

# Sarah Vaughan Jones KC

Call 1983 | Silk 2008



svj@2tg.co.uk



+44 (0)20 7822 1200

With many years of experience in both professional negligence and personal injury litigation, Sarah Vaughan Jones KC has specialised in disputes involving health professionals or complex medical issues since taking Silk in 2008.

Sarah is recognised as a Leading Silk in clinical negligence. Chambers UK ranks Sarah as a Band 1 Silk in clinical negligence, describing her as “very bright, incredibly thorough and good company”, while she is described in Legal 500 as “the best silk for defendant clinical negligence”. There is particular praise for her “really good manner with clients and witnesses” and her ability to do “an incredibly thorough job.” Sarah has a reputation as “an asset to any team” who “never fails to impress in terms of her medical knowledge”: with “incisive analysis and grasp of detail”, she “quickly identifies the key issues and gets to the point quickly” and has “excellent judgment”. Sarah is known for her “excellent grasp of medicine” and as “a fearsome negotiator at round table meetings, thanks to her robust and straightforward approach” and solicitors also value her “terrific” conference skills (Chambers UK).

## Expertise

### Clinical Negligence

Sarah acts for both claimants and defendants in clinical negligence claims against hospital trusts and health authorities, GPs and private providers, as well as members of the ancillary professions such as out-of-hours providers and physiotherapists. She is regularly instructed on behalf of the NHSLA. In Silk, her practice has focussed on claims arising out of obstetric and neonatal mismanagement, claims for wrongful birth, spinal

surgery, brain surgery, delayed diagnosis of infection (meningitis, vasculitis etc) and management of suicidal patients.

## Notable Clinical Negligence cases

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X v an NHS Trust [2016]

Representing defendant in defending claim for alleged negligence in conduct of spinal operation.

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A v University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Foundation Trust [2015] EWHC 366 (QB)

Assessment of damages in claim for cerebral palsy sustained at birth.

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S v an NHS Trust [2015]

Defending claim for alleged delay in delivery of second twin.

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P v an NHS Trust [2015]

Claim for damages for tetraplegia due to spinal cord ischaemia. Represented the defendant which admitted misinterpretation of MRI scans but disputed causation, alleging claimant's paralysis would have been inevitable, even with earlier diagnosis of spinal cord ischaemia. Complex medical issues. Claimant discontinued shortly before trial.

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Z v an NHS Trust

Defending claim for alleged failure by doctor in Emergency Department to admit patient with chronic condition because of intercurrent illness.

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## Personal Injury

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Sarah has long experience of conducting personal injury claims and is mainly instructed in claims involving complex medical issues such as potential third party claims against medical providers or complex issues of medical causation.

Examples include whether death following bariatric surgery could be attributed to an earlier fall on a defective pavement; claim arising out of carbon monoxide poisoning by a defective gas fire; and claim for brain damage by infant following premature delivery after mother fell on defective pavement.

Sarah has significant experience of settling counter-schedules and conducting settlement meetings in maximum severity claims.

## Appointments

- Queen's Counsel (2008)
- Recorder (Western Circuit)

## Awards

- Shortlisted for 'Clinical Negligence Silk of the Year', Chambers Bar Awards 2021

## Education

- MA (Law), Trinity Hall, Cambridge University

## Memberships

- PIBA
- PNBA

## Recommendations

*"Always a high performer, you could not be in better hands than with Sarah. She cuts through the issues, challenges those present and, as a result, yields the best results for her client." "She is one of the brightest silks in this area of work and has an extremely keen eye on the detail." "Sarah's really meticulous and very experienced and provides a sense of reassurance."*

**Chambers UK 2024**

*"Exceptional abilities – a cut above the rest."*

**Legal 500 2024**

*"Sarah is superb at matters of utmost severity." "Her attention to detail and strategic thinking are second to none." "She is technically gifted, thorough and an outstanding advocate."*

**Chambers UK 2023**

*"Her attention to detail is phenomenal and in a medical context her knowledge is incredible." "She is superb – spectacular on her feet and incredibly detailed and thorough." "Excels at cutting through complex medical issues concerning liability and equally brilliant at quantum. She is a master of her art."*

**Chambers UK 2022**

*“Sarah is in a league of her own. She excels at cutting through complex medical issues concerning liability, and is equally brilliant at quantum issues.”*

**Legal 500 2022**

*“A highly skilled advocate with incredible knowledge and attention to detail. She offers very sound advice.”  
“She’s extremely experienced, calm and always well prepared.”*

**Chambers UK 2021**

*“The best of the best – razor sharp and can get to the nub of a case very quickly”*

**Legal 500 2021**

*“Sarah is very experienced and really understands her clients. She is also superb on quantum matters.” “She is incredibly thorough, incisive, balanced and pragmatic.”*

**Chambers UK 2020**

*“A very safe pair of hands and a costs specialist.”*

**Legal 500 2020**

*“She is incredibly thorough and has a full mastery of the detail. She is clearly held in the highest respect by her opponents. A pleasure to deal with.” “The queen of quantum.”*

**Chambers UK 2019**

*“Outstanding. The best of the best. Her grasp of the law is incredible and she is fearless in court.”*

*“Meticulous, thorough and very good with witnesses.”*

**Chambers UK 2018**

*“She’s very bright, incredibly thorough and good company.”*

*“She’s got a really good manner with clients and witnesses, and does an incredibly thorough job.”*

**Chambers UK 2017**

*“A heavyweight silk”*

**Legal 500 2017**

*“She never fails to impress in terms of her medical knowledge and her thorough approach”, “provides gold standard service”, “totally dependable and her incisive analysis, grasp of detail, negotiating capability and unsurpassed advocacy skills remain as formidable as ever”, “there is no one better on quantum.”*

**Chambers UK 2016**

*“The best silk for defendant clinical negligence.”*

**Legal 500 2016**

*“She’s got an incredible eye for detail”, “prepares the most amazing counter-schedules”, “she is extremely impressive.”*

**Chambers UK 2015**

*“She is totally dependable and her unsurpassed advocacy remains as formidable as ever.”*

**Legal 500 2015**

*“Has it all in her head and is able to explain and pull out every one of those figures as and when she needs them.”*

#### **Chambers UK 2014**

*“Calm and cool” and combines “an intellectual approach with a robustness in negotiation.” She handles numerous cerebral palsy cases and disputes relating to birth defects and injuries.*

#### **Chambers UK 2013**

*Sarah Vaughan Jones KC is an “asset to any team”. She “quickly identifies the key issues and gets to the point quickly”, has “excellent judgment” and, on top of that, she is “terrifyingly bright.” “A wonderful mine of information.” An authority on criminal and civil cases centring on claims of medical negligence, she is a seasoned veteran of GMC and GDC hearings.*

#### **Chambers UK 2012**

*Sarah Vaughan Jones KC is known as a hard-working, clear and sharp practitioner who is “especially good on the medical side.” The market was warm in its praise for her. Clients appreciate her approach to cases and her “very clear, very sharp advocacy.”*

#### **Chambers UK 2011**

*Sarah Vaughan Jones KC enjoys a strong reputation amongst instructing solicitors, one of whom commented that “a first-class job is guaranteed when you instruct her.” She has “an excellent grasp of medicine” and “is a fearsome negotiator at round-table meetings, thanks to her robust and straightforward approach.”*

#### **Chambers UK 2010**

*Sarah Vaughan Jones KC is a “thorough hard worker and a pleasure to instruct.” “Impressive in getting to grips with medical issues” she is especially known for her successes with the private healthcare sector in cardio and hospital acquired infections cases. Sarah’s “ability to master a vast amount of technical detail and give advice that is practical and constructive” is much appreciated. Clients agree that “if you’ve got a complicated case, there are few barristers you could feel more comfortable with.”*

#### **Chambers UK 2009**

*“An adept operator whose reputation has been sealed as a result of her skilful handling of some of the most difficult clinical negligence cases around.”*

#### **Chambers UK 2008**

*The “fantastic” Sarah Vaughan Jones is “a standout” on clinical negligence matters. “Enormously quick” and “terrifyingly bright” she “deals with matters in an expeditious fashion.” Solicitors drew attention to her “terrific” conference skills.*

#### **Chambers UK 2007**