

Rhiannon Frowde

Year of Call: 2022
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Overview

Rhiannon is a civil practitioner specialising in clinical negligence, personal injury, and inquests. She is regularly instructed across the fast track, intermediate track, and multi-track, and maintains a busy and balanced practice acting for both claimants and defendants.

She has particular expertise in credit hire litigation, road traffic accidents, and public and employer's liability claims. Her advocacy is consistently noted for its clarity and composure; she is adept at thinking on her feet and advancing eloquent, persuasive submissions supported by well-researched and carefully structured arguments.

Rhiannon also undertakes inquest work. She recently acted for the family in a complex clinical negligence inquest, where her calm, thorough, and sensitive approach proved well-suited to proceedings involving bereaved families, medical professionals, and public bodies.

Before commencing pupillage, Rhiannon worked as a Research Fellow and Associate at the Mason Institute for Medicine, Life Sciences and Law at the University of Edinburgh. Her work included academic research, drafting policy briefs, and contributing to the 12th edition of Mason McCall Smith's Medical Law.

Rhiannon speaks Brazilian Portuguese, having grown up in Rio de Janeiro. Outside of practice, she is a keen ice hockey player and motorbike enthusiast, and enjoys pencil drawing.

Academic qualifications

- Bar Practice Training Course (BPTC), University of Law
- Masters in Medical Law and Ethics, University of Edinburgh
- LLB Law, King's College London

Scholarships

- Dean's Excellence Scholarship, University of Law
- Winner, Scottish Inter-Varsity Great Medico-Legal Debate, University of Edinburgh

Professional bodies

- Associate, King's College London

- Member, Honourable Society of Gray's Inn

Expertise

Personal Injury

Rhiannon has a wide-ranging personal injury practice and is instructed in claims across the spectrum of complexity and value. Her advocacy experience includes trials, CCMCs, applications for pre-action disclosure, strike outs, relief from sanctions, and applications to resile. She also has experience dealing with third-party costs issues, including enforcement arising from *Tescher v Direct Accident Management Limited* [2025] EWCA Civ 733.

Her experience includes:

- Appearing in a broad range of personal injury trials, including matters involving allegations of fundamental dishonesty and applications under s.57 of the Criminal Justice Act 2015.
- Advising on liability and quantum in claims involving fractures, scarring, dental and ophthalmic trauma, PTSD, and injuries resulting in long-term or permanent impairment.
- Preparing schedules of loss in personal injury and fatal accident claims, including Ogden-based calculations, complex earnings assessments for employed and self-employed claimants, and substantial care-related losses.
- Acting in fatal accident litigation, including advising on dependency claims.
- Drafting pleadings across negligence, Highways Act claims, employers' liability, occupiers' liability, and road traffic matters.
- Advising on prospects and litigation strategy throughout the life of a claim.
- Bringing and defending a wide range of interim applications, including strike outs, applications to narrow issues, pre-action disclosure, adjournments, reinstatement of claims, relief from sanctions, and costs-related applications.
- Attending mediations and advising on settlement strategy and negotiation.

Clinical Negligence

Rhiannon is a member of the 3PB Clinical Negligence Group and acts for both claimants and defendants. She is currently being led in a fatal clinical negligence claim arising from the incorrect prescription of steroid medication, resulting in suicide.

Her recent work includes:

- Advising and representing a dental practice in a claim involving alleged negligent dental treatment, including extraction of the incorrect teeth, poorly fitted prostheses, and ongoing pain. She successfully secured a strike out of the claim.
- Drafting the particulars of claim and schedule of loss in a fatal clinical negligence matter valued in excess of £1 million.
- Advising on the formulation and strategic use of Part 35 questions to experts.
- Advising and representing a defendant general practitioner in a fatal claim concerning an alleged failure to diagnose and refer irregular heart rhythms.
- Representing a protected party in settlement discussions relating to failures in care that resulted in pressure sores.
- Advising on prospects and settlement in a claim involving a Trust's failure to remove a swallowed battery in accordance with internal protocols.
- Advising on secondary victim claims in the clinical negligence context, including the implications of *Paul v Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust* [2024] UKSC 1.

Inquests

Rhiannon is developing a strong practice in coronial law and has experience acting for families, medical professionals, and public bodies. She brings a calm, thorough, and sensitive approach to inquests and is adept at navigating complex issues of causation, procedure, and evidence.

Her experience includes:

- Attending a two-week inquest concerning a death arising from dangerous driving and joint enterprise, maintaining a detailed verbatim note to support subsequent insurance litigation.
- Representing the family in a three-day inquest into a suicide where concerns were raised about prescribed medication and dosage as potential causative factors.
- Acting for a GP practice in an inquest examining whether two general practitioners failed to diagnose and refer an irregular heart rhythm, with causation forming a central issue.
- Representing a local council in an inquest concerning the death of an epileptic patient in supported accommodation, including advising on Interested Person status.
- Delivering training to paramedics on preparing witness statements and giving evidence in coronial proceedings.
- Represented the family in a two-week Article 2 jury inquest into the death of a patient detained under section 3 of the Mental Health Act 1983, involving issues of neglect and systemic failures in care and observation.

Costs

Rhiannon has an established costs practice and is regularly instructed in CCMCs. She has experience undertaking summary assessments in interim applications not subject to fixed costs, and in cases where Part 36 indemnity costs are in issue. She has attended and argued a range of costs hearings concerning third party costs orders under CPR 46, including matters informed by the Court of Appeal's decision in *Tescher v Direct Accident Management Limited* [2025] EWCA Civ 733.