



Robert Dickason

Year of Call: 2007

Direct Access: Yes

	robert.dickason@outertemple.com
	0207 353 6381



Robert Dickason specialises in clinical negligence and has particular experience in group litigation, Governmental and military healthcare, product liability and health and safety.

Appointed to the Attorney General's B Panel in 2020 (C Panel 2015-2020), Robert regularly represents Government departments in the fields of clinical negligence, product liability, inquests, human rights and national security. Current cases include:

- The Contaminated Blood Products Group Litigation, acting on behalf of the Department of Health and Social Care;
- The Covid 19 Inquiry where he is instructed by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities;
- The Grenfell Tower Litigation where he is instructed by the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea;
- The Hormone Pregnancy Test Litigation (concerning foetal abnormalities and miscarriage allegedly caused by hormonal pregnancy tests taken in the 1960s and 1970s) where he acts for the Department of Health and Social Care;
- The Q Fever Litigation (Helmand fever suffered by soldiers on deployment to Southern Afghanistan) where he represents the Ministry of Defence.

Robert has been consistently ranked as a Leading Junior in Clinical Negligence since 2016. He acts for patients, Trusts, private providers and individual clinicians alike in civil claims and at inquests. His practice spans the full clinical spectrum. He is instructed in the most complex liability and quantum disputes. He is good with clients and can be relied upon to turn papers around promptly. He has particular expertise on matters of causation (APIL Clinical Negligence textbook, APIL Personal Injury loose-leaf) and in clinical negligence cases involving members of the Armed Forces or public law aspects.

Robert also has an established health and safety practice, having appeared in several high profile and complex cases (Grenfell Tower, Lakanal House, Sterecycle manslaughter, Warwickshire Fire). He undertakes the full range of contentious and advisory work, representing public authorities, large conglomerates, small and medium businesses, and individual directors and employees.

Notable Cases:

- Contaminated Blood Products Group Litigation (2023 to date)

London (Main Office)

The Outer Temple, 222 Strand
London WC2R 1BA

T: +44 (0)20 7353 6381
F: +44 (0)20 7583 1786
E: clarks@outertemple.com
DX: LDE 351 (Chancery Lane)

Abu Dhabi

24th Floor, Al Sila Tower
Abu Dhabi Global Market Square
Al Maryah Island
Abu Dhabi, UAE

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E: OTC-UAE@outertemple.com

Dubai

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- Covid 19 Inquiry (2022 to date)
- Grenfell Fire Litigation (2022 to date)
- **Hormone Pregnancy Test litigation [2023] EWHC 1282 (KB) (2020 to date)**
- **Masih v The Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust [2023] EWHC 1280 (KB)**
- Q Fever litigation (2016 to date)
- **Bass v Ministry of Defence [2020] EWHC 36 (QB)**
- Rahmatullah & Ali v (1) MOD (2) FCO (2019)
- Kamoka & ors v SS & ors (2019)
- **Raggett v Kings College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust & Ors [2016] EWHC 1604 (QB)**
- **A v East Kent University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust [2015] EWHC 1038 (QB)**
- R v Sterecycle (Rotherham) Ltd & ors (2014)
- **R v Wilson [2013] EWCA Crim 1780; [2014] 1 Cr. App. R. 10**
- Lakanal House (2013)
- Warwickshire Fire (2012)

Areas of Expertise

Clinical Negligence

Robert is consistently ranked as a leading junior in clinical negligence (Legal 500 and Chambers and Partners, 2016+)

He acts for patients, Trusts, private providers and individual clinicians alike in civil claims and at inquests. His practice spans the full clinical spectrum. He is instructed in the most complex liability and quantum disputes. He is good with clients and can be relied upon to turn papers around promptly. He has particular expertise on matters of causation and in clinical negligence cases involving members of the Armed Forces or public law aspects.

Reported clinical negligence cases include:

Notable Clinical Negligence cases

Bass v Ministry of Defence [2020] EWHC 36 (QB)

Defence of MoD against claims of inadequate chemoprophylaxis during deployment to Afghanistan.

Raggett v Kings College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust & Ors [2016] EWHC 1604 (QB)

Avoidable lower limb amputation.

A v East Kent University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust [2015] EWHC 1038 (QB)

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Wrongful birth complicated by chromosomal abnormality.

Governmental Healthcare

Robert is a member of the Attorney-General's B Panel (C Panel, 2015-2020). He represents a range of Government departments in a variety of public and private law challenges, primarily in the healthcare field.

Current instructions include:

Notable Governmental Healthcare cases

The Contaminated Blood Products Group Litigation

Acting on behalf of the Department of Health and Social Care.

The Covid 19 Inquiry

Where he is instructed by the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.

The Hormone Pregnancy Test Litigation

(concerning foetal abnormalities and miscarriage allegedly caused by hormonal pregnancy tests taken in the 1960s and 1970s) where he is instructed by the Department of Health and Social Care as the medical regulator at the time.

The Q Fever Litigation

Where he successfully defended the Ministry of Defence in relation to claims brought by soldiers deployed to Southern Afghanistan in relation to alleged failures of risk assessment and medical chemoprophylaxis (see e.g. *Bass v MOD* [2020] EWHC 36 (QB)).

Gulf War Illness

Representing the Ministry of Defence in relation to allegations of illness sustained as a result of Gulf deployment in the 1990s.

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Group Litigation

Robert has extensive experience of group litigation, and especially in the healthcare and product liability fields. He is ranked for Product Liability in Legal 500. His current cases include:

Notable Group Litigation cases

The Grenfell Tower Litigation

Where he is instructed on behalf of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea in relation to >1000 claims brought on behalf of survivors of the fire, bereaved families and members of the emergency services.

The Hormone Pregnancy Test Litigation

(concerning foetal abnormalities and miscarriage allegedly caused by hormonal pregnancy tests taken in the 1960s and 1970s) where he is instructed by the Department of Health and Social Care as the medical regulator at the time.

The Q Fever Litigation

Where he successfully defended the Ministry of Defence in relation to claims brought by soldiers deployed to Southern Afghanistan in relation to alleged failures of risk assessment and medical chemoprophylaxis (see e.g. *Bass v MOD* [2020] EWHC 36 (QB)).

Health & Safety

Robert has an established health and safety practice, having appeared in several high profile and complex cases (Grenfell Tower, Lakanal House, Sterecycle manslaughter, Warwickshire Fire). He undertakes the full range of contentious and advisory work, representing public authorities, large conglomerates, small and medium businesses, and individual directors and employees. For example:

Notable Health & Safety cases

Grenfell Tower Fire

Instructed on behalf of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea in relation to large-scale civil litigation.

Exercise Unified Response (Howell, deceased) (2019)

Representation at inquest of power station owners following death of paramedic during 2016 disaster simulation exercise

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conducted by pan-European emergency services at Littlebrook Power Station.

R v C&R Construction (2018)

Representation of construction company at inquest and in criminal proceedings following fatal fall from height.

R v Sterecycle (Rotherham) Ltd & ors (2014)

Defending employee manager in manslaughter prosecution following fatal explosion at waste processing facility.

R v Wilson [2013] EWCA Crim 1780; [2014] 1 Cr. App. R. 10

Representing director of hotel in appeal against conviction based on defective indictment.

Lakanal House (2013)

London tower block fire causing significant loss of life; represented company responsible for window installation at 'super-inquest' into fatalities.

Warwickshire Fire (2012)

Defence of Fire and Rescue Service in prosecution for manslaughter following death of firefighters in warehouse blaze.

Memberships

- Attorney General's B Panel (2020-2025)
- Attorney General's C Panel (2015-2020)
- Judicial Assistant to Lord Judge LCJ and Lord Carnwath CVO (2010)
- Law Commission, Criminal Law Team (2008)
- Membership: HSLA, PNBA, PIBA

Publications

- APIL Clinical Negligence textbook (causation chapter)

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- APIL Personal Injury loose-leaf (causation chapter)

Recommendations



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