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Jessica Woodliffe

Year of Call: 2016

Telephone: 0115 947 2581

Overview

Jessica holds a double first-class degree in Law from Downing College, University of Cambridge. She was graded Outstanding on the Bar Professional Training Course at Nottingham Law School.

Jessica accepts instructions from claimants and defendants across all areas of Chambers' work.

Jessica joined Ropewalk Chambers in December 2020 after 12 months of pupillage under the principal supervision of Jonathan Owen. During pupillage, Jessica gained experience in personal injury, disease and clinical negligence work and is keen to develop a broad practice.

Before joining Chambers, Jessica volunteered for the Free Representation Unit in disability benefit appeals and worked at the housing charity Framework.

She received an Exhibition Scholarship and Allan Levy award from the Inner Temple and a Senior Harris Scholarship from Downing College, Cambridge. As an undergraduate, Jessica won the University of Law National Mooting Competition in 2015 and was a semi-finalist in the Oxford French Law Mooting Competition in 2013.

Jessica speaks fluent French (certified C2 level) and conversational German. Away from the Bar, Jessica is a keen surfer and enjoys playing racketlon and volunteering at her local church.

Expertise

Counter Fraud

Jessica is regularly instructed on behalf of defendants in cases where fraud or fundamental dishonesty are in issue. She has successfully secured findings of fundamental dishonesty in multiple cases ranging from road traffic accidents to employer's liability matters. Jessica's meticulous approach to identifying inconsistencies and her attention to detail are particularly conducive to this area.

Notable recent cases include a low-velocity impact claim brought by six claimants (of which three were minors) where all six claimants discontinued after cross-examination.

Jessica is also experienced in advising claimants in conference where fundamental dishonesty has been raised. She has regularly acted for the successful claimant in resisting allegations of fundamental dishonesty.

Credit Hire

Jessica is regularly instructed in credit hire claims by both claimants and defendants.

In a recent case, acting on behalf of the Defendant, Jessica secured the dismissal of a claim for credit hire charges after the Claimant's contract was found to be unenforceable by reason of misrepresentation. The Claimant was ordered to repay an interim payment and to pay the Defendant's costs.

Motor

Jessica is regularly instructed by both claimants and defendants in a wide range of road traffic accident matters including personal injury claims, credit hire cases and cases where fundamental dishonesty is in issue.

Personal Injury

Jessica is routinely instructed by both claimants and defendants in a wide range of personal injury matters including road traffic accidents, public liability and employer's liability.

Jessica has experience at all stages of the litigation process in this area with a busy paperwork and court practice.

Disease

Jessica is regularly instructed in industrial disease claims on behalf of claimants and defendants, having gained particular experience in this area during pupillage.

Jessica has experience of noise-induced hearing loss matters at all stages of litigation from drafting pleadings and conducting conferences with experts to application hearings and trials (including with oral expert evidence).

Jessica is part of the Ropewalk Chambers' Disease Blog Editorial Group and a [regular contributor](#) to the Disease Blog.

Animals & Equine

Jessica has been involved at all stages of litigation in a wide range of cases involving animals from successfully defending in a veterinary negligence claim to horse-riding accidents to Animals Act claims.

Clinical Negligence

Jessica's careful attention to detail and ability to digest complex factual and legal issues are attributes which particularly lend themselves to clinical negligence matters. Jessica has experience in a range of clinical negligence matters, ranging from loss of a chance to delayed diagnosis.

Inquests

Jessica welcomes instructions from families and other interested parties. She is willing to accept instructions on a pro bono or conditional fee basis where appropriate. Notable recent cases include representing the family at an inquest into the death of a woman who died from complications arising seven years after an endometrial ablation procedure, where Jessica successfully obtained a finding of neglect.

Qualifications

- MA (Cantab) Law, University of Cambridge (Double First Class)
- BPTC, Nottingham Law School (Outstanding)

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