

Robin Oppenheim QC



Call: 1988

Silk: 2006

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Profile

Robin is known for cutting edge work in clinical negligence and product liability and is listed as a leading silk (band 1) in the major directories in both fields. In Chambers and Partners 2020 he is described as *"A go-to barrister for extremely high-value and complex claims", "hugely intelligent and sharp as a razor", "His work rate and ability to get through unbelievable amounts of hugely complex material is just fantastic and his ability to marshal that information and understand it so clearly is very impressive. His technical grasp of the issues is second to none and he is also very approachable."* In Legal 500 2020 he is described as *"Technically very strong and has a phenomenal work rate"* and *"A first-rate barrister who is meticulous, thorough and exceedingly well-prepared."*

In the field of product liability, he has been involved in many of the major group action product liability claims both as a leader and as a junior. These include Metal on Metal hip implant litigation and PIP breast implant litigation among many others.

Education

BA Hons Politics and Modern History, First Class, University of Manchester,

Diploma in Law University of Westminster

AvMA Award for Outstanding Contribution to Patient Safety and Justice 2012

Related practice areas

Clinical Negligence, Personal Injury & Product Liability

Clinical Negligence and Personal Injury

Robin led for a number of the claimants in the landmark Thompstone ASHE 6115 indexation litigation both at first instance and on appeal [2007] EWHC 1441; [2008] EWCA Civ 5; [2008] EWHC 2948) and was previously involved in landmark quantum cases such as Heil –v- Rankin (general damages) [2001] QB 272 and Warren v Northern General Hospital NHS Trust (discount rate) ([2000] 1 WLR 1404). He was successful in a ground breaking appeal on the way causation is determined in third party referral cases (Wright v Cambridge Medical Group [2011] EWCA Civ 669).

The focus of Robin's practice in the field of clinical negligence developed over 30 years of practice is high value catastrophic brain and spinal injury for children and adults with a particular focus on complex antenatal, obstetric, neonatal, paediatric and spinal claims. He has also developed an expertise in meningitis and meningococcal disease litigation. He regularly acts in wrongful birth cases and undertakes catastrophic injury PI claims.

Robin has been involved in a significant number of highly complex liability claims and quantum claims of maximum severity in the field of clinical negligence claims over the last year, with many millions pounds of damages secured for claimants. His current case mix includes numerous cerebral palsy cases, adult and child meningitis/sepsis cases, spinal injury and wrongful birth claims, and foreign jurisdiction damages claims.

He writes for the damages section in the APIL Personal Injury Law, Practice and Precedents and Personal Injury Manual, Jordans. He writes periodically for journals and gives seminars on current topics in clinical negligence work. He sits as a tribunal judge for the First-Tier Tribunal responsible for criminal injuries compensation.

Product Liability and Group Actions

Robin has been involved in many of the major group action product liability claims over the years as a leader and junior: Pinnacle Metal on Metal Litigation ([2018] EWHC 1208 (QB)),

PIP Breast Implant litigation, ASR hip litigation, second wave Thalidomide litigation, Fetal Anti-Convulsant litigation, Haemophilia litigation, Northwick Park litigation, Dopamine Agonist Litigation, MMR II, Alder Hey and Nationwide Organ Retention Litigation and the Oral Contraceptive Pill Litigation among others.

Solicitors' Negligence and Professional Liability

Robin undertakes professional negligence claim arising out of personal injury and clinical negligence claims.

Mental Health and Court of Protection

Robin has developed a specialism in clinical negligence claims relating to psychiatric care. He has successfully brought claims for a schizophrenic patient who attempted suicide in the course of a psychotic episode resulting in paraplegia, a claimant who from a hanging incident in hospital suffered severe brain injury and for family members who witnessed the killing of their father by a psychiatric patient.