

THE LAWYER

Bailey & Ors

V

GlaxoSmithKline UK Limited

High Court, Queen's Bench Division, late April, 11 weeks

Though originally listed as a Top 20 case in 2011, the litigation over whether GlaxoSmithKline's antidepressant drug Seroxat is a defective product is finally able to kick on after Addleshaw Goddard played an instrumental role in changing the litigation funding market.

Fortitude Law will be representing more than 100 claimants after securing a group litigation order, though Addleshaw's was able to obtain ATE insurance which broke the 'Arkin cap'. Though the value of the case is comparatively low to some on this list – valued at just north of £10m – the ramifications of a successful decision for Fortitude could result in the long-promised tsunami of cash from the litigation funders.

John Kelleher, the Addleshaw's partner originally handling the GSK relationship, has since moved to offshore firm Carey Olsen, with City-based partner Louisa Caswell taking over following his departure. The outcome of this case will undoubtedly send shockwaves through the funding market, with effects likely to be of keen interest to other big pharma entities and product liability lawyers, too.

For the claimant, Bailey & Ors

2 Temple Gardens' Jacqueline Perry QC and Niazi Fetto, and Crown Office Chambers' Michael Kent QC and Harry Lambert, instructed by Fortitude Law partner Darren Hanison

For the defendant, GlaxoSmithKline UK

Henderson Chambers' Charles Gibson QC, Malcolm Sheehan QC, Andrew Kinnier QC, Adam Heppinstall and James Williams, instructed by Addleshaw Goddard partner Louisa Caswell