



Gemma Bowes

Year of Call: 2009

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Introduction

Gemma relocated to Birmingham from a specialist family set. She now specialises exclusively in public child law.

Gemma has spoken at training conferences and seminars for solicitors and magistrates. She has provided court skills training as a component of a masters degree course in social work.

She was a member of the Oxford Local Family Justice Board.

She has been shortlisted in previous years for Birmingham Law Society's Barrister of the Year award, and Pro Bono Lawyer of the Year award.

Recent Notable Cases

- Re T and A (2018) – represented a parent in a head injury and multiple fractures case
- Re N – (2018) represented the local authority in a case where the subject children were implicated in deaths of other young people
- Re N – (2018) represented the local authority in a case where the children gave live evidence of serious physical and emotional abuse
- Re F – (2018) represented an intervenor in a case of fractures, and bite marks to a young baby's face
- Re J – (2018) represented a parent in a case where a subject child was alleging the most serious sexual and physical abuse
- Re D – (2018) represented the children in a case involving allegations (variously against adults and minors) of physical, emotional, and sexual abuse, where a non-subject child, and a vulnerable young transgender person gave live evidence
- Re D – (2017) represented extended family members in a child death case in the High Court
- Re D – (2017) represented a terminally-ill parent in a case where the local authority sought to drastically reduce contact

Qualifications

- LLB London School of Economics
- MSc University of Oxford
- Queen Mother Scholar Middle Temple
- Approved pupil supervisor

Memberships

- FLBA
- Resolution

Public Law Care and Adoption

Gemma represents local authorities, parents, extended family members, and, on occasions, foster carers, at all stages of care proceedings and appeals.

She has dealt with applications for leave to oppose adoption, post-adoption/placement contact, discharge of care orders, and forced marriage protection orders.

She has experience of proceedings involving:

- Non-accident injuries (bruising, fractures, head injury)
- Child death
- Fabricated/induced illness
- Psychiatric illness
- Substance misuse
- Chronic neglect
- Parental alienation
- Threats of honour killing and risk of forced marriage
- Children who have been brought into the country illegally
- Overseas assessment and placement
- Jurisdiction issues
- Children giving evidence