



# Harriet Jerram

**Year of Call:** 1998

**Direct Access:** No

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Harriet Jerram has specialised in [clinical negligence](#) and [personal injury](#) for over 20 years.

Her clinical negligence practice covers all areas of medical specialism and she receives instructions from Claimants and Defendants.

Harriet has significant expertise in inquests, representing families, healthcare Trusts and insurers. She has particular experience of inquests concerning deaths during psychiatric and other hospital treatment.

Harriet has extensive experience of public inquiry work, including the [Bristol Royal Infirmary Inquiry](#), the [Shipman Inquiry](#) and the [Neale Inquiry](#). Between 2014 and 2016 she was Co-Counsel to the [Independent Jersey Care Inquiry](#).

In all areas, Harriet's focus is on achieving the best results for her clients whilst remaining approachable and compassionate. She is known for her client care, and for making the complexities of litigation readily understandable to her lay clients.

She has been ranked for a number of years by Chambers and Partners and Legal 500 in clinical negligence and/or Inquiries and Inquests.

## Areas of Expertise

### Clinical Negligence

Harriet has specialised in clinical negligence for over 20 years.

Harriet undertakes a full range of clinical negligence work for both Claimants and Defendants. She acts as a junior in high-value brain and spinal injury cases, but mainly represents clients as sole Counsel in a range of mid to high value cases, instructed by leading firms.

Harriet's work encompasses a whole range of medical issues, from surgical negligence and delayed diagnoses to birth and

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spinal injuries. Her recent experience includes Erb's palsy cases, claims arising from negligent psychiatric care, Fatal Accident Act cases and negligence in the fields of neurosurgery, ophthalmology, general, orthopaedic and vascular surgery and obstetrics.

## Notable Clinical Negligence cases

### Neurosurgery

**SN v Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust [2023]:** ongoing claim on behalf of a Claimant left in a minimally conscious state following failed aneurysm coiling. Led by Nathan Tavares KC for JSM. Instructed by Catherine Bell at Freeths.

**EB v A University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust [2020]:** representing a Claimant in an extraordinary case where 3 iatrogenic injuries were sustained during brain surgery, without disclosure by the surgeon of any complications.

### Spinal injuries

**LR v Mr Akmal [2022]:** 6 figure settlement in claim arising from repeated spinal surgery to world famous composer. Highly complex causation case against a backdrop of an unrelated neurological condition. Instructed by James Bell at Hodge, Jones & Allen.

**TWZ v Two NHS Trusts [2022]:** £0.5m settlement reached on behalf of woman who sustained orthopaedic injuries from a suicide attempt whilst awaiting psychiatric treatment. Complex quantification given underlying psychiatric history. Instructed by James Bell at Hodge, Jones & Allen.

**TD v An NHS Trust [2020]:** ongoing case regarding a delayed diagnosis of cauda equina syndrome resulting in significant injury. Claim complicated by the fact that C's condition was compromised by non-negligent complications of eventual surgery, making causation particularly complex. Arguments arising under *Pomphrey v Secretary of State for Health*. One of a series of cauda equina cases dealt with during the last few years.

**MM v A Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust [2017]:** represented a Defendant as sole Counsel until the JSM in a claim pleaded at £26m arising out of admitted negligence resulting in tetraplegia and psychiatric injury. An extraordinarily complex quantum-only case involving 24 experts. The claim was complicated by the Claimant's pre-existing personality disorder, which compromised her ability to engage with treatment and carers. Led by Christopher Gibson QC at JSM, where the claim settled for £6.15m.

### Obstetric negligence

**JP v Milton Keynes Hospital NHS Foundation Trust:** £330,000 settlement achieved at mediation on behalf of a woman sustaining a bowel injury during an emergency cesarean section.

### Fatal Accidents Act claims

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**TB and others v Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust [2020]:** acting for a range of dependants in a fatal accident case regarding a failure to manage depression, resulting in the deceased's suicide. Negotiated six figure settlements for the various dependants, including for the partner where it was contested that she had lived with the deceased for 2 years prior to his death. Novel contributory fault arguments were also raised.

**RM v Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust [2019]:** negotiated a £400,000 settlement for dependency for the Claimants in a FAA claim where the deceased was an alcoholic with severe mental health issues, who had committed suicide as a result of D's negligence. Interesting issues around a claim for accommodation where the dependants had been provided with free accommodation with the deceased's (now estranged) extended family.

**KO'K v Abertawe Bro Morgannwg University Health Board [2018]:** £575,000 settlement achieved at JSM for the disabled wife of a man following his suicide. Issues included the ability of the deceased to care for his wife had he survived given his own mental health problems.

## Erb's Palsy

A range of six figure settlements achieved in the past 5 years for Claimants in Erb's Palsy cases.

## Surgical negligence

**LH v Mr El-Daief & South Warwickshire NHS Foundation Trust[2023]:** 6 figure settlement reached on behalf of a woman who suffered a bladder injury in routine surgery. Claim complicated by involvement of 2 sets of clinicians in a private, then NHS, hospital. Significant recovery for future loss of earnings on the basis of psychiatric injuries. Instructed by Mark Cawley at Irwin Mitchell.

**DP v George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust [2019]:** one of a series of cases involving bowel injuries as a result of surgical negligence. Settlement of £650,000 achieved for the Claimant at mediation, including a six figure sum for loss of earnings, despite the fact that the Claimant had continued in her pre-injury employment.

**MA v (1) Western Sussex NHS Foundation Trust and others [2019]:** an example of one of many vascular injury case involvements over the last few years. Settlement of £0.5m achieved for a retired Claimant who suffered an above knee amputation as a result of the separate negligence of two Defendants. Complex causation arguments and interesting arguments about the scope of the duty of care in offering treatment options to those continuing to smoke in the face of repeated advice to stop.

## Personal Injury

Since starting in practice, Harriet has had a niche personal injury practice, specialising in Animals Act claims. She has particular experience of representing Defendants in equine cases, successfully defending dozens of cases at trial.

## Notable personal injury cases include:

**Schultz v Ball and others [2022] EWHC 2452 (KB)**, instructed by Clare Garnett at Clyde & Co.

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Harriet successfully represented the First Defendant from 2018 to a High Court trial in June 2022, latterly being led by [Nathan Tavares KC](#). The claim arose from an accident on the A3 in Surrey, when the Claimant sustained serious injuries whilst travelling in a taxi which struck the First Defendant's horse, which was loose on the highway. Successful defence of the claim brought under S2(2) of the Animals Act 1971 through careful deployment of factual and expert evidence, resulting in the Claimant failing to establish that the horse was displaying dangerous characteristics at the time of the impact. Although decided on its facts, the case contains a useful summary of the law under s2(2), and is a reminder of the need for Claimants to prove all limbs for strict liability under the Act to be established.

[See Harriet's Lexis Nexis article here.](#)

**VPS v RH [2019]:** Representing the Defendant in an Animals Act case arising out of a fall from a horse at a racing stables, resulting in spinal injury. Allegations of fraud were mounted against the Claimant, resulting in acceptance of an old Part 36 offer of £150,000, against a pleaded claim of £4.2m. Indemnity costs were secured for the Defendant.

**GP v SH [2022]:** Ongoing claim under S2(2) of the Animals Act following an alleged accident involving a horse in which the Claimant became quadriplegic. Instructed by Clyde & Co.

**TH v GPH [2022]:** Robust defence of a claim brought against a luxury hotel group following a riding accident at one of its hotels. Claim discontinued post Defence. Instructed by Clyde & Co on behalf of Allianz Insurance.

**MC v AC:** Ongoing claim representing brain injured woman who was kicked in the head by a horse as a child. Liability admitted. Led latterly by Nathan Tavares KC. Instructed by Pamela-Jane Riley at Enable Law.

## Notable Personal Injury cases

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## Languages

- French
- Spanish (intermediate)

## Recommendations

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