

Emily Verity

Call: 2003



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Emily has specialised for years in the overlap of areas offered by Chambers, in particular in the area of child protection.

Her busy practice involves prosecuting and defending crime, in particular, sexual offences; and care proceedings in the family court.

Areas of Expertise

Crime

Emily prosecutes and defends the most serious offences. She is a Grade 4 CPS Prosecutor (the highest level before QC) and has been appointed to the Rape and Child Sexual Abuse List for many years. She is experienced at cases involving exceedingly vulnerable witnesses and defendants, intermediaries, analysis of telephone evidence, cell site, DNA analysis, third party material including social services material, public interest immunity. When instructed for the defence she has had a clear run of acquittals or appeals for years. She is currently instructed in a conspiracy to kidnap, rape and assault, known as Operation Collywobbles.

Emily has been appointed to the Proceeds of Crime, Serious Crime and Fraud CPS advocate panel at Level 3 and is experienced in prosecution and defence in these areas. She was on the prosecution team responsible for the successful prosecution of Bright & others of Independent Insurance, one of the largest, most complex and most successful SFO prosecutions of recent times. She was junior to the late Philip Henry in the successful HMRC prosecution of an accountant in a £5 million fraud. In addition Emily has provided advice for the defence in confiscation hearings where issues arise involving matrimonial property.

Notable Crime cases

Operation Collywobbles

prosecution of conspiracy to kidnap, rape, assault (2021)

R v SJ (2021)

prosecution of sexual offence where complainant did not have capacity to consent.

R v P (2019)

Successful prosecution of man for repeatedly raping his daughter over 10 years, resulting in the birth of a child. He also sexually abused his niece aged between 9-12.

R v LB (2019)

successful prosecution of serial sex offender for stalking and breach of SHPO against one teenage girl having served sentence for similar offences against a different teenage girl.

R v M (2018)

prosecution of a foster care of rape and sexual abuse of two young girls in his care.

R v B (2018)

prosecuted father for raping his daughter whilst her mother went abroad for work for a few months. Substantial custodial sentence.

R v R (2015-2016)

Argument in the Court of Appeal for defence around the definition of an arrangement following covert police operation and the requisite intention in a child sex offences case.

R v W (2016)

Successful prosecution of a violent rape in a hotel.

R v H (2015)

Successfully prosecuted sensitive case of rape against 15 year old boy on his 5 year old cousin where defendant was unfit to plead.

R v Smith (2013)

Successful prosecution of historic sexual abuse of pupil by her PE teacher.

R v R (2012)

Successful prosecution of historic rapes of children by their father. Sentenced to 18 years. Junior to Rosina Cottage QC.

R v Brown (2010)

Successfully defended s.18 where defence was accident /self-defence.

RCPO v Charalambous (2010 and 2019)

Successful RCPO prosecution worth £5 million by chartered accountant. Junior to Philip Henry.

R v Haynes (2005-2006)

Successfully argued autrefois convict before Mr Justice Butterfield in high value amphetamine supply case.

Family Law

Emily, called in 2003, has a reputation for keen attention to detail and a practical approach. Her family work covers complex child protection cases; for local authority, parents or children via their guardians. She has been instructed in cases involving radicalisation, sexual abuse, non accidental or inflicted injury, mental health issues, violence, drug and alcohol misuse and foreign elements, in county court and High Court. She advises on Human Rights Act applications arising from family proceedings, and alleged deprivation of liberty, special guardianship, placement or relocation of children overseas, foreign adoptions, judicial review of local authority decisions and forced marriages. Local Authority instructions:

In 2019, Emily represented a London Local Authority in a High Court radicalisation case. The parents were sentenced to custody for terrorism offences at Central Criminal Court (the Old Bailey). Three other families were involved in linked cases running concurrently.

Emily was instructed to lead Elizabeth Stevens her former pupil, in a complex case involving findings of inflicted injuries (rib fractures), which required cross examination of several medical experts on the issue of furosemide weakening of bones. The father was represented by a pre eminent silk.

Emily represented the Local Authority in care proceedings involving 7 children, including a 13 and 16 year old whose wish was to return home to their mother, and had separate representation as a result, three fathers, and a grandfather representing himself: seven parties in total. Care order and Placement Order applications were successful and s.26 contact orders were successfully resisted.

Guardian instructions:

Emily regularly represents children through their Guardians, recently conducting a 12 day final hearing for a Guardian involving analysis of toxic trio MH, DV and drug and alcohol use and whether further assessments of mother and her

partner were required. Recently she was instructed in private proceedings involving parental alienation of the most severe kind observed by the experts involved.

She is experienced at dealing with sensitive cases, and has appeared as amicus curiae to the court, instructed by the Treasury Solicitor in order to cross examine a child alleging sexual abuse against an unrepresented family member.

Parents' instructions:

She has represented parents accused of inflicting injuries on their children, or with learning difficulties/disabilities and those who lack capacity, as well as those with addictions or an international connection.

Recently Emily was instructed to lead John Schmitt representing a father (proceedings ongoing) accused of inflicting injuries on his daughter, and raping her mother. Two leading silks represented two other parties. She also represented a father with learning difficulties whose first child was going to be placed for adoption. Also she represented a father, with a background of addiction, seeking the return of his baby to his care.

She deals with cases involving residence or contact disputes to a high level, including parental alienation and complex intractable cases. She recently succeeded in having children returned to their father in Pakistan under a private order from the High Court, following allegations of abduction by their Mother to the UK.

Emily also practises criminal law to a high level, specialising in sexual offences and cases involving children. This practise lends support to her family work given the frequent overlap in issues between the jurisdictions.

Notable Family Law cases

Re N (2021)

representing Father at lengthy fact finding, leading John Schmitt; allegations of injuring his child and raping her mother.

Re W (2019)

8 day final hearing for LA successfully arguing against delaying Placement Orders and s 26 Contact orders.

Re H (2019)

12 day final hearing for Guardian involving analysis of toxic trio MH, DV and drug and alcohol use and whether further assessments of mother and her partner were required

Re O (2019)

instructed for LA in High Court radicalisation case. The parents were sentenced to custody for terrorism offences at Central Criminal Court (the Old Bailey). Three other families were involved in linked cases running concurrently.

Re G (2018-2019)

instructed to lead Elizabeth Stevens her former pupil, in a complex case involving findings of inflicted injuries (rib fractures), which required cross examination of several medical experts on the issue of furosemide weakening of bones. The father was represented by an eminent silk.

Re S (2019)

final hearing for Guardian regarding a child who had previously been moved from mother to father due to findings of parental alienation, which were subsequently reversed and child was returned to mother's care.

Re R (2019)

representing Guardian in private proceedings involving parental alienation of the most severe kind observed by the experts involved.

Re S (2019)

represented the LA in a 7 day final hearing involving contested HST results.

Re M (2019)

Oxford CC case involving a severely disabled child where threshold, care order (versus EHCP/ long term s 20) and residential versus foster care plan in dispute.

Re S (2019)

representing a father accused of inflicting injuries on his baby, where the parents applied for the case management judge to recuse himself due to bias.

Re H (2016)

Representing a father in rehabilitation for an addiction, and seeking return of his baby to his care.

Re M (2016)

Successfully represented a London Borough in a complex case involving three concurrent proceedings arising from the 15 year old mother and two of her children.

Re W (2016)

Successfully represented a London Borough in care proceedings involving 3 children, including a 16 year old whose wish was to return home to her mother, was absconding placement and had separate representation as a result.

Re C (2016)

Emily represented a father with learning difficulties whose first child was being placed for adoption after failing assessment at St Michael's Fellowship, and investigated an alternative support couple that came forward at the 11th hour.

A (2014)

Representing the father in care proceedings. Mother found to have fabricated allegations against father of rape and serious violent assault whilst pregnant and baby placed in father's care.

M (2010)

Representing Congolese Father in contested adoption final hearing in case of child with developmental delay.

H (2009)

Instructed by Tsol for Cafcass on disclosure hearing.

Nottingham County Council v R & H (2008)

Instructed by Tsol to cross-examine a child alleging sexual abuse.

X v Met Police (2008)

Successfully defended appeal by way of case stated in the High Court regarding a SOPO.

Court of Protection

Emily accepts instructions in all aspects of Court of Protection work. She can represent family members in contested deputyship applications and advise and draft grounds for Mental Capacity Act cases. Emily has frequently dealt with Deprivation of Liberty cases concerning children. She is keen to further her Court of Protection practice.

Due to her multi-disciplinary background, Emily is able to use her knowledge from both family, criminal and personal injury/clinical negligence cases when Court of Protection cases straddle these areas. Emily's family, and particularly her

Local Authority work, includes welfare proceedings and often the issue of capacity is raised. Emily is very experienced in representing and advising vulnerable clients and their families, which lends itself to the Court of Protection work.

Police Law

Emily is instructed in the police disciplinary tribunal, both as legal advisor to the tribunal and to represent the Appropriate Authority. She has developed her practice representing the police in SOPOs, ASBOs, closure orders including the notorious Lucky 7 Snooker Club E9, violent offender orders and other civil actions, and successfully argued an appeal by way of case stated in the High Court. She is regularly instructed in disclosure applications where there are concurrent family and criminal proceedings.

Education

- BVC, ICSSL, Prince of Wales Scholar (Gray's Inn);
- CPE, City University;
- BSc Biology with Japanese, Edinburgh University

Memberships

- FLBA
- ALC
- South Eastern Circuit
- CBA

Appointments

- CPS Prosecutor Grade 4 & Rape List (2018);
- Pupil Supervisor (2011);
- Attorney General's List of Prosecuting Counsel (2005-2011);
- Organised in house CPD criminal seminars (2005-2011);
- Gray's Inn Student Affairs Committee Member

Awards

