



# 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.

## Personal Injury

Gemma has a busy personal injury practice. She advises and represents Claimants and Defendants in fast-track and multi-track claims and has experience of:

- Animals Act claims
- Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA) claims and CICA appeals
- Employers' liability
- Fatal accident claims
- Foreign jurisdiction claims
- Occupiers' liability
- Product liability
- Public liability
- RTA litigation including all aspects of credit hire and fundamental dishonesty
- Trips and slips
- Athens Convention (cruise ship) claims
- 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. She advised the Secretary of State for Justice on an historical sexual abuse claim with an international dimension.

Gemma is adept at handling sensitive procedural and factual matters. She recently advised the Secretary of State for Justice on a discrimination claim by a transgender prisoner. Gemma also appeared for a high street retailer defending a product liability claim by 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 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 alleged negligent water sports (paddleboard) instruction.
- **K v M** - Advised Claimant about liability and merits in personal injury claim for alleged negligent hairdressing leading to burnt scalp and loss of hair.

## 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, in which Mr Peiris was refused a bereavement payment from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority as he didn't satisfy the eligibility criteria. Mr Peiris appealed to the First-tier Tribunal.

[View Article](#)

## 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