

Emma Heap

Call year: 2004

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Dr Emma Heap studied Medicine at Guy's Hospital, London, and had a successful career as a doctor before being called to the Bar. She worked as a Consultant Psychiatrist in East London, where she was a member of the Serious Untoward Incident Panel at the East London & the City Mental Health NHS Trust, which conducted Trust inquiries into the deaths of psychiatric patients, including a homicide and a suspicious death. She was the Chair of the Suicide Audit Committee, which conducted a published review of Coroners' verdicts in East London.

Emma specialises in all areas of medical law, including disciplinary proceedings involving healthcare workers and coroners inquests involving complex medical issues. She represents both claimants and defendants in clinical negligence claims, and retains a special interest in mental health law. She has an established personal injury practice and also undertakes general civil work including housing matters.

Further Information

Year of call: 2004

Specialist areas: medical law, regulatory and disciplinary, coroners inquests, personal injury and housing

Education: Inns of Court School of Law 2003-4; Bar Vocational Course (Very Competent); BPP Law School 2002-3; PgDL (Commendation); Member of the Royal College of Psychiatrists (MRCPsych) 1995; Guys Hospital Medical School (University of London) MBBS 1991; BSc (hons) Psychology II(i) 1988

Professional Memberships: Personal injury Bar Association, Action Against Medical Accidents,

Dental Law and Ethics Forum, Association of Regulatory and Disciplinary Lawyers, Professional Negligence Bar Association

Recent cases

Wandsworth Borough Council v Tufferelli

Council claiming possession of property on grounds that tenant had conviction for drugs offences at the property. Defence raised of unlawful discrimination, as the tenant had mental health problems. Successfully argued psychiatric problems did not fall within the definition of disability in the Acts, and were not related to the conduct in question.

Sivasubramaniam v (1) Wandsworth Borough Council (2) Commissioner of the Police (3) Springfield Hospital & others

Three related claims brought in the High Court relating to the Claimant's admission to hospital under sections 135(1), 2 and 3 of the Mental Health Act 1983. All three claims successfully struck out, with limited civil restraint orders obtained in respect of each.

Re Patricia May

Representing the family of the deceased at the inquest into the death of a patient who left £1.5m to her psychiatrist in her will. Doctors criticised by Coroner for inaccurate documentation on death certificate.

Publications and lectures

Emma has lectured widely on healthcare law and related topics, and has also been involved in training expert witnesses on courtroom skills.

'Experts' Meetings'; AvMA Annual Conference 2007

Mental Capacity Act 2005; AvMA June 2007 and subsequently to seminars for solicitors

'Privilege and Disclosure in Detailed Assessment'; Kain Knight newsletter Summer 2006
