

Poppy Blackshaw

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Poppy joined Chambers in 2024 following the successful completion of her pupillage, having been supervised by Anna Hughes, David Thomas and Meghann McTague. Poppy practises in all of Chambers' areas of expertise. She has a particular interest in clinical negligence, personal injury, employment, private international, property damage and insurance matters.

Poppy has advised a wide range of clients, from the NHS to the MIB. She has a busy court practice, appearing regularly in the County Court and advises as sole counsel in a wide range of areas. She also accepts instructions as junior counsel.

Prior to coming to the Bar, Poppy studied law at the University of Cambridge, where she graduated with a Double First Class undergraduate degree and read for the LLM the following year. From 2021 to 2022 she was the Judicial Assistant to Lord Justice Peter Jackson and Lord Justice Baker in the Court of Appeal where she assisted on appeals such as *The Public Institution for Social Security v Al Rajaan & others* [2022] EWCA 29 and *R (on the application of D4) v Secretary of State for the Home Department* [2022] EWCA 33.

Expertise

Clinical Negligence

As sole counsel, Poppy regularly settles pleadings in the High Court and County Court. She also has experience of advising on liability and quantum. The wide range of clinical negligence cases in which she has advised or assisted on include those relating to Cauda Equina Syndrome, delayed diagnosis of subdural

empyema and limb amputation.

Notable Clinical Negligence cases

Assisting (as a pupil) Anna Hughes in *Spellman v Portsmouth Hospitals University NHS Trust* [2024] EWHC 2011 (KB).

Assisting (as a pupil) Anna Hughes in *Beatty v Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust* [2023] EWHC 3163 (KB).

Private International Law

Poppy welcomes instructions in private international law matters. She has experience in advising on applicable law issues, especially where Rome I and II are engaged.

Poppy recently assisted Marie Louise Kinsler KC in advising on the applicable law in a claim for professional negligence arising out of a wrongful birth claim against various defendants in the UAE.

Insurance

Poppy has experience of acting and advising in a wide variety of insurance matters, particularly in relation to the scope of policy coverage in the property and public liability spheres.

Notable Insurance cases

Assisting in advising an insurer as to whether one of their public liability policies covered claims for race discrimination, arising in the context of claims brought under the Equality Act 2010.

Advising a market leading insurer on the discrete issue of whether, in a subrogated action to recover its outlay, there existed a duty to pursue a claim for the uninsured losses of Claimant within that action.

Personal Injury

Poppy is frequently instructed in Fast Track trials, CCMCs, applications, small claims and stage 3 hearings in personal injury and credit hire matters, acting for both claimants and defendants. Poppy maintains a busy written practice, drafting pleadings and providing both formal and informal advice on liability and quantum in a variety of personal injury cases, including occupier's liability, and road traffic cases.

Notable Personal Injury cases

Successfully acting in a claim brought under the Occupiers Liability Act 1957 against a well-known high street chain for injuries sustained by an employee at work.

Assisting Meghann McTague in a multi-million-pound claim arising out of injuries to a social media influencer and life coach.

Property Damage

Poppy is quickly building a busy and varied property damage practice and is regularly instructed in subrogated matters, particularly in relation to damage by fire and tree roots.

Recently, Poppy successfully acted as sole counsel for the insurer in a claim brought against a roofing company, whose negligence gave rise to an ingress of water causing widespread damage at a glass cutting factory.

Awards

- Astbury Scholarship, Middle Temple
- Rebecca Flower Squire Scholarship, Law Faculty, University of Cambridge
- 1912 Senior Scholarship (re-elected), Fitzwilliam College
- Reddaway Scholarship, Fitzwilliam College
- HHJ David Pearl Prize, Fitzwilliam College
- Houston Putman Lowry Prize, Fitzwilliam College
- Johnson-Jary Prize, Fitzwilliam College

Education

- MA Law (Double First Class), Fitzwilliam College, University of Cambridge
- LLM (Distinction), Fitzwilliam College, University of Cambridge
- Bar Training Course (Merit/Very Competent), Inns of Court College of Advocacy