

Gemma Ralph

Year of Call: 2016
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Overview

Gemma Ralph is a civil barrister, specialising in clinical negligence, personal injury, commercial and property disputes and public law. Gemma acts for both Claimants and Defendants and combines meticulous advisory work with robust advocacy. She is listed as a Leading Junior in Clinical Negligence in Legal 500 2027.

Frequently instructed in high-value, complex clinical negligence and personal injury cases, Gemma is experienced with claims across all medical specialties, including brain injuries, spinal injuries, amputation, chronic pain, fatal accidents, optical, hearing loss, obstetric and gynaecological cases.

Gemma has also appeared in the County and High Courts on commercial and property matters, including freezing orders, breach of contract, rental arrears and possession and forfeiture of property. Before coming to the Bar, she worked as Business Manager to the CEO of Coutts Bank, and has a particular interest in high-value, cross-border matters.

Gemma has expertise in public law and public international law. She spent the first part of her career as a British Diplomat, serving both overseas and as Legal Researcher at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), where her work spanned the gamut of UK foreign policy. She recently represented the Secretary of State for the Home Office in the Upper Tribunal (Immigration and Asylum Chamber) Country Guidance case **LR (Male VOTs) (CG)** [2026] UKUT 00315 (IAC) concerning Albanian trafficked boys and men, led by William Hansen.

Gemma speaks English and Spanish.

Personal Injury

Gemma Ralph is frequently instructed in high-value, complex personal injury cases for both Claimants and Defendants. Gemma has experience of a broad spectrum of cases, including:

- Animals Act claims
- Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA) claims and CICA appeals
- Cross-border/international accidents including Athens Convention
- Employers' liability
- Fatal accident claims
- Fraud/fundamental dishonesty
- Highways Act claims
- Noise induced hearing loss and disease claims

- Occupiers' liability
- Product liability
- Public liability
- RTA litigation including all aspects of credit hire and fundamental dishonesty
- Trips and slips
- Secondary victim cases
- Sexual offences and abuse claims
- Sports claims

Gemma has a particular interest in international claims and has been instructed on both accidents abroad and accidents in the UK involving international parties and is asked to advise on cases in Jersey.

Gemma is adept at handling sensitive procedural and factual matters. She has advised the Secretary of State for Justice on cases including a discrimination claim by a transgender prisoner and an historical sexual abuse claim with an international dimension. Gemma also appeared for a high street retailer defending a product liability claim against a Claimant who had a general civil restraint order issued by the Royal Courts of Justice to stop them from bringing certain cases to court.

Examples of recent cases include:

- **J v R** - Acting as junior counsel, led by senior counsel, for Claimant who suffered serious spinal injury following fall from indoor play equipment at trampoline and adventure park.
- **E v I** - Advised Claimant who suffered unstable fracture to back resulting in chronic pain, kyphosis, foot drop and risk of syringomyelia. Drafted particulars of claim and schedule of damages and advised on quantum, including provisional damages. Advised on applicability of Athens Convention.
- **G v C (Admiralty Court)** - Advised on liability, quantum and offers and drafted particulars of claim for a Claimant with limited mobility who was knocked to the floor whilst using rollator on a cruise ship in Spanish waters. Advised on applicability of Athens Convention.
- **B v H** - Advised family on quantum in fatal accident claim where the Deceased, a pedestrian, suffered life-changing injuries including amputation of leg and ultimately died of covid-19 after being struck by a speeding car.
- **S v MOJ** - Advised Claimant, a female prisoner, in claim for unlawful use of force by a prison officer, leading to injuries requiring popliteal artery bypass and including foot drop with long term risk of leg amputation.
- **F v M** - Advised Claimant on quantum and offers in relation to a claim for polytrauma injuries sustained in a severe RTA.
- **D v A** - Represented Claimant who suffered severe physical and psychological injuries following RTA with international lorry.
- **B v M** - Represented Claimant who suffered permanent tinnitus, symptoms of deafness and PTSD following RTA.
- **H v M** - Represented Defendant including drafting Part 35 questions to an Expert about a diagnosis of tinnitus.
- **V v a Police Commissioner** - Instructed by Claimant, a pedestrian, who was struck by a car following a collision between a car and a police car. Drafted particulars of claim and schedule of damages.
- **B v a Government Department** - Advised Claimant on quantum having been struck in eye by part of an airbag deployed during training at a fire station.
- **W v Y and Y** - Instructed by Claimant in civil claim following criminal proceedings for serious assault.
- **L v an Insurance Company** - Represented Defendant at trial, succeeded in striking out the Claimant's claim valued in excess of £30,000.00 due to late service of expert evidence and medical records.
- **L v a Tennis Club** - Advised Claimant on liability and evidence following slip during tennis tournament.
- **M v Lawn Tennis Association** - Advised Claimant following slip during tennis tournament.
- **M v a Water Sports Provider** - Advised Claimant on liability and merits in personal injury claim for negligent water sports

(paddleboard) instruction.

- **K v M** - Advised Claimant about liability and merits in personal injury claim for negligent hairdressing leading to burnt scalp and loss of hair.

Fraudulent Insurance Claims

Gemma Ralph represents Claimants and Defendants at trials involving allegations of fraud and fundamental dishonesty. She is thorough and robust in cross examination.

Examples of recent cases include:

- **M v L** - Represented Claimant. Secured award for whiplash. Successfully defended against a finding of fundamental dishonesty, the pleading of which was based on social media intelligence of extreme sports during prognosis period.
- **L v C** - Represented Defendant. Secured finding of fundamental dishonesty and an enforceable costs order against a professional person.
- **R v A** - Represented Defendant. Successfully defended a £20,000.00 claim for tinnitus.
- **C&C v K** - Represented Defendant. Following trial, successfully applied to re-allocate multi-track case of multiple Claimants to the fast-track, significantly limiting costs.
- **S v a Holiday Company** - Advised Claimant on quantum and offers in relation to a claim for severe damage to front teeth requiring future treatment for life.

Articles

Gemma Ralph looks at The Court of Appeal decision in R (Peiris) v First-tier Tribunal, CICA & Secretary of State for Justice [2023] EWCA Civ 1527, an Article 14 ECHR discrimination claim.

View Article

Recommendations

"Gemma is a rising star. She regularly "bats above her call" in complex and high-value clinical negligence claims. She understands the needs of instructing solicitors well and is always on hand to provide invaluable advice when needed. Gemma is a fantastic advocate and has an excellent understanding of complex medical issues that often arise in clinical negligence claims. She has exceptional legal and procedural knowledge that she deploys to benefit her clients."

"Gemma Ralph has detailed knowledge of liability and quantum issues, and offers realistic, commercially informed advice."

Legal 500 2027/Clinical Negligence/Western Circuit

Gemma Ralph is adept at acting for defendants and claimants in a wide range of clinical negligence matters, including delayed or missed diagnoses and negligent treatment.
'A steadfast junior who is analytical and precise.'
Legal 500 2026/Clinical Negligence/Leading Juniors/Western Circuit

Academic qualifications

- MA (Oxon) Jurisprudence (Law), University of Oxford
- BPTC The University of Law

Scholarships

- Astbury Scholar, Major Award, Middle Temple
- Winner, Middle Temple Young Barristers Association Moot (2017)

Professional bodies

- Personal Injury Bar Association
- The Honourable Society of the Middle Temple
- Western Circuit