

Curriculum Vitae of Julie Hardless

Overview

Julie has worked as a forensic accountant, specialising in personal injury and clinical negligence work, for over 23 years, acting as an expert witness and as an advisor.

Julie qualified as a Chartered Accountant in 1988, joining Grant Thornton in 1985. She worked for four years in the Business Service Department auditing a variety of clients including owner managed businesses, public companies and charities, preparing accounts for smaller limited companies, sole proprietors and partnerships. She had a seven month secondment in the Tax Department.

Julie has specialised in Forensic and Litigation Support work at Grant Thornton, primarily personal injury, clinical negligence and industrial diseases, since 1990 and has acted in many hundreds of cases. She headed up the Personal Injury Department in the North East from 2006.

After 28 years with Grant Thornton, Julie joined Longworth Forensic Accounting Limited as a consultant on 1 January 2014, to provide a niche offering of forensic accounting services in personal injury, clinical negligence and industrial disease cases.

She is regularly instructed as an expert witness acting for Claimants, Defendants or as a single joint expert, quantifying loss of earnings, pensions and loss of value of businesses. She is frequently instructed as an advisor to quantify losses or individual heads of loss for inclusion in the Schedule of Loss or Counter Schedule.

Julie has also worked on a number of Miscarriage of Justice cases and catastrophic injury cases where consideration of periodical payments versus lump sums was required.

She has a particular interest in complex loss of pension claims.

Julie has an extensive working knowledge of the legal process and is experienced in attending Conferences with Counsel and meetings of experts to discuss and prepare statements of agreed/disagreed issues.

She regularly lectures on issues relating to personal injury/ clinical negligence forensic accountancy matters.

Professional Qualifications

FCA	Institute of Chartered Accountants in England & Wales
BA (Hons)	Leeds University

Career history

January 2014 to present	Consultant - Longworth Forensic Accounting Limited
1990 to 2013	Grant Thornton UK LLP – Forensic department (personal injury/clinical negligence), being promoted to Associate Director in 1998 and head of personal injury in the North East in 2006
1985 to 1990	Grant Thornton UK LLP in Business Services team and tax team, qualifying as a chartered accountant in 1988.

Key areas of forensic expertise

- Loss of earnings claims arising from personal injury, clinical negligence and industrial disease claims for employed and self-employed.
- Calculation of complex loss of pension claims
- High value catastrophic claims
- Fatal accident and "lost years" claims
- Loss of value of a business through premature sale or closure arising from an accident, death or clinical negligence.
- Consideration of periodical payments versus lump sum settlements.
- Loss of earnings and pension in Miscarriage of Justice claims

Recent personal injury cases have included:

- Acting for the Claimant, the managing director and major shareholder of a business, who had died from mesothelioma. The case involved considering the past performance of the business and the business plans for the future expansion and calculating the loss of earnings he suffered up to the date of death and his expected earnings from the business, but for his premature death, together with expected sales proceeds from the sale of the business at retirement and expected pension benefits.
- Acting for the Defendants by considering the claim put forward by a businessman who had been injured in an accident. This involved commenting on the reasonableness of the claim in relation to the past performance of the business and the assumptions adopted in the calculations of the claim to assist in negotiations. By challenging the basis of the claim and the assumptions adopted, I provided alternate calculations of the claim and the claim was settled for a much reduced amount.
- Acting for the Claimant who had been diagnosed with mesothelioma. He was a successful businessman who was buying derelict public houses and redeveloping the sites. The case involved calculating the earnings he would have had from future developments in a lost years claim, working with an expert Chartered Surveyor.
- Acting for the Defendant in a fatal accident claim by considering the claim for loss of dependency on earnings from public sector employment and pension benefits. Both expected earnings and pension benefits of the husband and wife had to be considered, including the impending changes to public sector pension schemes. By considering the claim and disclosed documents I was able to highlight the inconsistencies in the numerous heads of claim and calculate the extent of the overstated claim, assisting in the claim settling for a reduced amount.
- Acting for the Claimant, an American citizen working for the US Government in the UK, to calculate her loss of earnings following clinical negligence. The case involved calculating US Federal and State taxes.
- Acting for the Defendants by considering the complex claim for loss of pension benefits for a professional footballer, whose career had prematurely ended as a result of clinical negligence. Alternate calculations were provided to assist in negotiations.
- Acting for various Claimant solicitors in a number of varied cases in the capacity of advisor, calculating the claim for loss of earnings and/or loss of pension in a schedule for inclusion in the main schedule of loss. Instructing solicitors find this to be a cost effective way of calculating quantum, ensuring the benefits of a forensic accountant are brought to the case, where otherwise an expert witness forensic accountant is not required.

Contact Details

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