

ANNA HUGHES

Call 2008

Get in touch

ahughes@2tg.co.uk

+44 (0)20 7822 1200



*"A smiling assassin
with a great brain"*
(Legal 500)

Practice Overview

Anna is a very experienced advocate who regularly advises on complex and high value matters arising from clinical negligence and personal injury disputes. She also has considerable experience in the fields of travel and foreign claims, private international law, and product liability.

She is recommended by Chambers UK 2022 and Legal 500 for Clinical Negligence, Personal Injury and Travel and Product Liability where she is described as *"terrific"*; *"a ferocious cross-examiner and clever advocate"*; *"a formidable opponent"*; *"an excellent barrister"* and *"tenacious and sharp as a tack"*. She is further credited as someone who *"always goes the extra mile to ensure that the job is done to the very best standard."*

Anna was nominated as Clinical Negligence Junior of the year 2021 by Chambers & Partners.

Prior to joining Chambers, Anna obtained a First-Class degree in Law from St. Catharine's College, Cambridge.

Clinical Negligence

Anna has been nominated by Chambers & Partners as Clinical Negligence Junior of the year 2021 and is credited by the Legal 500 2021 as *"the leading junior in chambers"*. Anna's in-depth knowledge and experience of a vast array of clinical negligence claims, both as a junior and in her own right, means that she is regularly instructed in very high value, complex cases. A skilled advocate, she regularly appears in Court on clinical negligence matters and has won praise for her superb cross-examination skills. Anna has experience of drafting pleadings and advising in relation to a wide variety of medical claims. In particular, her detailed approach and excellent understanding of quantum issues mean that she is often instructed to assist leading counsel to produce counter schedules in multi-million-pound disputes.

Practice areas

Clinical Negligence
Insurance & Reinsurance
Personal Injury
Product Liability
Professional Negligence
Travel & Private International Law

Memberships

PNBA
PIBA

Qualifications

First Class Law Degree, St. Catharine's College, Cambridge

BVC (Very Competent overall with Outstanding in Civil and Criminal Litigation and Personal Injury and Clinical Negligence)

Education

St Catharine's College, Cambridge
University
BPP College, London



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Guides:

Chambers UK 2022: *"A formidable advocate who will fight her client's corner robustly." "She's tenacious and sharp as a tack" "She is terrific – a ferocious cross-examiner with very good commercial judgment."*

Legal 500 2022: *"She demonstrates meticulous preparation, as well as excellent advocacy and tactics, in order to achieve the best result for the client."*

Chambers UK 2021: *"A fantastic advocate who is not afraid of standing firm on difficult issues." "She's formidable in court and provides great tactical advice."*

Legal 500 2021: Anna is credited as *"the leading junior in chambers"* and as *"A tenacious and effective advocate who combines an enormous intellect with the ability to argue complex points in a simple and effective way."*

Chambers UK 2020: *"Provides very pragmatic and commercial advice." "She is excellent in meetings and impresses with her quantum skills." "An exceptionally talented advocate."*

Legal 500 2020: *"A smiling assassin with a great brain"*

Chambers UK 2019: *"Extremely bright, experienced and approachable." "Really good at cross-examination."*

Legal 500 2018: *"She has enthusiasm and energy and good strength in depth."*

Chambers UK 2018: *"A terrific advocate." "Sensible and pragmatic."*

Legal 500 2017: *"Formidable on every level."*

Chambers UK 2017: *"She's personable, good to deal with, professional, well organised and generally very impressive." "She's pragmatic and very, very bright."*

Legal 500 2016: *"She has the ability to cut through the issues and see the bigger picture."*

Chambers UK 2016: Anna is described as *"obviously extremely bright and able"* but with *"the additional benefit of possessing excellent interpersonal skills and being able to manage client relationships."* Anna

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is also praised for her “*very clear pragmatic advice*” and her “*very approachable*” manner.

Notable cases

Vafiadis v Eaton (December 2021) High Court

Anna successfully secured a discontinuance of the claim on day two of Trial following her cross-examination of the Claimant in this claim relating to an alleged delay in investigating prostate cancer.

Paul v Falworth (July 2021) Watford County Court

Anna successfully represented the Defendant orthopaedic surgeon in a claim arising out of shoulder arthroscopy.

Brady v Southend University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust [2020] EWHC 158 (QB)

Anna successfully represented the Defendant Trust in this liability only Trial arising out of an alleged failure to diagnose and treat actinomycosis.

Baillie v Paun (September 2019) Guildford County Court

Anna successfully represented the Defendant plastic surgeon in a claim concerning consent in rhinoplasty surgery.

Gnyla v Thompson (October 2010) High Court

Anna successfully represented the Defendant in striking out the Claim for wrongful birth, valued on excess of £1m, due to repeated failures on behalf of the Claimant’s solicitors to serve Particulars of Claim.

Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust v De Meza [2017] EWCA Civ 1711

Anna successfully represented the Appellant, Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust, in its appeal against a decision to extend the limitation period under s 33 Limitation Act 1980.

E v Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust (April 2018) Winchester County Court

Anna acted for the Defendant in this matter which arose out of surgery to correct a squint. The case raised interesting issues on causation in consent cases.

PQR v Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (November 2017).

Anna was led by Sarah Vaughan-Jones QC in this multi-million-pound quantum dispute arising out of negligent treatment at the time of the Claimant’s birth. The matter settled out of Court.

Lewis v Payne (November 2017) Cardiff County Court.

The Claimant alleged that the Defendant plastic surgeon had been

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negligent in the performance of three breast augmentations. The Claim was dismissed in its entirety on the grounds that there was no breach of duty. Anna represented the Defendant.

AS v East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust [2016] EWHC 1057 (QB), High Court, Queen's Bench Division.

Anna successfully represented the Defendant in a claim where it was alleged that the Defendant's surgeons had undertaken an inappropriate form of surgery to repair the Claimant's detached retina.

Personal Injury

Anna's practice combines advisory work, drafting and advocacy in a broad range of personal injury cases in both the High Court and the County Courts. Not only is she well versed in employers' liability, occupiers' liability, and highway claims, but she also has considerable experience of disease claims. Her keen eye for detail and unflappable manner mean that she is highly sought after by insurers to act in road traffic claims involving serious allegations of fraud, both in relation to liability and in relation to the injuries suffered. She has successfully represented insurers in committal proceedings relating to fraudulent claims.

Experience in Fatal Accidents Act claims has meant that, in addition to Court work, Anna is often instructed to appear at Inquests in personal injury matters.

Guides:

Chambers UK 2022: "She is terrific. A ferocious cross-examiner and a clever advocate with good commercial judgment." "A formidable opponent who is very professional and great on the detail."

Legal 500 2022: "Anna instinctively knows the best points to take. She is a skilled advocate who consistently delivers excellent results."

Chambers UK 2021: "She is very bright and witheringly good in cross-examinations." "She is a good advocate - very persuasive and fiercely fights her client's corner."

Legal 500 2021: "One of the best cross-examiners I have seen of juniors at her call. Has a first-class grasp of detail and the ability and tenacity to apply it to good effect in negotiations."

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Chambers UK 2020: *"Her attention to detail is excellent and she prepares very well. She gives clear, concise advice and builds a strong rapport with clients. She is also excellent on her feet."*

Legal 500 2020: *"She is excellent on paper and in Court."*

Chambers UK 2019: *"She is very thorough and tenacious, and takes a very down-to-earth approach with clients."*

Legal 500 2018: *"Good strength in depth."*

Chambers 2018: *"Excellent as an advocate and in conference. Well prepared and able to deliver clear, precise and concise advice. She is reliable and timely in her responses."*

Legal 500 2017: *"She is very thoughtful, methodical and careful in her analysis of evidence."*

Chambers UK 2017: *"She's my preferred counsel when I need someone robust and forensic. She can deconstruct a claimant's claim without getting flustered in the face of resistance."*

Notable cases

Jamil v Fairgap Ltd & Others (2021) Central London County Court

Anna successfully represented a Defendant lift maintenance company in a case where the Claimant alleged he suffered a hip fracture as a result of having to escape from a broken lift.

Williams v Royal Borough of Greenwich (2019) High Court

Anna represented the Defendant Council who were being sued in relation to care proceedings involving the Claimant's children. Anna was successful in having the claim struck out.

RSA v Fahad (2015) and [2014] EWHC 4480 (QB), High Court, Queen's Bench Division.

Anna successfully represented the Applicant insurance company in committal proceedings brought against the Respondent, who was found to be in contempt of court as a result of staging a road traffic accident with his then partner. The Respondent was sentenced to 12 months in prison. Anna represented the Insurer at both the permission stage and the final hearing.

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Travel & Private International Law

Anna's expertise in this area encompasses not only Package Holiday claims, but also claims involving foreign law and jurisdictional disputes. She is currently instructed in a number of claims relating to medical treatment provided abroad and is being led by Ben Browne QC representing a Polish insurer in a high value road traffic claim involving multiple parties from various countries.

Guides:

Chambers UK 2022: *"An excellent barrister who is very efficient, approachable and focused. She is a perfectionist and delves into every aspect of the case and paperwork and always goes the extra mile to ensure that the job is done to the very best standard. You can always be assured that you are in a totally safe pair of hands." "She is very personable, clients like her and she gives advice in a clear and understandable way."*

Legal 500 2022: *"A brilliant advocate with a very impressive travel practice."*

Chambers UK 2021: *"She's incredibly easy to work with and goes above and beyond to assist. She's also very strategic and is an excellent advocate."*

Legal 500 2021: *"She is an excellent lawyer and fearless advocate. She combines intellectual rigour with a formidable work ethic: the combination is powerful and explains her extremely successful practice."*

Chambers UK 2020: *"She is very practical, knowledgeable and gives clear and realistic advice. She handles matters efficiently and effectively, and leaves you feeling confident in the advice given and that she is in control of matters." "She is to the point and very sharp – a fantastic junior to bring on board in tricky cross-border matters."*

Legal 500 2020: *"She is very incisive and approachable."*

Chambers UK 2019: *"Anna is extremely friendly and approachable. Her manner is professional yet welcoming and she is a pleasure to work with." "She has very good technical knowledge and excellent attention to detail."*

Chambers UK 2018: *"She is very good on travel work." "She is developing a fantastic career."*

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Product Liability

Anna's strong background in clinical negligence, personal injury and travel and jurisdiction render her ideally placed to deal with product liability cases that fall within any of those areas. Her particular interest lies in claims involving liability in respect of medical products and medicines. Anna was instructed as junior counsel for a leading intra-ocular lens manufacturer in relation to litigation concerning alleged opacification of lenses. Anna was also instructed as junior counsel for Corin in the metal-on-metal hip litigation, led by Charles Dougherty QC. She is currently led by Toby Riley-Smith QC of Henderson Chambers acting for the manufacturer of a sterilisation device.

Guides:

Chambers UK 2022: *"She gives excellent strategic advice that always considers the end goal. She's also very easy to work with and excellent with clients."*

Legal 500 2022: *"She combines a razor-sharp intelligence with an extraordinary capacity for hard work. She is a fantastic team player, always upbeat and positive. And it is not surprising that she is one of the juniors of choice for leaders in 2TG."*

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Notable cases

Claims arising from Essure

Junior counsel acting for the manufacturer of a permanent contraception implant in a number of claims brought by patients who had the device inserted.

Claims arising from IOLs (QBD)

Junior counsel acting for a leading manufacturer of intra-ocular lenses in a number of claims brought by patients who had the lenses implanted.

The Corin Metal on Metal Hip Litigation GLO (QBD)

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Junior counsel acting for a leading manufacturer of metal-on-metal hip prosthesis in a claim brought by patients that received the same.

Recommendations

"A formidable advocate who will fight her client's corner robustly." "She's tenacious and sharp as a tack" "She is terrific – a ferocious cross-examiner with very good commercial judgment." "She is terrific. A ferocious cross-examiner and a clever advocate with good commercial judgment." "A formidable opponent who is very professional and great on the detail." "An excellent barrister who is very efficient, approachable and focused. She is a perfectionist and delves into every aspect of the case and paperwork and always goes the extra mile to ensure that the job is done to the very best standard. You can always be assured that you are in a totally safe pair of hands." "She is very personable, clients like her and she gives advice in a clear and understandable way." "She gives excellent strategic advice that always considers the end goal. She's also very easy to work with and excellent with clients."

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Legal 500 2022

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Chambers UK 2021

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