

Rachel Russell

Head of Personal Injury



YEAR OF CALL: 2001

INN: GRAY'S INN

JUDICIAL OFFICE: RECORDER

“ Very experienced across a range of inquest matters.”

LEGAL 500, 2021
INQUESTS AND INQUIRIES

Practice Overview

Rachel is Head of our Personal Injury team, and highly respected both in Chambers and on circuit. She was recently appointed Recorder on the Western Circuit sitting in the civil jurisdiction. Rachel has gained a reputation for her robust advocacy, well-reasoned but no nonsense approach to complicated issues, and her friendly manner with clients.

She has 20 years' experience of personal injury cases, acting for both claimants and defendants with extensive expertise in claims concerning catastrophic injuries of the utmost severity. She is currently instructed as junior counsel to Christopher Sharp QC in a particularly complex traumatic brain injury case. Rachel's regular clients include national insurers and top-tier claimant firms, as well as numerous local authorities throughout England and Wales.

Rachel also has considerable experience in dealing with 'disease' and occupational illness litigation ranging from noise induced hearing loss cases, to mesothelioma and stress at work. She regularly advises and appears in trials on such cases, dealing with broad ranging issues from breach of duty to causation and limitation. She often deals with cases concerning accidents involving animals. Her particular interest is in equine cases, but she regularly advises and represents clients in cases concerning all types of animal.

She frequently appears at Inquests often representing care homes, insurers, hospitals, police forces and the families of bereaved, and has been instructed in a number of high-profile inquests which have attracted national press coverage.

Rachel is consistently ranked in Tier 1 of The Legal 500 UK.

Rachel is willing to accept instructions on a CFA basis in appropriate cases and is qualified to undertake Public Access work in appropriate cases.

Areas of Expertise

Inquests & Public Inquiries

Rachel frequently appears at Inquests representing all types of interested persons and the bereaved and has been instructed in a number of high profile inquests which have attracted national press coverage. She is able to deal with all issues arising from and associated with Inquests, including Inquests where Article 2 is engaged.

In 2016, Rachel was involved in the Inquest touching the death of Lord Ballyedmond, Declan Small, Carl Dickerson and Lee Hoyle.

Personal Injury

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Industrial Disease

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induced hearing loss cases, to mesothelioma and stress at work. She regularly advises and appears in trials on such cases, dealing with broad ranging issues from breach of duty to causation and limitation.

Recent successes include representing the defendant at the trial of limitation in a noise induced deafness claim, following which the claim was dismissed.

Personal Injury Fraud

Rachel frequently conducts cases where fraud is an issue, acting in the main for defendants in cases of this type. She has advised in and conducted trials in cases covering a wide variety of such issues including vehicle occupancy, stage and semi-staged accidents, LSI and deliberate exaggeration and had enjoyed high success rates in persuading courts to dismiss such claims.

Rachel has recently authored and delivered lectures on the issue of 'fundamental dishonesty' in relation to the new QOCS regime and s.57 CJ&CA 2015.

Recommendations

"Very experienced across a range of inquest matters."

LEGAL 500, 2020
INQUESTS AND INQUIRIES

"Noted for her expertise in employers' and public liability claims. "

LEGAL 500, 2018
PERSONAL INJURY AND CLINICAL NEGLIGENCE

"Very experienced across a range of inquest matters. "

LEGAL 500, 2018
INQUESTS AND INQUIRIES

"Recommended for all types of inquest work."

LEGAL 500, 2017
INQUESTS AND INQUIRIES

Professional Memberships

- ▶ Personal Injury Bar Association
- ▶ Employment Law Bar Association

Qualifications & awards:

- ▶ MA (Oxon)
- ▶ Gray's Inn Scholar

Contact Rachel:

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