

Article Summaries

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Professional Negligence in 2022: The Year in Review

Emily Gordon

This article looks back on 2022 and considers a selection of interesting cases and issues arising in the field of torts. The areas under consideration are vicarious liability, duties to confer a benefit, pure psychiatric harm and the defence of illegality. This article suggests that the courts have proceeded with notable caution this year, focusing heavily on existing case law and the boundaries apparently set there – perhaps, at times, to excess.

Time to Start *De Novo*: The *Paul*, *Purchase* and *Polmear* litigation and the temporal gap problem in secondary victim claims for psychiatric injury

Imogen Goold and Catherine Kelly

The English law on recovery for psychiatric injuries suffered by those who witness harm to others ('secondary victims') is an area replete with illogical distinctions and unsubstantiated policy concerns, marked by an outmoded understanding of trauma-induced mental illness. Calls for a legislative response have been made for nearly forty years, yet none has been forthcoming. The *Paul*, *Purchase* and *Polmear* appeals have brought these flaws to light once more. We argue for a fundamental re-thinking of the law's current approach.