

Gemma White

Year of Call: 2009

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Sports

Gemma has a developing practice in this niche area. She holds a Masters Degree with Distinction in Sports Law and Practice at De Montfort University, and is a member of the British Association of Sport and the Law. She therefore has a broad and deep understanding of sports regulation and ethical matters such as anti-doping. Gemma is regularly invited to contribute articles on sporting matters for LawinSport.

She has particular experience in disciplinary matters and has advised governing bodies; she has advised a local FA on diverse Equality Act matters, including ethics, safeguarding and transgender policy.

She has experience of anti-doping and has appeared before the UK national anti-doping Tribunal; she acted pro bono on behalf of an athlete in the first contested anti-doping case under the revised UK anti-doping rules from the 2015 WADA Code, a case which brought up interesting technical arguments relating to the retrospective applicability of the rules. More recently Gemma has advised in a case brought by the International Athletics Association

Gemma has appeared before the FA Disciplinary tribunal representing both player and club in relation to allegations of racist conduct; following a contested hearing both the sportsman and club were cleared of all alleged charges. She has also appeared before the Safeguarding Review Appeal Panel of the FA representing a young coach who was accused of purchasing alcohol for her players.

Gemma has acted on behalf of Football Law Associates in representing a young football fan accused of encroachment during a high profile game and successfully resisted an application for a banning order that would have prevented the young fan from attending any national or international matches.

Gemma has sat on the Appeal Tribunal for British Gymnastics and was a member of the Panel that heard the appeal against sanction by the Olympic Gymnast Louis Smith in 2016.

Gemma was recently instructed to represent a rugby club in the first disciplinary case brought by the RFU in respect of financial reporting regulations.

Gemma is keen to continue to develop her practice in all areas of sports law and accepts instructions across the board in regulatory and commercial cases.

Articles

The Best of intentions: what Best v. BHA has taught us about appearance of bias & sufficiency of reasons by Gemma White

[View Article](#)

Recommendations

'Gemma is highly intelligent, exceptionally diligent in preparation and has an effective laconic style of advocacy.'

Legal 500 2026/Crime (General and Fraud)/ Leading Juniors/ Western Circuit

Gemma White – 3PB 'Gemma is extremely hard-working. Her case presentation skills are second-to-none, and she is a stand-out cross-examiner who has a particular ability to gently undermine the evidence of any witness in a case without appearing overbearing.'

Legal 500 2025/Crime (General and Fraud)/ Leading Juniors/ Western Circuit

'particular strength lies in the cross-examination of young or vulnerable witnesses'

'Whether prosecuting or defending, she is particularly adept at dealing with cases of the utmost sensitivity. She is always on top of her brief and combines intellect with a common sense approach.'

Legal 500 2024/Crime (General and Fraud)/ Leading Juniors/ Western Circuit

'Gemma is determined, focused, committed, always fully prepared and highly professional. She is an assured and proficient advocate, confident in court with all judges.'

Legal 500 2023/Crime (General and Fraud)/Leading Juniors/Western Circuit

Academic qualifications

- LLB Law with French (Hons) 2.1 – University of the West of England, Bristol
- Certificate in European Political Studies – Université de Robert Schuman, Strasbourg
- Bar Vocational Course (Very Competent) BPP Holborn
- LLM Sports Law and Practice (Distinction) – De Montfort University Leicester

Professional qualifications & appointments

- Grade 4 Prosecutor
- Rape and Serious Sexual Offences Specialist
- Deputy District Judge (Magistrates Court) 2021
- Fee-Paid Judge of the Mental Health Tribunal 2023
- Recorder (Crime) 2023
- Treasury Counsel Monitoree 2024

Professional bodies

- Criminal Bar Association
- Western Circuit
- Inn: Inner Temple