

Laura Hibberd

Call: 2013



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Laura has a busy court and paper practice and is instructed in a range of civil, criminal and family matters. Her varied practice provides for a versatile advocate; she has experience of multi-day trials and discrete applications across each practice area.

In her civil practice, Laura is regularly instructed in multi-track cases in personal injury and clinical negligence. Her family practice largely involves public care cases, representing Local Authorities, respondents and interested parties. Laura also undertakes some private law family matters. Laura's criminal practice includes prosecution and defence work in both adult and youth matters across London and the Home Counties.

Laura has considerable experience attending inquests on behalf of families or interested parties. She has recently developed a Court of Protection practice and is keen to expand her work in this area. Laura is confident in approaching new areas of work and working with lay and professional clients.

Before joining Chambers, Laura worked for a sole practitioner solicitor working exclusively in mesothelioma cases. She was also an intern for the prosecution at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, and worked on the Stanišić and Župljanin case under HHJ Jo Korner CMG QC.

Outside of work, Laura is a keen swimmer particularly open water marathon swimming and has competed in endurance events on several occasions. She completed a four person Channel Relay in 2021 and intends on undertaking a solo Channel Swim. Laura is a mentor for Bridging the Bar and for Inner Temple.

Areas of Expertise

Personal Injury

Laura accepts instructions on behalf of claimants and defendants in all areas of personal injury. She is frequently instructed to advise on liability, evidence and quantum in a range of cases. She has been instructed in industrial disease cases, particularly asbestos exposure causing mesothelioma, and is keen to increase her industrial disease practice. Laura worked in this area prior to joining Chambers.

Laura is regularly instructed in multi-track matters, often six-figure claims, and will draft pleadings and schedules for proceedings. She has experience of interim hearings, including budgeting, and multi-day trials. Laura has been instructed in JSMs, including against a silk and senior junior in a group action against a care home, and is able to negotiate and discuss complex issues and provide clear, practical advice to clients.

Recently, Laura has developed a practice involving care home claims, often for defendants, which usually involve allegations of negligence causing pressure sores. As a result, she is confident in her ability to grasp the issues regarding liability, medical evidence, and quantum and is interested in developing her expertise in this branch of personal injury claims.

Although not exclusively personal injury, Laura has also undertaken appeals against the CICA and for Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit.

Notable Personal Injury cases

L v FP NHS Trust [2020]

Laura acted for the Claimant in a multi-track case concerning a manual handling claim against her employer. Laura was successful at trial and beat her Part 36 offers. She also represented the Claimant at mediation.

G v SSWP [2021]

Laura represented a police officer appealing SSWP's refusal to grant Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit (IIDB). Laura successfully persuaded the Tribunal to distinguish the appeal from *Faulds* [2002] and that there was sufficient nexus from the material incident to the officer's development of PTSD. The Tribunal agreed the officer should be entitled to IIDB.

Clinical Negligence

Laura has an expanding clinical negligence practice and is frequently instructed to advise on merits, evidence and quantum at various stages of claims. She has been instructed on a variety of cases from delayed diagnosis and treatment, negligent surgery/treatment, and fatal claims.

Laura is well able to advise on complicated issues surrounding breach, causation and evidence and is confident in approaching matters with experts in conference. She has represented families at inquests where the death may result in a civil claim. As with personal injury, Laura frequently receives instructions in care or nursing Home claims where pressure sores are alleged to be the result of negligent care or treatment.

Her recent clinical negligence cases include a claim with four experts and complex breach of duty issues concerning delayed diagnosis of an ultimately fatal port-a-cath infection, and advising on a case involving a complication during a forceps delivery.

Family Law

Laura's family practice is predominantly public care work. She frequently appears for Local Authorities, parents, grandparents/interveners and guardians in all aspects of public care cases and emergency applications including Deprivation of Liberty applications. She is regularly instructed in final hearings, and has been praised by judges for her efficient and professional presentation of cases. Laura is experienced in representing vulnerable clients during care proceedings, particularly young mothers, and solicitors instruct her due to her sensitive approach.

Laura has also advised Local Authorities regarding disclosure of care proceedings into criminal proceedings, and has attended the Crown Court on behalf of the Local Authority.

Laura is instructed in private law family cases and has represented both applicant and respondent parents. These cases have involved issues surrounding contact with children and applications for non-molestation and occupancy orders often underpinned with allegations of domestic abuse.

Notable Family Law cases

Re K (A Child) [2018] EWCA Civ 2044

Laura represented the respondent mother, at the final hearing and during the appeal process.

Re M (2019)

Laura represented the paternal grandmother in highly sensitive and acrimonious care proceedings following the mother killing the father.

Re P (2020)

Laura represented a father throughout care proceedings, successfully resisting two application for interim separation by the local authority. The case concluded with the three subject children remaining in his care, one child not being his own biologically.

Crime

Laura accepts both prosecution and defence work. She is a Grade 2 Prosecutor for the Crown Prosecution Service and regularly appears in London and across the South Eastern Circuit. Laura accepts instructions to appear as a court appointed advocate.

Laura has completed vulnerable witness training. She has been instructed in trials concerning vulnerable defendants and complainants where intermediaries and ground rules hearings have been required. For example, Laura was recently instructed in a serious case with charges of oral rape and sexual assault where the complainant and defendant were both youths.

Court of Protection

Laura accepts instructions in all aspects of Court of Protection work. She has represented family members during contested deputyship applications and in s21A Mental Capacity Act cases, including advising, drafting grounds and attending hearings.

Laura has frequently dealt with Deprivation of Liberty cases concerning adults and children. Further, Laura has been instructed on nearest relative disputes under the Mental Health Act. She is keen to further her Court of Protection practice.

Due to her multi-disciplinary practice, Laura is able to use her knowledge from both family and personal injury/clinical negligence cases when Court of Protection cases straddle these areas. Laura's family practice, and particularly her Local Authority work, includes welfare proceedings where the issue of capacity is raised. Laura is well placed to represent and advise vulnerable clients and their families, which lends itself to Court of Protection work.

Inquests & Inquiries

Laura accepts instructions to act for interested parties, including bereaved families and regulatory bodies in inquests conducted at the Coroners' Courts.

She has been instructed in numerous inquests, including representing families where the death has touched upon clinical negligence and/or personal injury litigation. Laura has represented families and interested parties in inquests where suicide has been the key issue.

Police Law

Laura acts on behalf of police forces in all aspects of police law. She has particular experience in making applications for civil injunctions such as Sexual Harm Prevention Orders, Sexual Risk Orders, Domestic Violence Protection Orders and Closure Orders.

Laura regularly acts on behalf of police forces and HMRC in asset recovery, mainly in Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 cases. She has also been instructed in judicial review proceedings of police decisions, most recently she advised and drafted documentation in a judicial review of a police force obtaining and exercising a search warrant.

Education

- LLB Law and Politics, Cardiff University
- BPTC Kaplan Law School

Memberships

- Court of Protection Bar Association
- Association of Lawyers for Children
- Family Law Bar Association
- Criminal Bar Association
- Personal Injury Bar Association
- Association for Personal Injury Lawyers