

Tom Gent

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Education	Professional Associations	Appointments
1997 - Emmanuel College, Cambridge, MA Law 1998 - Inns of Court School of Law, BVC ('Very Competent')	North Eastern Circuit Criminal Bar Association	2019 - List B of the Panel of Specialist Regulatory Advocates

Areas of Specialism
Regulatory
Crime
Health & Safety
Environmental
Motoring Offences
Inquests
Professional Discipline

With over 20 years experience, Tom is a specialist in Regulatory law.

Crime

“He shows excellent attention to detail and focus on the case at hand.” – The Legal 500

In the criminal courts, Tom specialises in Motor Crime and Regulatory work.

He has been invited to speak at several large training events at which representatives of many of these insurers have attended – usually technical claims managers, claims directors and claims controllers as well as the Directors of Safety, Health, Environment and Quality of large corporates.

In relation to road traffic offences, he frequently defends in fatal and near-fatal cases, but has a detailed and wide knowledge of all aspects of road traffic legislation and is happy to accept instructions in all such cases.

He enjoys a reputation as a skilled trial advocate but equally recognises the importance of providing a powerful mitigation in those cases where a defendant’s principal concern is the loss of their licence.

Regulatory

Ranked in Tier 1 for Business and Regulatory Crime (including Health and Safety and Inquests & Inquiries- The Legal 500 (2021)

“Extremely thorough, professional and dedicated” “Leaves no stone unturned” “experienced in acting for companies and individuals in

inquests which involve the HSE as an interested party, as well as in representing local authorities and care providers in inquests over care home deaths” – The Legal 500 (2021)

‘ *Leaves no stone unturned.* ’ “*Gives very pragmatic advice and is great with clients*” –The Legal 500 (2020)

Tom frequently defends cases prosecuted by the HSE and local authorities.

He has particular expertise within the construction and farming industries, but has advised and represented companies as corporate entities, directors and individuals from a wide range of industries, at all stages of criminal proceedings. Such cases almost always involve either very serious injury or death.

Where there is a death, his instructions will usually be prior to any inquest and he has developed a significant practice in this field as a result.

His cases frequently involve complex issues requiring expert evidence. He excels at applying regulations in all manner of specialized activities in order to get the best possible outcome for a client.

Over the years, he has developed an excellent reputation with many of the leading insurers, having defended cases for:

Zurich

Aviva

ALLIANZ

Amlin

AIG

AXA

Direct Line Group

NFU Mutual

QBE

Hastings

RSA

Co-Op

Arag

Covea

Chubb

Mitsui Sumitomo

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Notable Cases

Practice Area: Regulatory

Gateshead Council v Fresh Element Ltd (2021)– serving buffet containing peanuts to a party in an art gallery where advance warning that a man with a nut allergy was attending.

Practice Area:

East Riding of Yorkshire Council v Strawberryfields Events Limited(2021) – Gate to car boot sale site swung open, penetrating car windscreen and causing injury to driver at exit.

Practice Area:

HSE v Azura Soft Furnishing Ltd. (2021) – entrapment in duvet folding machine at premises in Oldham.

Practice Area:

HSE v Alfaplas Ltd (2021)– entanglement in printing machine. Large organisation based in Hereford.

Practice Area:

HSE v Yorkshire Game Farm (2021) Gas explosion in a barn containing game birds.

Practice Area:

HSE v Superior Machines Ltd (2021) Loss of limb by entrapment on a lathe at premises in North Yorkshire.

Practice Area:

HSE v SGS Construction Limited (2021) Fall from height on construction site in county Durham.

Practice Area:

HSE v Grayton Building Contractors Limited(2021) Fall from ladder at domestic premises near Warrington

Practice Area:

HSE v Leeds Bradford Boiler Company Ltd (2020-1) Life changing injury to employee in valve manufacturing plant when a steel plate fell on his arm. Fine imposed at lower court reduced on appeal to Leeds Crown Court.

Practice Area:

Derbyshire Fire Authority v Gbolade (2020-21)– prosecution of a dentist in Derby for breach of fire safety regulations.

Practice Area:

R v Northallerton Heating Centre and Flintoft (2020) Corporate manslaughter. Plea on a basis by Company, director not proceeded against. Leeds Crown Court.

Practice Area:

HSE v Acrivarn Ltd (2020)– facial disfigurement caused by angle grinder being used at height at oven manufacturer in Bradford.

Practice Area:

R v Mark Bray, Roofing Consultants Ltd, Richard Lennon, High Ridge Roofing solutions Ltd and Abbey Architectural Ironmongery Ltd (2019) –co-defendant Company and individual faced manslaughter charges arising out of an accident where a worker fell from a warehouse roof. Successful half time submission after 5 weeks of prosecution evidence.

Practice Area:

HSE v TATA Chemicals Europe Ltd. and Capper Industrial Contractors Ltd (2018)– Allegation in relation to work within a confined space at a lime plant in Cheshire.

Practice Area: Crime

R v Everett & Szambelan (2021) – Representing second defendant who faced a charge of aiding and abetting an offence of causing death by dangerous driving. Acquitted by jury at Norwich Crown Court following 2-week trial.

Practice Area:

R v Bhatti (2021) – causing death by careless driving. Allegation related to Defendant turning across the path of a motorcycle. Acquitted by jury at Teesside Crown Court.

Practice Area:

R v Johnson (2021) – causing death by careless driving. Elderly defendant pressed wrong pedal and reversed into a pedestrian in a car park. Financial penalty.

Practice Area:

R v Clague (2021) – causing death by careless driving. Collision with cyclist on roundabout. Non- custodial.

Practice Area:

R v Hurst (2020) – Not guilty verdict in causing death by careless driving case. Turning across a motorcycle whose headlight was unlawfully dim.

Practice Area:

R v Zahouri (2020) – causing serious injury by dangerous driving at Chelmsford Crown Court. French national, driving on the wrong side of the road, collided with bus coming in opposite direction. Non-custodial sentence.

Practice Area:

R v Garrington (2020) – allegation that Defendant deliberately drove at a pedestrian following a road rage incident. Non-custodial sentence.

Practice Area:

R v Smith (2020) – non-custodial disposal in causing serious injury by dangerous driving case where Defendant had driven despite warnings that she was suffering a hypoglycaemic attack.

Practice Area:

R v Bristow (2020) – successful half time submission in trial at Merthyr Tydfil Crown Court. Turning across a motorcycle.

Practice Area:

R v Hyland (2020) – Causing death by careless driving, Chester Crown Court. Collision with motorcyclist at exit to a hotel.

Practice Area:

R v Rolph (2020) – Not guilty verdict in allegation of causing death by careless driving before Basildon Crown Court. Defendant had turned across the path of a speeding car when distracted by a break-in at his place of employment.

Practice Area:

R v Bingley (2020) – Not guilty verdict in allegation of causing death by careless driving before Nottingham Crown Court, in circumstances where the Defendant had seen the motorcycle that he collided with, but might have misjudged its speed.

Practice Area:

R v Morris (2020) – Not guilty verdict in relation to an allegation of causing serious injury by dangerous driving before Carlisle Crown Court.

Practice Area:

R v McDermott (2019) – Successful halftime submission in relation to an allegation of causing death by careless driving at Leicester Crown Court.

Practice Area:

R v Tait (2019) – Not guilty verdict in causing death by careless driving trial before Durham Crown Court. Issues relating to conspicuity and blinding sunlight.

"Tom is very knowledgeable and good with juries and defendants. He has a good manner about him."

'Tom is extremely knowledgeable, experienced, and committed to ensure a case is thoroughly prepared and leaves no stone unturned. He will always go the extra mile for clients, he is empathetic towards clients and witnesses alike, his advocacy skills are second-to-none, and his skill in getting to the point is understated but packs a punch.'

Legal 500 2025

'Tom is an exceptional barrister. He is technically brilliant, extremely thorough with excellent attention to detail, pragmatic in his advice to clients, and dedicated to doing the best job he can.'

Legal 500 2025

"Tom prepares cases well, and gives good, honest advice."

Chambers & Partners, 2024

"Tom has a lovely manner, gets good results, and is very thorough in preparation, and good on the law."

Chambers & Partners, 2024

"He produces very strong written work."

Chambers & Partners, 2024

Tom is a very safe pair of hands. He is very approachable and good with clients in difficult situations, and he is a confident and personable advocate in front of both judges and juries.

Legal 500, 2024

Tom has no weaknesses. His analytical skills are second to none, he is thorough, spectacular on his feet, quietly brilliant and tactically astute.

Legal 500, 2023

Tom is down to earth, relatable and likeable for all clients. He can put clients, who are going through some of the worst times of their lives, at ease. He is always prepared and knows the cases he is instructed on very well. Inquests can be very tense and emotional proceedings, which he handles with professionalism and sensitivity.

Legal 500, 2023

Tom is a safe pair of hands.

Chambers & Partners, 2023

He is a very able barrister with good written work and good application of the law. He has a lovely manner in court.

Chambers & Partners, 2023

He is very experienced and very good with clients, he will fight their corner but has a very approachable manner. His written work is very effective.

Chambers and Partners, 2022

'He is thorough, technically superb and extremely clever. A silk without the badge.

Legal 500, 2022

I think he is a silk without the title of silk. The standard of work he produces is exceptional; he will find novel ways of dealing with evidence

that even leading counsel haven't identified.

Chambers and Partners, 2022

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