INJURY AND CLINICAL NEGLIGENCE

"Her kind and very thoughtful approach to claims makes an often frustrating process more bearable for the client. I would not hesitate to recommend her.' 'Particular strengths are her pragmatic approach, being able to filter out the wheat from the chaff and boil it down so she can give practical advice in understandable terms.' 'Her medical background is really helpful in cases with technical medical issues.' "

CHAMBERS UK , 2018  
CLINICAL NEGLIGENCE

## Professional memberships:

- ▶ Personal Injury Bar Association
- ▶ AvMA
- ▶ Bristol Medico-Legal Society
- ▶ Association of Personal Injury Lawyers

## Qualifications & awards:

- ▶ LLB and Bar Vocational Course at the University of the West of England
- ▶ Harmsworth Scholar Middle Temple
- ▶ LL.M Medical Law, Cardiff University



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