

DR MEGAN SMITH  
LLB, MBBS, FRCA  
Barrister  
Consultant Anaesthetist

# Medical Expert Witness



# **Dr Megan Smith LL.B, Barrister, MBBS, FRCA**

**Uniquely qualified to provide medicolegal expertise**

## **About**

Dr Megan Smith is a Consultant Anaesthetist at the Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust, one of the UK's leading major teaching hospitals.

She qualified as a doctor in 2003 and began her career in anaesthesia in 2006. She has been a consultant anaesthetist since 2015. She specialises in adult and paediatric anaesthesia with a particular focus on orthopaedic anaesthesia, anaesthesia for plastic surgery, anaesthesia for emergency surgery and anaesthesia for robotic surgery. Her area of specialist interest is ultrasound guided regional anaesthesia which forms a major part of her practice.

## **Areas of expertise**

- General anaesthesia for major adult surgery
- Regional anaesthesia (peripheral nerve blockade including the use of peripheral nerve catheters)
- Orthopaedic anaesthesia
- Neuraxial anaesthesia for adults (spinal, epidural, combined spinal and epidural)
- Anaesthesia for plastic surgery
- Anaesthesia in trauma patients
- Airway management and problems with airway management (including dental damage)
- Acute pain management
- Care of the acutely unwell adult surgical patient
- Awareness under anaesthesia
- Allergy and anaphylaxis
- Intra-operative care, including patient positioning
- Law and practice relating to anaesthetic consent

- Invasive monitoring, including arterial line insertion and central venous cannulation

## **Legal and medicolegal expertise**

Prior to studying medicine, Dr Smith was a practising barrister. She sat her LL.B examinations in 1993 for which she was awarded First Class Honours.

She attended the Inns of Court School of Law in London between 1993 and 1994 where she completed her Bar examinations. She was called to the Bar of England and Wales as a barrister-at-law in October 1994.

Dr Smith has been awarded a number of scholarships and prizes by The Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn for both her pre-pupillage and pupillage years. These include the Thomas More, Hardwicke and Shelford Scholarships. She also received numerous subject prizes for her performance in her undergraduate degree (including for Medical Law and Ethics) as well as prizes for overall excellence in Part I and Part III examinations.

Dr Smith practised as a barrister specialising in professional negligence, property, contract, commercial, landlord and tenant and insolvency law. She acted for plaintiffs and defendants and appeared regularly in the County Court and High Court. She is highly skilled in relation to the following:

- Rapid, forensic analysis and assimilation of complex subject matter;
- Public speaking and thinking quickly on her feet, particularly in court;
- Assessment of likely examination and cross examination subject matter;

- Clear, accurate written presentation including the drafting of witness statements, affidavits, legal opinions and pleadings, as well as investigation reports;
- Time management: prioritisation of tasks, working under pressure of time and working to strict deadlines;
- Client communication and management and conduct of client consultations; and
- The conduct of formal negotiations on behalf of clients.

Dr Smith has acted for both plaintiffs and defendants in clinical negligence proceedings (approximately an 80:20 ratio). She retains a keen interest in medical law and is a member of the Medicolegal Society. She is a member of the Royal Free Hospital's Serious Incident Review Panel and has conducted investigations into serious incidents that have occurred within the Trust.

## **Professional activities**

Consultant Anaesthetist, Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust

Lead anaesthetist in regional anaesthesia, Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust

Audit lead for anaesthesia, Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust

Member of the Royal Free's Serious Incident Review Panel

Recognised educator of the Royal College of Anaesthetists

Member of the Safe Anaesthesia Liaison Group, Royal College of Anaesthetists

Member of the British Association of Orthopaedic Anaesthetists and speaker at their annual scientific congress on medicolegal topics (negligence and criminal negligence)

Member of the Royal Free's Perioperative Anaesthesia Quality and Improvement Group

Instructor on the Royal Free's Regional Anaesthesia course

Lecturer on the Central School of Anaesthesia's trainee course on the use of ultrasound and regional anaesthesia

## **Professional bodies and associations**

Dr Smith has full GMC registration and is on the specialist register (GMC number 6079996). She is a Fellow of the Royal College of Anaesthetists and is also a member/associate member of the following professional bodies:

Expert Witness Institute

National Expert Witness Association

Association of Personal Injury Lawyers

Medical and Dental Defence Union of Scotland

The Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn

Medicolegal Society

Royal College of Anaesthetists

European Society of Regional Anaesthesia

Regional Anaesthesia UK

Difficult Airway Society

British Association of Orthopaedic Anaesthetists

Royal Society of Medicine

## **Publications**

*Navigating a potential minefield: a legal and practical guide to mobile medical application ("app") development in the United Kingdom and Europe.*

Journal of Mobile Technology in Medicine 5:1:52–61, 2016. Smith ME.

*Redesigning incident reporting systems in the post-Mid-Staffordshire era.* British Journal of Hospital Medicine 76(9):510-515, 2015. Smith ME.

*Acute, severe hypoglycemia occurring during general anesthesia in a nondiabetic adult.* Anesth Analg. 2007 Aug;105(2):553-4. Ackland GL, Smith M, McGlennan AP.

*Handbook of mechanical ventilation: a user's guide.* Montgomery H, Camporota L, Dlouhy P (eds). The Intensive Care Foundation 2015. Contributing author of chapters on mechanical ventilators and ventilatory modes.

## Contact details

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