12
King's Bench Walk

Emily Read



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AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Personal Injury, Clinical Negligence, Insurance, Costs & Litigation Funding, Public Authority Liability, Fraud, Inquests, Product Liability, Health & Safety, Property, Property Damage, Sport, Other

Emily focuses on civil litigation involving damage to people and to property as well as proprietary interests, insurance disputes, recovery and costs.

Emily's extensive caseload spans from lower value multitrack claims that raise complex legal issues such as Article 2 inquests and short life expectancy cases, to the highest value catastrophic damage/ injury claims. Recent successes include a settlement of over £20 million in a catastrophic brain injury claim and successfully defeating a multimillion-pound personal injury claim on the basis of FD. Emily is also a costs specialist and is happy to lead on costs disputes and assessments.

Emily has significant experience in equine cases, in particular involving jockeys- and in other sports related claims, recent cases have involved classic race cars, water sports, climbing accidents, coasteering, professional mountain biking and football.

Having worked in the insurance industry for a number of years and always maintained a strong insurance practice, Emily is very well placed to advise on insurance disputes. This has bolstered her property damage practice. Emily is largely instructed from an early stage, in particular in water and fire related damage, usually in commercial or industrial settings and land contamination following fire and where commercial and underwriting interests as well as brokerage issues may arise.

Emily has also represented the emergency services in the High Court, County Court and Coroners Court and in well versed in the particular issues that arise within this sector.

Emily's practice covers Claimant and Defendant work in almost equal measures, and she has a keen eye for both the personal and commercial needs of different clients, making her strong and UpToDate knowledge of costs and the CPR a significant strategic benefit.

Emly remains acutely aware of costs and commercial interests when advising clients, as well as reputational issues when acting for all clients, including high profile clients, and the need for confidentiality.

Personal Injury

Emily has considerable experience in high value personal injury claims, and is happy to accept instructions in multi-track claims involving, but not limited to:

- Death and inquests
- Employer's liability

- Public liability
- Occupiers Liability
- Construction sites
- Animals Act, particularly horses
- Highways, rights of way, common land and other public spaces
- Road traffic accidents
- Emergency Services
- Indemnity disputes
- Complex causation issues
- Pension disputes
- FND and other pain conditions
- Equality Act 2010 claims
- ECHR claims.

Emily has been instructed in thousands of personal injury claims with nearly 2 decades of experience in the area, at all stages of claims and in claims of all sizes and complexity. Given the frequency with which Emily is instructed in personal injury claims, her knowledge of the Civil Procedure Rules as well as the law in this area is impeccable.

Clinical Negligence

Emily regularly undertakes clinical negligence work and has many years of experience in the field; she is happy to be instructed in a broad range of clinical negligence cases, including dental negligence.

Recent clinical cases have involved significant hypoxic brain injury following minor surgery, GP negligence leading to failure of only remaining kidney, obstetric negligence cases involving injury to mother and/or child, multiple cases involving surgical negligence, diagnostic failure/delay cases, orthopedic negligence claims, death following failure to recognise sepsis in a young Mother, suicide of a young ASD patient who was detained for too long in an acute psychiatric ward, vascular cases involving disability or stroke, cases involving complex causation issues and many more.

With years of experience in dealing with serious and long-lasting injury cases involving limb amputation, serious skeletal injuries, brain damage, stress, depression, PTSD, chronic gastrointestinal and/or urological injuries, including clients with dependency issues, suicidal ideation, pain conditions and serious disability, Emily has the skill and experience to assist vulnerable parties both for Claimants and Defendants as well as the multidisciplinary and case management knowledge required to properly manage complex claims in this area.

Insurance

Emily worked in the insurance industry for several years before becoming a barrister and is therefore commercially and legally astute in this area and is happy to be instructed, and regularly is, in cases involving insurance contracts, indemnity disputes, the MIB, insurance fraud, Third Party Rights Against Insurers, insurers statutory liability, the FSCS, causes of action by and against insurance companies and other contentious insurance matters.

Costs & Litigation Funding

Emily deals with costs in most of her cases, attending CCMC’s on a very frequent basis. She also appears as a costs specialist in the Senior Courts Costs Office acting in multi-day detailed assessments and is happy to be instructed in costs disputes of all sizes and in varying forums. Assessments in Emily’s portfolio range from tens of thousands of pounds in issue to figures well beyond a million.

Public Authority Liability

Emily frequently acts in claims for and against public authorities and large public services providers and utility/street works cases and is well versed in the regulatory and statutory regimes that are particular to these parties. As such she

is happy to accept instructions in cases involving public and statutory providers as well as schools.

Fraud and dishonesty

Emily is frequently instructed to represent parties in cases involving fraud and dishonesty in the criminal, civil and tribunal context and has successfully obtained and deflected many findings of fraud and dishonesty in the County Court, High Court and Employment Tribunal. Her robust cross examination, where appropriate and previous experience in criminal courts is something Judges, clients and other parties often compliment her on.

Inquests

Emily has attended inquests all over the Country involving clinical negligence including ECHR jury inquests, road traffic accidents and sporting accidents. Examples include sporting accidents involving horses, mountain biking, climbing and kayaking. Road traffic accidents involving emergency services and high-performance classic cars, the inquests linked to her clinical negligence practice and sampled above and many more.

This is an area that is part of her clinical negligence and personal injury practices where fatal incidents are involved, and she has represented families as well as insured interests and emergency services (fire and ambulance) and is very able to offer her professional advice and assistance in the Coroners' Court.

Product Liability

Product liability is an issue that crops up in Emily's personal injury, clinical negligence, insurance and general civil practice, particularly in property related matters (fire and flooding). Emily is regularly involved in product liability disputes involving anything from medical implants and kitchen appliances to sewerage tanks and is happy to act and advise in the same.

Health & Safety

Health and Safety is an issue Emily advises on and deals with as part of her personal injury product liability work and she is happy to accept instructions in health and safety matters.

Discrimination

Emily has many years of experience in Employment Law, which she ceased in 2017 to focus on her core civil practice areas but as a result of this she has a good understanding of the provisions of the Equality Act 2010, having extensive practical experience of both the current and previous legislation in the area. Many of the employment cases involved disability and often some form of psychiatric harm as a result of discrimination or harassment, such as a Claimant becoming so anxious and depressed that he could no longer work having previously worked at the executive level in a huge multinational logistics firm. Discrimination law is something that Emily continues to be involved in in civil claims. Emily has successfully defended several civil claims of race and disability discrimination, particularly in the context of Covid and in relation to GP practices.

Property & Land

Emily worked for a property developer and in-house for a firm of solicitors dealing with property related claims, in particular professional indemnity claims against property professionals, including mortgage fraud and agency fraud. Emily continues to accept instructions in public liability, professional negligence, construction and property insurance cases including policy coverage, nuisance, negligence causing damage to property, statutory breach, regulatory breach, trespass and Rylands v Fletcher and has represented parties in the TCC on a number of occasions.

A majority of the cases undertaken over the past 4 years involve fire/explosive material, oil, asbestos contamination, sewerage related nuisance and flooding. Most recently Emily is involved in multi-party action following a significant fire in a new development that destroyed 21 homes.

Emily also advises on contractual and statutory disputes relating to construction works and for or against utilities providers.

Other

Emily has extensive experience of acting in unusual cases involving a broad range of liability experts such as unusual sports, as well as for the fire and ambulance services in high value and multi-party claims.

Emily has undertaken a number of cases involving insolvency, bankruptcy law and restoring companies to the register and is happy to be instructed in cases involving these issues.

Emily's experience in criminal work and being instructed by the CPS means that Emily can and does undertake work involving criminal aspects, recently in the context of inquests and civil claims following criminal proceedings.

Emily speaks fluent French and Italian and this has proven useful in a number of her cases.

Emily was once a keen equestrian, she now enjoys a range of countryside pursuits, skiing and spending time with her children and array of animals.

Relevant Qualifications

Brevet Français Option Bilingue

International Baccalaureate- Bilingual diploma (English and French) MA (Economics), Downing College, Cambridge

GDL, BPP London

BVC, Inns of Court School of Law

Relevant Appointments & Memberships

The Honourable Society of Middle Temple PIBA

AVMA

Registered legal aid provider

School Governor

Emily sits on a range of committees linked to her practice areas and was an editor of Facts & Figures until she relinquished this role in 2025

Emily regularly delivers CPD talks at Seminars and training sessions across her practice areas to lawyers and to various medical professional associations and has written a number of published articles. She is happy to be contacted about delivering training or contributing to publications