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King's Bench Walk

Gemma Scott



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AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Industrial Disease, Personal Injury, International & Travel, Product Liability, Clinical Negligence, Group Claim Litigation, Group Litigation, Aviation

Gemma specialises in serious personal injury cases, industrial disease claims, and in large group actions.

She regularly appears against silks and senior juniors in High Court cases. She is also frequently instructed as junior counsel in multi-million pound claims, often working alongside silks from other chambers.

She is ranked in the fields of Personal Injury and Industrial Disease in the Legal 500 and in Chambers & Partners.

Gemma is a contributor to Sweet and Maxwell's *Asbestos: Law and Litigation.*

Gemma was awarded Personal Injury Junior of the Year at the Legal 500 Bar Awards 2026.



Personal Injury

Gemma is particularly experienced in cases involving catastrophic brain injuries, amputations, serious spinal injuries, and fatal claims. She is routinely instructed in her own right, but also acts regularly as junior counsel in high-value

claims.

Notable cases

AK (by her Litigation Friend, LK) v SK

Instructed with John Kimbell K.C. for the Claimant.

The Claimant was 15 years old when she was involved in a road traffic accident in France. She suffered a very severe brain injury, profound neurological disabilities, and spinal injuries. Her intellect remained in the superior range, but she was unable to produce effective speech and was wheelchair-dependant.

BE (by his Litigation Friend) v MM

Acting as junior Counsel for the Claimant (led by Paul Russell K.C.).

The Claimant sustained a severe traumatic brain injury and significant orthopaedic injuries at the age of 36. Permission has been given for the instruction of 26 experts. The Claimant's rehabilitation has been compromised by Covid19 restrictions and there are issues relating to his immigration status.

TF (by his professional delegate) v MP

Acted as junior counsel for the Claimant alongside William Audland K.C.

The Claimant suffered a severe traumatic brain injury at the age of 12. The case was brought in Jersey and was therefore subject to a different discount rate to that applicable in England and Wales. Indexation of the PPO was fixed by reference to average earnings in Jersey rather than ASHE.

DI v JS

Instructed by the Claimant. He suffered multiple lower limb fractures and a degloving injury which ultimately led to a below-knee amputation.

G v G

Acted for the Claimant who sustained a serious injury to her retroperitoneal organs in a road traffic accident. Most of her small intestine had to be removed, leaving her dependent on IV nutritional feeing. She developed polyradiculopathy, secondary to nutritional deficiency.

NC (by her Litigation Friend, DC) v DC

Instructed for the Claimant with Robert Weir K.C.

The Claimant suffered an extremely severe brain injury when she was just 6 years old and was left with devastating injuries. She sustained a significant degree of cognitive impairment and was unlikely to ever achieve functional speech or mobility.

C v F

The Claimant was knocked down by a van while studying at Drama School. She suffered spinal and psychological injuries, and a large forehead laceration. She was left with a disfiguring facial scar that was likely to affect her future employment prospects as an actress.

TB v GM

Acted on behalf of the Claimant as junior counsel to Gerard Martin K.C.

The Claimant, a high-earning and extremely fit man, suffered a profound brain injury and significant injuries to his lower limbs when he was knocked off his motorcycle.

CIT (by her Litigation friend, DIT) v RSA PLC

Instructed with Frank Burton K.C. for the Claimant, who sustained a catastrophic brain injury in a road traffic accident.

Wojdon v Tomaszewski

Instructed by the Claimant, who sustained a severe traumatic brain injury when he was knocked off his motorcycle.

Salmons v Foster

Acted on behalf of the Claimant, who suffered serious physical and psychological injuries in a road traffic accident when aged 88. Her life expectancy was limited and was adversely affected by inadequate care provision and unsuitable accommodation.

Pritlove v Parfitt

Instructed by the Defendant. The Claimant suffered serious physical and psychological injuries in a motorcycle accident when aged 28. There were complex medical issues and significant debate as to the Claimant's prospects for future employment. He had a sporadic work history but had always engaged in physical jobs of which he was now incapable because of his chronic pain condition.

The case was settled at a JSM. Thereafter, the Claimant applied to Court to withdraw from that settlement and seek a higher award. But the judge upheld the settlement.

Palmer v Barber

Acted on behalf of the Claimant, who suffered a serious injury to the brachial plexus of her dominant arm in a motorcycle accident.

Industrial Disease

Gemma has particular expertise in asbestos litigation. She acts for Claimants in mesothelioma, lung cancer, pleural

thickening, and asbestosis cases.

Notable cases

Bussey v Anglia Heating Ltd [2018] EWCA Civ 243

Instructed by the Claimant. Gemma appeared in the Court of Appeal as junior counsel to Michael Rawlinson K.C. The Court unanimously ruled in favour of the Claimant in this significant case, which clarified the test for judges dealing with low-level exposure claims.

Walsh v Henry Crossley Packings Ltd & others

Acting as junior Counsel for the Claimant (led by Harry Steinberg K.C.). The Deceased contracted mesothelioma. She was exposed to asbestos while working at the First Defendant's offices and when washing her husband's overalls. The first stage of proceedings against the First Defendant settled two days before trial for 75% of the value to be assessed. The Claimant sought to recover the rest from the other Defendants, who also compromised liability shortly before trial. The quantification of damages was hotly contested. The Deceased had been the driving force behind a successful care home business and was also her husband's carer following a stroke.

Collinson v Harlow & Milner Ltd

Instructed by the Claimant in this fatal mesothelioma claim. Breach of duty was ultimately conceded, but the case involved complicated medical issues in respect of the Deceased's life expectancy but for the mesothelioma, and the extent of his adult son's dependency.

LB v ARS Ltd

Acted as junior Counsel with Harry Steinberg K.C. in this high value mesothelioma claim. The Claimant contracted the disease at the age of 30. The case raised issues in respect of liability (including the obligations on an employer taking instructions from a main contractor), causation (latency periods and whether the exposure was sufficient to materially increase risk of mesothelioma), and quantum.

Goldring v Cape Intermediate Holdings Ltd

Instructed by the Claimants (led by Harry Steinberg K.C.) in this fatal mesothelioma claim. The Deceased contracted mesothelioma as a result of exposure to asbestos on her father's work clothes. The company that employed her father had been dissolved and therefore the only viable claim was against the active parent company.

Crooks v 00648121 Ltd

Acted for the Claimant, who died from mesothelioma. He was exposed to asbestos during his year in industry while studying for his degree. Liability and limitation were initially in issue; the Deceased survived for an unusually long time after diagnosis as a result of immunotherapy and did not approach solicitors until primary limitation had expired. Quantum was also hotly contested. The Deceased was a high-earner, but there was a considerable dispute over his future earnings given his intention to retire and thereafter work as a consultant.

Footman v Kent County Council

Instructed by the Claimant with Harry Steinberg K.C. The Claimant developed mesothelioma as a result of his

occupational exposure to asbestos. He was the primary carer for his wife and sought to challenge the restrictions on lifetime claims for services.

P v WMS Ltd

Acted for the Claimant with Harry Steinberg K.C. The Deceased was exposed to asbestos when handling asbestos insulation boards on site in 1966. The case would have tested the limits of the Court of Appeal's judgment in Bussey in respect of foreseeability. It settled less than one week before trial.

Back v Bicknell Construction Ltd

Acted on behalf of the Claimant, who developed malignant mesothelioma as a result of his occupational exposure to asbestos.

The Claimant was employed as a quantity surveyor. He was exposed to asbestos whilst visiting the Defendant's sites. Liability was strongly disputed, with the Defendant arguing that the level of exposure was insufficient to amount to breach of duty in the light of prevailing knowledge.

Dalton v The Peninsular & Oriental Steam Navigation Company

Instructed by the Executors of the Claimant's Estate.

Mr Dalton died of mesothelioma. He was a chef on board passenger ships owned by P&O. He was exposed to asbestos while the ships were in port for maintenance work. The case centred on difficult issues of liability. The Defendant alleged that any exposure was low level and argued for a later date of knowledge for P&O than land-based employers.

Aviation

Notable cases

(1) PE (2) IC v MW & 6 others

Acted as junior Counsel alongside John Kimbell K.C. in a claim arising from a helicopter crash. Liability and quantum were hotly contested. The case also raised complicated issues in respect of tax liabilities. Both Claimants were resident in Sweden and would be required to pay tax on damages paid in respect of loss of earnings, pension, and/or financial dependency.

HT v Cavaciuti & 7 others

A husband and wife were killed when an aeroplane, piloted by the husband, crashed. The couple had three children who made claims for financial and services' dependencies in the region of £4.5m. The claim was presented on the

basis of a global family dependency.

Gemma was led by John Kimbell K.C. They were instructed by the Defendant insurers of the personal representatives of the husband. The case settled on a global basis (costs and damages) for less than £1m.

Group Litigation

Concept 70 Ltd v Cape Intermediate Holdings plc

Instructed alongside Charles Béar K.C. and Michael Rawlinson K.C. in a major product liability test case for insurers seeking a contribution to settled claims from manufacturers.

The Bomu-Bonny Oil Pipeline Litigation

Instructed on behalf of 15,600 Claimants in a class action against Shell arising from 2 substantial oil spills in the Niger Delta.

Gemma assisted with the quantification of the lead claims. This involved consideration of the likely effect of potential clean-up operations and the assessment of losses for people who did not keep records and were generally illiterate.

The terms of settlement are confidential, but it is believed to be the UK's largest ever environmental action.

Product Liability

Gemma is a member of the 12KBW Product Liability Group.

She was junior counsel to two silks in a major product liability group action against the manufacturer and supplier of Asbestolux and Marinite, *Concept 70 Ltd & Others v Cape Intermediate Holdings plc*.

Clinical Negligence

Gemma has a growing clinical negligence practice.

Notable cases

MB v X NHS Trust

Instructed on behalf of the Claimant, whose wife suffered extensive intracranial bleeding as a result of negligent treatment.

Qualifications & Awards

The Queen's College, Oxford University, MA (Hons) Modern History

Post Graduate Diploma in Law (Nottingham Law School)

Bar Vocational Course (Nottingham Law School)

The Blake Prize in History, The Queen's College, Oxford

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Memberships

PIBA

Directories

Gemma is a formidable barrister. She is an excellent communicator and great in conference with both clients and experts alike. She is always prepared to make herself available even at short notice. – Chambers & Partners, 2026

Gemma is extremely knowledgeable and responsive. She has a great eye for detail. – Chambers & Partners, 2026

Gemma is a standout junior. – Chambers & Partners, 2026

She brings a meticulous and thoughtful approach to her cases, combining strong technical knowledge with clear, well-reasoned advocacy. She is a valuable asset on complex and sensitive matters. – Chambers & Partners, 2026

Gemma is a first-class asbestos-claims specialist. She has represented claimants at the highest level and her technical knowledge and aptitude cannot be doubted. – Chambers & Partners, 2026

Gemma is an absolute expert in the field of asbestos disease. She is thorough, approachable and has an excellent manner with clients. – Chambers & Partners, 2026

Gemma has excellent knowledge of brain injury cases. She is very easy to talk to and grasps the issues very quickly. – Legal 500, 2026

She is very strategic and has a light touch with clients and a pragmatic approach. – Chambers & Partners, 2025

Gemma's advocacy is excellent. – Chambers & Partners, 2025

Gemma is good with clients in conference, provides clear written advices, has good tactical awareness and is effective on her feet at CMC and preliminary hearings. – Chambers & Partners, 2025

Gemma is a great source of knowledge, and her advices are always extremely detailed and well reasoned. – Chambers & Partners, 2025

She is good with clients and very responsive to issues in a case. – Chambers & Partners, 2025

Gemma is a very strong disease junior. – Chambers & Partners, 2025

She has great attention to detail and provides concise yet comprehensive advice. – Chambers & Partners, 2025
Gemma is extremely skilled in handling very complex asbestos cases. – Chambers & Partners, 2025
Her ability to help with cases requiring a lot of care and forensic evidence is exceptional. – Chambers & Partners, 2025

She is very practical, and her view on quantum is a particular strong point. – Chambers & Partners, 2025

Gemma is a brilliant all rounder. She is a genuine expert in this specialist area, great with the clients and a great advocate. – Legal 500, 2025

She is an encyclopaedia in terms of history of asbestos use. – Chambers & Partners, 2024

She is a very safe pair of hands. – Chambers & Partners, 2024

She has got a very measured approach to risk. – Chambers & Partners, 2024

Gemma manages to take a broad overview of cases but is also very thorough and attentive to the details of the evidence. The standard of the documents she drafts is excellent. – Chambers & Partners, 2024

Her particular strengths are attention to detail, grappling with very difficult issues quickly and providing good, pragmatic advice to clients. – Chambers & Partners, 2024

She is an absolute star. She is very, very thorough and very good with clients. – Chambers & Partners, 2024

Gemma has provided some first-class advices in some very difficult cases, dealing with complex issues and expert witnesses. – Chambers & Partners, 2024

Gemma is pragmatic in her approach and able to advise with ease on complex matters. – Chambers & Partners, 2024

Gemma considers everything in fine detail in order to give the best advice. – Chambers & Partners, 2024

Gemma has huge experience in the field of asbestos-related illness claims and her technical knowledge in this field is superb. – Legal 500, 2024

She has the ability to explain complex issues in terms clients can understand. – Chambers & Partners, 2023

She offers fantastic, practical advice. – Chambers & Partners, 2023

Gemma is an outstanding junior at the heart of the engine room at 12KBW, able to to master the most complex legal and factual issues in catastrophic injury claims with consummate ease. –Legal 500, 2023

Has been at the forefront of a lot of high-profile asbestos cases, and the quality of her work is exceptional. – Chambers & Partners, 2022

She is an expert in asbestos litigation and has been involved in some of the recent test cases. – Legal 500, 2022

A brilliant, experienced junior who is very efficient, gives detailed advice and is able to deal with complicated cases. She has a clear-minded approach to issues and is very responsive. – Chambers & Partners, 2021

Has been involved in some of the most high profile cases in the area of asbestos litigation. Always super prepared and brings complex issues down to an understandable level due to her in-depth knowledge. – Legal 500, 2021

A very thorough junior. – Chambers & Partners, 2020

Her knowledge of the development of the understanding of asbestos risks is peerless. – Legal 500, 2019

Her knowledge on the history of asbestos is encyclopaedic. – Chambers & Partners, 2019

She is potentially a rising star in industrial disease matters. – Legal 500, 2018

Incredibly calm and intelligent lawyer who relates well to clients and produces work of the highest quality. – Legal 500, 2018

She has an excellent grasp of the law. – Legal 500, 2017

She's very bright and her in-depth knowledge of asbestos work is particularly remarkable given her call. – Chambers & Partners, 2017

She has a depth of knowledge of someone twice her call. – Legal 500, 2016

She has a fantastic depth of knowledge of asbestos cases – far beyond her year of call. – Legal 500, 2015

Publications

Contributor *Asbestos: Law & Litigation,* Sweet & Maxwell, 2019 (Chapter; Knowledge)