



CLARA HAMER
Call: 2013

Registered name on the Bar Standards
Board Register: Clara Hamer
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Overview

Clara specialises in all aspects of media, communications and information law and acts for both claimants and defendants. Her clients have included national and international media organisations, multinational corporations, charities, regulatory bodies, private individuals, and public authorities. Clara regularly provides pre-publication advice on areas such as privacy, libel and contempt to national newspapers including The Times, The Sunday Times, and The Sun, as well as to book publishers and think tanks.

In 2015 Clara was awarded a Pegasus Scholarship by the Inns of Court to spend seven weeks in the United States gaining experience of American media and First Amendment law. In 2016 Clara was the on-set technical legal adviser to Denial, a BAFTA-nominated feature film about the libel case of *Irving v Lipstadt and Penguin Books Ltd* in which Richard Rampton QC and Heather Rogers QC represented the successful defendants.

Prior to coming to the Bar, Clara worked as an editorial intern at a leading publisher of political and current affairs books, and as a copy-editor.

Recognition

Up-and-coming junior barrister with a practice centred on all aspects of media and information law. She acts in privacy and defamation matters for national newspapers, book publishers and think-tanks. *"An extremely competent junior who is a pleasure to deal with. She has an excellent grasp of the detail of a case."* *"She is very clever and has good judgement."* Chambers and Partners 2019 (Defamation/Privacy)

A junior with a blooming career who counts household name media organisations such as the BBC and Times Newspapers Limited amongst her clients. She is an expert in subject access requests, the public interest journalism exemption and 'right to be forgotten' cases, and has a particular interest in information law issues with a US angle. *"She's very sharp-witted, her technical knowledge is excellent and she has a good eye for detail. In court she is fearless and really stands up for herself."* Chambers and Partners 2019 (Data Protection)

'Exceptionally talented barrister: very bright; has excellent judgement and is a great team player.' The Legal 500 2018

"Her work is thorough, well-argued and she has a strong, all-round knowledge of media law" Chambers and Partners 2018.

Representative Cases

Defamation

Homer v Hollingsworth (2018) – For the claimant in a slander action.

Miah v BBC [2018] EWHC 206 (QB) – Junior Counsel for the BBC, led by Catrin Evans QC, in a libel, privacy and data protection claim arising from a broadcast and online article about an NHS investigation.

Kozbar v Telegraph Media Group Ltd (2017) – Junior Counsel for the *Sunday Telegraph*, led by David Price QC, in a libel claim.

Hare v McGregor (2017) – For the defendant in a successful application for summary judgment involving consideration of issues including 'serious harm' in a libel action arising from a letter and Facebook posts.



May v Times Newspapers Ltd (2017) – For *The Sunday Times* in a successful summary judgment / strike out application involving statutory qualified privilege, *Jameel* abuse of process, and the serious harm threshold.

Osborn v Phillips (2017) – For the claimant in a successful libel, data protection and harassment claim arising from the publication of a false allegation of paedophilia.

Ryanair v Channel 4 Television Corp (2016-2017) – Instructed by Channel 4 to assist with libel proceedings issued in the Republic of Ireland. Included work on disclosure, journalistic source protection, and issues arising from EU and Irish regulations governing the confidentiality of information in the aviation industry.

Samuel v Lime Academy Trust (2016) – For the defendant, a multi-academy trust, successfully disposing of libel proceedings brought against an academy school.

Ibru v Times Newspapers Ltd (2015) – For *The Times*, successfully disposing of a libel claim concerning the reporting of a criminal conviction.

Siddiqui v BBC (2015) – While on secondment at the BBC, assisted Catrin Evans QC with defending a libel action arising from a radio broadcast.

Williamson v PEP Publishing Ltd (2014) – For the publisher of *Love It!* magazine in a successful application to strike out a libel claim.

Rowland v Mitchell (2014) – Assisted Desmond Browne QC and Catrin Evans in the lead-up to trial for the police officer who successfully sued Andrew Mitchell MP for libel over the “Plebgate” affair. Appeared as sole Counsel at a disclosure hearing.

Privacy / breach of confidence / data protection / harassment

ZXC v Bloomberg LP (2017 –) – For Bloomberg, led by Gavin Millar QC, in a privacy, breach of confidence and data protection claim in respect of an online article about a law enforcement agency investigation.

Demouh v Times Newspapers Ltd (2017 –) – For *The Sunday Times*, led by Catrin Evans QC, in a privacy and data protection claim arising from an article about benefit cuts.

Silverman v Renegade Pictures Ltd (2017) – For the defendant documentary producer in an Article 8 and trespass claim arising from the filming of a police arrest.

Kutcher v Associated Newspapers Ltd (2017) – For the child claimant in a successful application to approve a settlement agreement in a privacy and data protection claim.

Pearn v PeoplePlus Group Ltd (2017) – For the defendant provider of a Department of Work and Pensions work programme in a successful application to strike out a data protection and defamation claim.

Instructed by ***The Sunday Times***, led by Catrin Evans QC, in a privacy and breach of confidence injunction (2016-2017).

Wild v Valentine (2015) – For the claimant in a successful application for a harassment injunction in respect of statements posted online.

Reporting the courts, access to court documents and open justice

R (Learndirect Ltd) v OFSTED (2017) – For the publisher of a further education magazine in a successful application to lift anonymity reporting restrictions in judicial review proceedings.

Northern Ireland Historical Institutional Abuse Inquiry (2016-2017) – For the BBC in a successful application to lift anonymity reporting restrictions imposed by a major public inquiry into the historical institutional abuse of children.

Times Newspapers Ltd v Newman (2016) – For *The Sunday Times* (Ireland edition) in a successful application to inspect a bankruptcy court file.

Miscellaneous



Instructed to advise on and draft a response to the 2017 Law Commission consultation on the Official Secrets Acts.

3-month secondment to the BBC Litigation Department (2015) working on a range of defamation, privacy, data protection and other media law cases. Handled requests by the police under PACE 1984 for journalistic material, “right to be forgotten” issues, and contract, employment, copyright, and Equality Act 2010 matters.

Publications and Seminars

Contributor to *Arlidge, Eady & Smith on Contempt*, 5th edition, 2017 & 4th edition, 2015

Data Breaches: Assessing the Harm, One Brick Court Seminar *Broken Boundaries: New Frontiers in Media and Information Law*, June 2017

LexisNexis Q&A, “Anonymity Orders in Harassment Claims: Khan (formerly JMO) v Khan (formerly KTA) [2018] EWHC 241 (QB)”, March 2018

Panellist at Young Barristers’ Committee of the Bar Council and Foreign Press Association event “*Free Speech in an Online World*”, April 2018

Qualifications

MA (Cantab), Social and Political Sciences, University of Cambridge (Fitzwilliam College)

Reddaway Scholarship; Burton Prize; and Fitzwilliam Foundation Essay Prize 2009

Graduate Diploma in Law, City University (Commendation)

BPTC, City University (Outstanding)

Inner Temple Major Scholarship, 2012

Winner, Inner Temple Lawson Moot, 2013

Inns of Court Pegasus Scholarship, 2015