

Anna Hughes

Call 2008



ahughes@2tg.co.uk



+44 (0)20 7822 1200

Anna Hughes is a very experienced advocate known for dealing with complex and high value product liability, personal injury, clinical negligence and Group Litigation claims.

She also has considerable experience in the fields of travel and foreign claims. Her excellent grasp of these areas mean that she is always a first choice in health care and insurance disputes.

She is recommended by the Legal 500 for Clinical Negligence, Personal Injury, Industrial Disease and Insurance Fraud, Product Liability and Group Litigation. Anna is also recommended by Chambers UK for Clinical Negligence, Personal Injury and Travel: International Personal Injury and Product Liability. The Guides describe her as “a formidable advocate”, “fantastic”, “tenacious, diligent and bright”; “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 “a powerful advocate” and 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.

Expertise

Clinical Negligence

Anna was nominated by Chambers & Partners as Clinical Negligence Junior of the year 2021 and is described by Chambers UK as “*extremely bright*” and “*a formidable advocate*” and by the Legal 500 2024 as “*an outstanding junior*”.

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.

Notable Clinical Negligence cases

Beatt v Lewisham & Greenwich NHS Trust [2023] EWHC 3163 (KB)

Anna successfully represented the Defendant in this high value claim arising out of alleged negligence on the part of a vascular surgeon.

Nicholson v Wrightington, Wigan & Leigh NHS Foundation Trust (March 2022)

Following Anna’s cross-examination of the Claimant’s lead expert, this case was discontinued on day 2 of a 5-day Trial.

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.

Howard v Isle of Wight NHS Trust & Others (October 2021) Winchester County Court

Anna successfully represented the Defendant Trust in this complex dispute involving an alleged delay in performing spinal surgery.

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 actinomyces.

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.

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 is recommended by both Chambers & Partners and the Legal 500 in the field of personal injury. In the most recent editions she is described as a *"highly skilled advocate"* and *"Tenacious, diligent and bright."*

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.

Notable Personal Injury cases

Vakharia v Bukowski [2022] EWHC 673 (QB)

Anna was led by Ben Browne KC in this liability only dispute relating to the standards expected of drivers on smart motorways. Anna represented the Polish insurer.

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) & [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.

Travel & Private International Law

Anna is recommended by both Chambers & Partners and the Legal 500 for her work in this area as *"powerful advocate who is very impressive in court"* and *"Tenacious, diligent and bright."*

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 KC representing a Polish insurer in a high value road traffic claim involving multiple parties from various countries.

Notable Travel & Private International Law cases

Cummings v BCA Co Ltd. (ongoing) High Court

Anna, led by Howard Palmer KC, acts on behalf of a Chinese Airline in this claim in which a pilot seeks damages for injuries he sustained on a bus to the airport in China.

Vakharia v Bukowski [2022] EWHC 673 (QB)

Anna was led by Ben Browne KC in this liability only dispute relating to the standards expected of drivers on smart motorways. Anna represented the Polish insurer.

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. She is recommended by both Chambers & Partners and the Legal 500 where she is described as "a very powerful advocate", "fantastic", "brilliant" and "very intelligent with a keen eye for detail".

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 KC. She is currently led by Toby Riley-Smith KC of Henderson Chambers acting for the manufacturer of a sterilisation device.

Notable Product Liability cases

Claims arising from Essure (QBD)

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)

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

Significant Cases

Claims arising from Essure (QBD)

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

Cummings v BCA Co Ltd. (ongoing) High Court

Anna, led by Howard Palmer KC, acts on behalf of a Chinese Airline in this claim in which a pilot seeks damages for injuries he sustained on a bus to the airport in China.

Vakharia v Bukowski [2022] EWHC 673 (QB)

Anna was led by Ben Browne KC in this liability only dispute relating to the standards expected of drivers on smart motorways. Anna represented the Polish insurer.

Nicholson v Wrightington, Wigan & Leigh NHS Foundation Trust (March 2022)

Following Anna's cross-examination of the Claimant's lead expert, this case was discontinued on day 2 of a 5-day Trial.

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.

Howard v Isle of Wight NHS Trust & Others (October 2021) Winchester County Court

Anna successfully represented the Defendant Trust in this complex dispute involving an alleged delay in performing spinal surgery.

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.

Education

- BVC (Very Competent), BPP College, London

- Law (First Class), St Catharine's College, Cambridge University

Memberships

- PNBA
- PIBA

Recommendations

"Anna is a formidable advocate. She cuts through to the salient points and will always fight to achieve the best outcome for the client." "She is technically sound and is good at mastering the detail of cases and focussing on the issues which are important." "She is extremely bright and combines thoroughness and determination." "Anna provides very astute and clear advice." "Anna is a technically excellent and highly skilled advocate who always has the commercial realities in mind." "Her control and understanding of the figures and amounts involved in a claim is brilliant." "She is incredibly efficient and is a very powerful advocate. Anna has fantastic judgement and is very quick on the uptake – she is just an absolutely brilliant junior." "Anna is fantastic. She is responsive and realistic with timescales, which makes it much easier for us to handle our clients and deadlines. She is excellent with witnesses, particularly where they are nervous or new to the claims process." "She provides excellent strategic advice which is realistic and sensible." "Anna is a powerful advocate who is very impressive in court."

Chambers UK 2024

"Anna is an outstanding junior – meticulously prepared, a great advocate, fights her corner firmly but fairly." "Brilliant. One of the best barristers out there for complex medical devices and pharmaceutical group claims. A great advocate." "Tenacious, diligent and bright, Anna is renowned for fighting her client's corner. An excellent up-and-coming Junior." "Anna is very intelligent with a keen eye for detail. She has a very good manner with clients and witnesses and gets to grip with the key issues quickly."

Legal 500 2024

"Anna is really excellent and very much in demand." "She has a sharp mind and tremendous interpersonal skills." "Her technical abilities during settlement meetings are noteworthy and she has an effortless style." "Anna really comes into her own in court. She really is a tenacious and impressive advocate." "Anna has a very good grasp of the law and builds good relationships with clients." "Anna is efficient and astute." "Her paperwork is always flawless." "She really is a tenacious and impressive advocate." "Anna is a very impressive junior. She has a stellar clinical negligence practice which overlaps with her product liability work."

Chambers UK 2023

"A superb negotiator, equally relaxed against silks as she is against any opponent. Undoubtedly a top tier clinical negligence junior, she's a silk in waiting." "Both clients and judges love her. She is intellectually top notch, works very hard and possess immense commercial common sense." "Anna is always very well-prepared, and instinctively knows the best points to take. She is a formidable advocate and astute tactician, with an excellent forensic eye for detail. She is also well respected by her peers and fosters good relationships with her opponents with her easy-going style."

Legal 500 2023

“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.”

Chambers UK 2022

“A brilliant advocate with a very impressive travel practice.” “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.” “Anna instinctively knows the best points to take. She is a skilled advocate who consistently delivers excellent results.” “She demonstrates meticulous preparation, as well as excellent advocacy and tactics, in order to achieve the best result for the client.”

Legal 500 2022

“A fantastic advocate who is not afraid of standing firm on difficult issues.” “She’s formidable in court and provides great tactical advice.” She is very bright and witheringly good in cross-examinations.” “She is a good advocate – very persuasive and fiercely fights her client’s corner.” “She’s incredibly easy to work with and goes above and beyond to assist. She’s also very strategic and is an excellent advocate.”

Chambers UK 2021

Anna is credited as *“the leading junior in chambers”* in Clinical Negligence 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.” “She combines a razor-sharp intelligence with an extraordinary capacity for hard work.” “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.” “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.”*

Legal 500 2021

“Provides very pragmatic and commercial advice.” “She is excellent in meetings and impresses with her quantum skills.” “An exceptionally talented advocate.” “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.” “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.”

Chambers UK 2020

“A smiling assassin with a great brain”. “She is excellent on paper and in Court.” “She is very incisive and approachable.”

Legal 500 2020

“Extremely bright, experienced and approachable.” “Really good at cross-examination.” “She is very thorough and tenacious, and takes a very down-to-earth approach with clients.” “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 2019

“She has enthusiasm and energy and good strength in depth.” “Good strength in depth.”

Legal 500 2018

“A terrific advocate.”; “Sensible and pragmatic.”; “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.”; “She is very good on travel work.” “She is developing a fantastic career.”

Chambers UK 2018

“Formidable on every level.”; “She is very thoughtful, methodical and careful in her analysis of evidence.”

Legal 500 2017

“She’s personable, good to deal with, professional, well organised and generally very impressive.”; “She’s pragmatic and very, very bright.”; “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.”; “Anna is very good; a real rising star.”; “I’m impressed by her approachability, familiarity with papers and firm grasp of the key issues in a case.”

Chambers UK 2017

“She has the ability to cut through the issues and see the bigger picture.”

Legal 500 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 is also praised for her “very clear pragmatic advice” and her “very approachable” manner.

Chambers UK 2016