

Emma Collins

Call: 2008



Emma Collins is identified in the Legal 500 as a leading junior in crime. She prosecutes and defends in all areas of criminal law with a focus on white collar and regulatory crime as well as international criminal matters.

Emma is also an experienced appellate advocate, winning appeals against conviction and sentence in cases involving offences such as perjury, perverting the course of justice and data protection breaches.

Emma's practice also encompasses extradition, professional discipline, inquests and public inquiries.

Crime (general, fraud & financial regulation)

Emma prosecutes and defends a wide range of matters, from successfully defending an individual accused of harbouring an escaped convict to securing a conviction for significant tax fraud. She has been led and appeared alone in complex and high profile matters involving allegations of perverting the course of justice, computer misuse offences, trading standards breaches and money laundering.

She is particularly experienced in advising and representing professionals accused of committing offences in the course of, and outside of, their employment, including police officers, civil servants and consultants.

Emma also advises and represents clients in matters concerning the proceeds of crime, including restraint, confiscation, forfeiture and enforcement proceedings. For example, she successfully applied to the Court of Appeal to reopen an appeal relating to a very old confiscation order, which led to the variation and ultimate discharge of the order (R v Powell).

Emma approaches all cases with the same commitment and determination to achieve the best result. She is known for her

ability to build a strong rapport her with her clients and is particularly experienced in dealing with vulnerable defendants and witnesses, including young children and people with an autistic spectrum disorder.

Notable Crime (general, fraud & financial regulation) cases

- **Shepherd v Information Commissioner[2019] 4 WLR 50**

Successful appeal against conviction for breaches of the Data Protection Act 1994 on the grounds that the defences under section 55(2) of the Act imposed only an evidential burden of proof on the defendant.”

- **R v Oriakhel [2018] EWCA Crim 2153**

Successful appeal against conviction for perverting the course of justice on the basis of errors in the judge’s summing up to the jury.

- **HMRC v D**

Successfully prosecuted a defendant accused of cheating the public revenue over the course of 7 years.

- **HMRC v B**

Successful prosecution of B for VAT fraud.

- **R v B**

Represented B, accused of unlawfully accessing computer system of Gordon Ramsay Holdings Ltd; Crown offered no evidence.

- **R v V**

Acted for V, a young professional woman of good character accused of money laundering offences. The Crown offered no evidence on the strength of the defence statement drafted on her behalf.

- **R v O**

Junior counsel for a young Australian man accused of grooming and sexual activity with a child whilst visiting UK. Crown offered no evidence following written application to exclude O’s interview. Led by Hugh Davies QC.

- **R v M**

Successful appeal against conviction of police officer father accused of assaulting his child.

- **R v A**

Secured acquittal of defendant accused of kidnap, threats to kill, and assault.

- **R v A**

Successfully defended a police officer father accused of child cruelty on the basis of the physical chastisement of his child.

- **R v Brooks et al (Phone Hacking trial) (Old Bailey)**

Junior counsel for Cheryl Carter, who was acquitted of perverting the course of justice; led by Trevor Burke QC.

- **Proceeds of Crime**

- **R v Daley and others**

(Operation Cotton – land banking fraud) (Southwark Crown Court). Led by Jane Humphries QC in the confiscation proceedings.

- **R v Powell (Court of Appeal)**

Successful application to re-open the appeal, and successful appeal, against a confiscation order following the refusal by CCRC to refer the case.

Extradition and mutual legal assistance

Emma appears and advises requested persons and judicial authorities in extradition cases at first instance and on appeal to the High Court.

International Law

Emma is particularly interested and experienced in international crime and cases with an international element.

Before coming to the Bar, she worked in the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court in The Hague and was involved in the very first case before the Court. She has a specialist understanding of admissibility issues under the Rome Statute, which was the subject of her doctoral thesis and she was part of the team representing the Libyan Government in the first successful admissibility challenge before the Court.

Emma was admitted to the International Criminal Court's List of Assistants to Counsel in 2013.

Notable International Law cases

- **The Prosecutor v Saif Al-Islam Gaddafi and Abdullah Al-Senussi (ICC-01/11-01/11)**

Part of team representing Libyan Government in its admissibility challenges before the International Criminal Court (at first instance and on appeal). The Libyan Government was successful at first instance and on appeal in the case of Abdullah Al-Senussi – the first time a State has successfully challenged the admissibility of a case.

Regulatory Enforcement

Emma has considerable experience in representing and advising individuals and enforcing authorities in matters arising

out of a variety of regulatory regimes, particularly fire safety, taxi licensing, trading standards, and housing. She has developed a particular expertise in fire safety, regularly advising and representing the London Fire Commissioner in relation to prosecutions for fire safety breaches at a wide range of premises such as hostels, restaurants and care homes.

Notable Regulatory Enforcement cases

- **London Fire Commissioner v Gold Care (Consultancy) Ltd**
Acted for the London Fire Commissioner in the sentencing of Gold Care, who had pleaded guilty for multiple fire safety breaches following a fatal fire in one of its care homes.
- **London Fire Commissioner v Tubby Ltd & BL**
Acted for the London Fire Commissioner in the successful prosecution of numerous fire safety breaches at a hostel.
- **Luton Borough Council v Mr & Mrs S & Bedfordshire Accommodation Ltd**
Secured the acquittal of the individual and corporate defendants for alleged regulatory breaches in the conduct of their letting agency.

Inquests & Inquiries

Emma is building considerable experience in public inquiries. She recently acted as junior counsel to Q9 in the Anthony Grainger Inquiry, led by Hugh Davies QC. The Chair found that Q9, the GMP officer who fired the fatal shot, did not kill Anthony Grainger unlawfully.

Emma is currently instructed as second junior for the London Fire Commissioner during Phase 2 of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry (led by Stephen Walsh QC and Sarah Le Fevre).

Notable Inquests & Inquiries cases

- **The Grenfell Tower Inquiry**
Second junior counsel for the London Fire Commissioner in Phase 2.
- **The Anthony Grainger Inquiry**
Junior counsel for the police officer responsible for the fatal shot. Led by Hugh Davies QC.

Professional Discipline

She is always a couple of pages ahead of the prosecution. **The Legal 500 2019: Crime**

A reliable and very talented junior. **The Legal 500 2017: Crime**

Emma advises and represents a range of professionals facing disciplinary proceedings before various tribunals, particularly police officers and accountants. She has secured very favourable results for individuals in challenging circumstances, including receiving a final written warning for an officer who had committed an offence in the course of his duty. Led by Ben Brandon, she also successfully appealed adverse factual findings made against a police officer in the context of family court proceedings.

She was also involved in an investigation by the then Accountancy and Actuarial Discipline Board (AADB) into the quality of advice given to a pension fund by a large accountancy firm and one of its partners.

Notable Professional Discipline cases

- **R v W (a child) [2017] 1 FCR 349**

Junior counsel for a police officer subjected to adverse findings when acting as a witness in care proceedings. The Court of Appeal handed down a significant judgment regarding procedural fairness requirements in the context of the article 8 rights of witnesses. The Court of Appeal held that the adverse findings would no longer stand and would be treated as if they had never been made. Led by Ben Brandon.

Notable Cases

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[\[2019\] 4 WLR 50](#)

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(Snaresbrook Crown Court)

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evidence.

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(Mold Crown Court)

Acted for V, a young professional woman of good character accused of money laundering offences. The Crown offered no evidence on the strength of the defence statement drafted on her behalf.

R v O

(Isleworth Crown Court)

Junior counsel for a young Australian man accused of grooming and sexual activity with a child whilst visiting UK. Crown offered no evidence following written application to exclude O's interview. Led by Hugh Davies QC.

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(Southwark Crown Court)

Successful appeal against conviction of police officer father accused of assaulting his child.

R v A

(Reading Crown Court)

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R v A

(Kingston Crown Court)

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The Grenfell Tower Inquiry

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Memberships

- Amnesty International
- Bar Human Rights Committee
- Criminal Bar Association
- Young Fraud Lawyers Association
- Women in Criminal Law (Founding member)

Education / Professional Qualifications

- Doctor of Philosophy in Law (Oxon)
- Masters of Philosophy in Law (Oxon)
- BCL (Oxon)
- Bachelor of Laws (First Class Hons) (University of Sydney, Australia)
- Bachelor of Arts (Politics and French) (First Class Hons) (University of Sydney, Australia)
- Bar Vocational Course (College of Law, London)
- Kennedy Scholarship (Lincoln's Inn)
- Hardwicke Entrance Scholarship (Lincoln's Inn)
- Levitt Scholarship for pupillage (Lincoln's Inn)

Appointments

- CPS Specialist Panels Fraud List, Level 3 (2018-22)

Other Information

- Member of the Criminal Bar Association
- Member of the Young Fraud Lawyers Association
- Member of the Bar Human Rights Committee
- Member of Amnesty International
- Founding member of Women in Criminal Law
- CPS Specialist Panels 2018-22 Fraud List, Level 3.

Languages:

- French

Accreditations

