



Dr Victoria McCloud

Specialist areas: clinical negligence, personal injury & professional negligence

Victoria is a barrister, mediator, chartered psychologist and former judge. A trans woman, she was the youngest High Court Master when appointed in 2006 as a deputy and then as a full judge in 2010. She retired from the bench in April 2024.

McCloud graduated from Christ Church, Oxford in 1990 with a degree in Experimental Psychology and obtained a doctorate in 1993 in human visual system science. A year later, she completed a law conversion course and was called to the bar in 1995 practising at Coram Chambers. McCloud was the first trans person and second Master using she/her pronouns. From 2006 McCloud was a Deputy Costs Judge / Taxing Master, then appointed a Queens Bench Master in June 2010. She was re-appointed as a Costs Judge/Taxing Master in 2017.

With decades of legal experience, Master McCloud brings invaluable expertise in mediation, expert determinations, and early neutral evaluations, with a special focus on costs disputes and related alternative dispute resolution (ADR) matters.

Her illustrious career spans various roles within the legal landscape. Her tenure as Master of the Queen's Bench Division, from 2010 to 2024 showcased her exceptional skills in adjudicating complex matters and her judgments covered many high profile cases. Her role as a costs judge honed her proficiency in resolving cost disputes effectively.

Recognised for her contributions to legal practice, Master McCloud played a pivotal role in shaping the legal framework. Her dedication to promoting alternative dispute resolution mechanisms extends beyond her courtroom endeavours, as evidenced by her involvement in various judicial committees and publications. In 2016 McCloud began consulting with professionals working in the historic abuse field, hoping to improve the experience of justice for victims as well as for defendants and insurers, founding the Historic Abuse Lawyers' forum (HALF) to look at the possibility of alternative approaches to trial and resolution. In her final judgement as Master in *Elpicke v Times Media Ltd* [2024] EWHC Civ 2595 (KBD) she said "The parties must engage in ADR..... Good reason will need to be shown if the form of that dispute resolution is at any less engaged than mediation via Costs lawyers".