



Nicola Greaney KC

Year of call: 1999 | Silk: 2023

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"She's very astute and gets to the crux of even the most complicated matters." Chambers and Partners 2024

"She is intelligent, bright and brilliant with clients." Chambers and Partners 2024

Nicola is a versatile advocate with a diverse and multi-disciplinary practice encompassing clinical negligence, Court of Protection (COP), public and regulatory law, personal injury, costs and litigation funding and sports law.

She is instructed in high-value, legally and procedurally complicated cases which often have a high degree of sensitivity or novelty, and generate press and public interest.

Nicola is instructed by the NHS, central government, private health care providers, individuals, corporate bodies, regulators and other public authorities. She is frequently instructed in cases raising public and private law issues which cross-over a number of her practice areas.

Before taking silk, she served on all three Attorney General panels.

She is an experienced advocate in a variety of courts including the Court of Appeal and the High Court and has appeared before a range of regulatory tribunals.

She is experienced in group litigation, specialist group litigation costs and litigation funding.

She has an expertise in safeguarding arising from her work with vulnerable adults in the COP and in sexual abuse claims in the civil context. She sits as an arbitrator on Sports Resolution's Safeguarding Panel and has acted for governing bodies and individuals in safeguarding cases in sport.

Areas of expertise

Clinical Negligence

Personal Injury

Healthcare

Court of Protection and Medical Treatment

Civil Liberties and Human Rights

Administrative and Public

Regulatory and Disciplinary
Costs and Litigation Funding
Sport
Information and Media

Clinical Negligence

"Nicola has excellent technical knowledge and attention to detail." Chambers and Partners 2024

Nicola is experienced in high-value, sensitive and legally difficult cases including spinal injury, birth injury, brain injury and complex psychiatric injury. Nicola acts for claimants, NHS Resolution and private health care providers. She is often instructed in cases worth over £1m, involving technical evidence. She is an experienced public lawyer and is often instructed in unusual healthcare claims involving human rights issues, duty of care, illegality or complex capacity or deputyship issues. She is also experienced in costs issues in clinical negligence claims. She is known for her empathy and sensitivity to clients combined with a forensic and rigorous approach to the law and facts. She was junior counsel in *Robshaw v United Lincolnshire* [2015], a high-value cerebral palsy quantum case.

Cases of note:

- ***Numerous claimants v Ministry of Defence* [Ongoing]** - Instructed by the MoD in claims brought by hundreds of members of the armed forces who were prescribed the anti-malarial drug Lariam and claim long-term neuropsychiatric injury. Highly technical generic and individual expert evidence. The case proceeds as novel "mirrored" litigation outside court.
- ***Milner v Barchester Homes Ltd* [2022] EWHC 593** - Acted for the care home in a successful application to strike out a claim based on Article 2 in respect of the alleged failure adequately to manage a risk of choking on the basis that the high threshold in A2 was not met.
- ***Numerous claimants v Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust* [2022]** - Acting for NHS in intimate claims brought by family members of deceased victims of David Fuller who sexually abused their bodies in a hospital mortuary. Complex liability issues and instructed in respect of compensation scheme.
- ***KA v Dr AH* [2022]** - Acting for claimant in high-value claim against a GP for delay in diagnosis of a brain tumour. C was NHS employee and contentious loss of earnings claim. Settled at over £1m at mediation.
- ***Brennan & Ors v City of Bradford & Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust* [2021] 1 WLUK 429** - Acted for NHS in claims brought under Article 8 European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) (A8) by family members in a novel claim about decomposition of deceased's body in hospital mortuary. Wide press coverage.
- ***E v An NHS Trust* [2022]** - Acting for claimant in unusual consent claim following C's withdrawal of consent to an intimate examination resulting in serious psychiatric injury due to re-triggering of early childhood trauma.
- ***HS v East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust* [2021]** - Acted for the defendant. Complex causation issues; and whether the claimant would have avoided pregnancy and subsequent stroke had she been given advice about risks of pregnancy. Hybrid wrongful birth claim raising difficult legal issues. Acted for NHS. Settled at joint settlement meeting.
- ***M v Dartford and Gravesham NHS Foundation Trust* [2020]** - Acted for the defendant in high-value stroke claim, technical causation questions involving multiple experts. Exceptional weight of documents. Failed joint settlement meeting. Further negotiations led to settlement at reduced figure. Against a QC.

Recommendations

- *"She is excellent in advisory work and on her feet, and can contend with complex facts with ease."* Chambers and Partners 2023
- *"She is very straightforward and clear in addressing judges."* Chambers and Partners 2023
- *"Nicola is incredibly diplomatic."* Chambers and Partners 2023
- *"She is able to break down complicated legal problems."* Chambers and Partners 2023
- *"She is empathetic and practical to the client's needs."* Chambers and Partners 2023
- *"Nicola is very legally and technically accomplished."* Chambers and Partners 2023
- *"Nicola has very good attention to detail and gets straight to the heart of the issue."* Chambers and Partners 2023
- *"A clever and insightful lawyer able to develop and articulate complex legal issues. A silk in waiting."* The Legal 500, 2022
- *"She is very thorough, experienced and incredible at drafting."* *"She is incredibly professional with an abundance of integrity."* Chambers and Partners, 2022
- *"Very personable and bright". "She's both good with clients and articulate on paper."* Chambers and Partners, 2022
- *"She has a really good calm manner that instils trust in the panel. Doesn't take points that are too high or impossible to back up."* *"Impressive, practical and very good with clients."* Chambers and Partners, 2022
- *"Her legal knowledge is fantastic, and she has the ability to frame submissions in an intelligent, yet easy to digest manner that the court loves."* The Legal 500, 2022
- *"A clever and insightful lawyer able to develop and articulate complex legal issues. A silk in waiting."* The Legal 500, 2022
- *"A terrific junior with good judgement, who is hard-working, knows her stuff and is good at meeting deadlines."* *"She is incredibly detailed in her approach – a spreadsheet queen."* Chambers and Partners UK 2021
- *"Extremely professional and knowledgeable. She is able to give exceptional yet compassionate advice in very complex cases."* *"She puts up a good fight for her clients."* Chambers and Partners UK 2021
- *"She is personable, calm and unflappable in court."* *"She is always extremely approachable. She gives robust and clear advice."* Chambers and Partners UK 2021
- *"Extremely bright, thorough and thoughtful."* Chambers and Partners UK 2020
- *"A robust advocate who is very down to earth. She provides very sound advice."* Chambers and Partners UK 2020

Memberships

- Association of Regulatory and Disciplinary Lawyers (ARDL)
- Personal Injury Bar Association (PIBA)
- Court of Protection Bar Association (CPBA)
- Administrative Law Bar Association (ALBA)
- Professional Negligence Bar Association (PNBA)
- Liberty

Qualifications

Education

- BA (Hons) Law, New Hall, Cambridge, 1998
- Bar Finals, Inns of Court School of Law (1999)
- King Edward VI Grammar School, Chelmsford, Essex
- Ursuline High School, Brentwood, Essex

Scholarships and prizes

- Von Moltke Scholarship, Inns of Court
- Inner Temple Bursary (1998)
- Duke of Edinburgh Entrance Scholarship (1998)
- Cambridge European Studies Scholarship for Italian Studies in Italy (1998)

Additional Information

Appointments

- Committee member of Cambridge Medico-Legal Conference (2021 to date)
- Sport Resolution's National Safeguarding Panel, Legal member (2021 to date)
- Member of Bar Council Remuneration Committee (2018 to date)
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Officer, 39 Essex Chambers

Languages

- German
- French

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