



Imogen Goold

Barrister; Evaluator

Specialist areas: clinical negligence, police, inquests, court of protection

Imogen Goold is a barrister at Serjeants Inn Chambers, Professor of Medical Law at the University of Oxford and a Fellow of St Anne's College, Oxford.

Imogen studied Law and Modern History at the University of Tasmania, Australia, receiving her PhD in 2005. Her doctoral research explored the use of property law to regulate human body parts. She also received a Masters degree in Bioethics from the University of Monash in 2005. From 1999, she was a research member of the Centre for Law and Genetics, where she published on surrogacy laws, legal constraints on access to infertility treatments and proprietary rights in human tissue. In 2002, she took up as position as a Legal Officer at the Australian Law Reform Commission, working on the inquiries into Genetic Information Privacy and Gene Patenting. After leaving the ALRC in 2004, she worked briefly at the World Health Organisation, researching the provision of genetic medical services in developing countries. She is now examining the impact of moral arguments on the regulation of IVF and also writing a book based on her work on body part ownership.

Imogen's research has been cited by the American Society for Reproductive Medicine, the European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology Taskforce on Ethics and Law, and the Dutch Association for Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Opinions

Well used to providing academic and expert opinions as well as legal opinions as a barrister, Imogen's academic work has been cited in the UK Supreme Court in **Paul and another v Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust; Polmear v Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust; Purchase v Ahmed** [2024] UKSC 1 and in the High Court of Australia in *Kozarov v Victoria* [2022] HCA 12.

Inquests

Imogen has appeared on behalf of a range of Interested Persons, including families and NHS Trusts in pre-inquest review hearings and inquests. She acted for the family in inquest into the death of Malika Hibu, in which the Coroner made two Prevention of Future Death Reports against Islington Borough Council and Peabody Housing Association respectively.

Police

Imogen has gained experience in wide range of police orders, and is regularly instructed by police forces in civil applications under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002, the Sexual Offences Act 2003 and the Stalking Protection Act 2019. She has appeared in multiple applications in the Magistrates' Court. She also successfully represented Thames Valley Police at a contested s298 Proceeds of Crime Act appeal in Reading Crown Court.

Clinical Negligence

Imogen has acted for both claimants and defendants in a variety of claims. She has appeared in costs and case management conferences, conferences with experts, pre-trial reviews and approval hearings.

Court of Protection

Imogen specialises particularly on issues concerning mental capacity, best interests and mental health law. She recently acted for the family pro bono in a case involving an adult child lacking capacity and contested care arrangements.

Other Experience

As well as practising, Imogen is also Professor of Medical Law at the University of Oxford, where she has held an academic position since 2009. She is also a Fellow and Tutor of St Anne's College, and a Member of the British Medical Association Medical Ethics Committee. She has previously advised the Ethics and Law Advisory Committee of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health.

She was an associate editor of the Journal of Medical Ethics from 2010 to 2013.

Seminars, lectures and other speaking engagements

Imogen is regularly invited to give talks to medical professionals working in paediatrics, including the John Radcliffe Hospital, Leeds Teaching Hospital, Helen and Douglas House, and the Association for Paediatric Palliative Medicine.

She is also often consulted by the media as an expert. Recently, for example, she:

- Appeared as a guest on the BBC's Briefing Room, talking about euthanasia (2024) – available [here](#)
- Was interviewed by the Times on her work on oocyte freezing (2024)
- Was interviewed by the BBC World Service on the Scottish assisted dying bill (2024)
- Was a guest on BBC Radio 4's Women's Hour (2022) – available [here](#)
- Was interviewed for a feature on Social Egg Freezing, Boots Magazine February 2021
- Organised and ran the MyBody, MyLife travelling exhibition, (2017) – available
- Was interviewed by BBC: Digital Tracking Medicine, (14 November 2017) (broadcast on the World Service and Radio 4)

Memberships & Appointments

- Member, Working Group of Royal College of Paediatric and Child Health on second opinions in decision-making for ill children (2021)
- Invited Advisor to Ethics and Law Committee, Royal College of Paediatric and Child Health on their response to the proposed 'Charlie's Law' on decision-making for ill children (2020)

Qualifications

- 2005: PhD (Law), (Dean's commendation award for an outstanding doctoral thesis), University of Tasmania
- 2005: MA (Bioethics), Distinction, Monash University
- 1992–1998: LLB, BA (Comb) (Modern History), First Class honours (Modern History) University of Tasmania

PRIZES, SCHOLARSHIPS & Awards

- British Academy/Leverhulme Grant, A Legal and Historical Analysis of the Action for Psychiatric Injury in English Law (1880–2020) (2019)
- Dean's Commendation Award for an Outstanding Doctoral Thesis, University of Tasmania, 2006
- Wellcome Trust Prize Studentship in Biomedical Ethics, Wellcome Trust, 2004

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February 2025