

## Karen Smoult-Hawtree

Barrister

### Overview

**Prior to coming to the Bar Karen worked at Board level in the Publishing Industry in the 1980's and 90's. Between 1993 and 1999 she was Chairman of a £30 million NHS Trust. In 2001 she was appointed to Chair an Independent Statutory Inquiry and publish its findings into the care given by Health and Social Services to a mentally ill woman following her conviction for the manslaughter of her 6 year old son.**

Karen practices exclusively in the area of Personal Injury law for both Claimant and Defendant in the County Court and High Court. She is happy to take instructions on all level of Fast Track and Multi Track cases and appeals. She has regularly taken instructions in high value cases where damages have exceeded £1,000,000.

In 2010 she was Junior Counsel in a catastrophic brain injury case where damages of £4.2 million were recovered.

In 2014/2015 she was Junior Counsel in a particularly complex amputee/chronic pain syndrome case where damages in excess of £1million were recovered.

In 2015/16 she is Junior Counsel in a complex catastrophic brain injury case which is expected to come to trial in 2016.

Karen has regularly represented Claimant or Defendant in high value Joint Settlement Meetings where damages have been agreed in excess of £1million. She has a particular interest in Special damage Schedules.

Karen also has experience in the full range of costs issues relating to personal injury litigation; she has a particular interest in cost budgeting where she regularly advises and attends court on Costs Case Management Conferences.



Year Of Call:

**2000**

### Practice Areas

[Court of Protection and Mental Health](#)

[Motor Insurance Fraud](#)

[Personal Injury and Clinical Negligence](#)

Karen's areas of practice include the following:

- Catastrophic Injury
- Fatal Accidents
- Industrial Accidents
- Industrial Disease
- Employer's Liability
- Occupier's Liability
- Product Liability
- RTA
- Highway Claims
- Costs

## **Notable Cases**

Fatal Accidents

Serious Brain Injury

Serious Spinal injuries

Amputees

Occupational Disease