



Gemma Ralph

Year of Call: 2016

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Overview

Gemma enjoys a varied civil practice, spanning Clinical Negligence, Personal Injury, Public and Regulatory and Commercial law. She has a busy advocacy and advisory practice, representing Claimants and Defendants.

Before coming to the Bar, Gemma spent ten years as a British Diplomat, serving both overseas and as the Legal Researcher in the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO).

Gemma also spent two years working as the Business Manager to the CEO of Coutts Bank. Given her background, Gemma has a particular interest in claims with an international dimension and is happy to travel on instruction. Gemma speaks Spanish.

Clinical Negligence

Gemma acts for Claimants and Defendants.

Examples of recent cases include:

- **H v an NHS Trust** - Advised family in relation to a claim where Deceased who had a brain tumour suffered acute hydrocephalus and a mid-line shift following dislodgment of an external ventricular drain (EVD).
- **W v a University Health Board and an NHS Trust** - Advised Claimant and drafted Particulars of Claim in relation to a claim for negligent delay in revascularisation, leading to an above the knee amputation and reduced life expectancy.
- **V v GPs** - Advised Claimant and drafted Particulars of Claim in relation to a claim for negligent treatment of an above the knee amputation resulting in inability to use prosthetics and inability to work.
- **P v a Private Health Provider** - Advised Claimant on expert evidence and quantum in relation to a claim for negligent arthroscopy leading to damage to the popliteal artery with long term risk of leg amputation.
- **N v an NHS Trust** - Advised Claimant in relation to a claim for negligent knee surgery resulting in a knee replacement.
- **H v a GP and an NHS Trust** - Advised Claimant in relation to a claim for negligent treatment leading to a deep abscess and infection in spine. Advised on evidence, quantum, drafted schedule including pension claim.
- **F v an NHS Trust** - Advised Claimant on expert evidence and quantum in relation to a claim for negligent gynaecological surgery leading to artery damage and significant psychological injury.
- **S v an NHS Trust** - Advised family in relation to a claim where the Deceased sustained urological damage and a small bowel injury whilst undergoing a bilateral salpingo-ooperectomy and total abdominal hysterectomy and developed post-operative sepsis.
- **S-W v a University Health Board** - Advised Defendant on liability, merits, quantum and offers and drafted the Letter of Response in relation to a claim for failure to appreciate aberrant biliary anatomy during a laparoscopic cholecystectomy

and incorrect treatment as a result.

- **C v an NHS Trust** - Advised Claimant on quantum in relation to a claim for negligent appendicectomy leading to peritonitis.
- **C v a GP and an NHS Trust** - Advised Claimant on merits, expert evidence and limitation in relation to a claim for complications following insertion of tension free vaginal tape (TVT).
- **D v an NHS Trust** - Advised Claimant on quantum and tactics in relation to a claim for infertility and fertility treatment, including in vitro fertilisation (IVF) following delay in diagnosis of a sexually transmitted infection (STI).
- **P v an NHS Trust** - Advised Claimant on liability, merits, quantum and further questions to an Expert and drafted Particulars of Claim in relation to a claim for the erroneous penetration of screws into the elbow joint and damage to the median nerve during an operation.
- **V v an NHS Trust** - Advised Claimant following mistaken debridement of tendon requiring reconstruction sacrificing two hamstring tendons.
- **B v an NHS Trust** - Advised Claimant on merits and on expert evidence in relation to a claim for myocardial infarction (heart attack) following treatment.
- **L&S v V** - Advised Claimants on enforcement of judgments in international jurisdictions for negligent cosmetic surgery.
- **Z v a Government Department** - Advised Claimant on quantum for failure to diagnose an orbital tumour to the eye requiring unnecessary surgery and resulting in ptosis.
- **D v a University Health Board** - Advised Defendant on liability, merits and drafted the Letter of Response and further questions to an Expert in relation to a claim for failure to diagnose and treat retinal vein occlusion.
- **S v a Local Health Board** - Advised Defendant on liability, merits, quantum and offers and drafted the Letter of Response in relation to a claim for failure to order an MRI scan where Claimant alleged they would not have undergone a knee arthroscopy had an MRI been ordered and were not advised of options (consent).
- **W v a University Health Board** - Advised Defendant on merits and quantum of secondary victim claim for parents of neonate who died following negligent treatment.
- **W v an NHS Trust** - Advised widow on quantum and drafted schedule of damages in fatal accident claim, including accountancy (pension) evidence.
- **W v an NHS Trust** - Advised Claimant in relation to a claim for negligent management of diuretic therapy. Advised on evidence and quantum and drafted Particulars of Claim.
- **D v a Local Health Board** - Advised Defendant on expert evidence in relation to a claim by a prisoner for psychological and physical injury for alleged delay in treatment, failure to carry out medication review and failure to prescribe medication.
- **M v an NHS Trust** - Advised family in relation to a claim where the Deceased developed and suffered worsening pressure sores in hospital.
- **W v an NHS Trust** - Advised Claimant on merits and expert evidence in relation to a claim for delayed hormone treatment.

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