



PARK
SQUARE

BARRISTERS

Tom Gent

Call: 1998

Crime

“He shows excellent attention to detail and focus on the case at hand.” –
The Legal 500 (2016)

‘A persuasive advocate with a keen eye for detail’ – The Legal 500
(2014)

In the criminal courts, Tom specialises in motor crime and regulatory work.

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

He has been invited to speak at several large training events at which representatives of many of these insurers



Education:

1997 Emmanuel College,
Cambridge, MA Law

1998 Inns of Court School of
Law, BVC ('Very Competent')

Career:

2002 Pupil at Sovereign
Chambers

2003 Tenant at Sovereign
Chambers

2015 Sovereign Chambers
becomes Park Square Barristers

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.

Notable recent cases include:

R v Page (2018) – allegation of causing serious injury by dangerous driving at Woolwich Crown Court. Defence of automatism. Not Guilty verdict in a case where the reserve was in excess £7 million.

R v Andrews (2017) – allegation of manslaughter in circumstances where the defendant had driven deliberately into a collision with an oncoming vehicle at Derby Crown Court.

R v Whitfield (2017) – Allegation of causing death by careless driving at Shrewsbury Crown Court. Defence that vehicle spontaneously sped up as a result of engine run-away (mechanical defect). Acquitted.

R v Georgiev (2017) – Death by careless driving. Turning across path of motorcycle. Non-custodial disposal at Lincoln Crown Court.

R v Millington (2017) – Allegation of careless driving that caused life changing injury to motorcyclist. Acquittal following 3 day trial at Brighton MC.

R v Williams (2017) – Trial at Chester Crown Court in relation to allegations of causing death and serious injury by dangerous driving.

R v Tomlinson (2017) – Nottingham Crown Court. Acquitted of causing death by dangerous driving. Overtaking manoeuvre resulting in oncoming vehicle losing control and colliding with a LGV.

R v Marlow (2016) – Death by careless driving at Liverpool Crown Court. Collision with pedestrian as she crossed the road behind a bus. Not Guilty verdict.

R v Naylor (2016) – Peterborough Crown Court. Acquitted of causing serious injury by dangerous driving. LGV driver in collision with stationary vehicle ahead on A1(M).

R v Burgess (2016) – Allegation of careless driving. Collision with pedestrian at low speed in poor visibility. Very serious injuries that later resulted in death. Acquitted.

R v Amos (2016) – Allegation of causing death by careless driving. Low speed impact with pedestrian at Heathrow. Acquittal following re-trial, Isleworth Crown Court.

R v Thompson (2016) – Lincoln Crown Court. Non-custodial disposal for young man who drove into a collision with a vehicle in the opposing carriageway.

R v Bates (2016) – Nottingham Crown Court. Allegation of causing death by dangerous driving. Acquitted, but convicted of lesser offence of causing death by careless driving. Non-custodial disposal.

R v Benson (2016) – Acquitted of dangerous driving at York Crown Court.

R v Howe (2015) – Non-custodial sentence following guilty plea to causing death by careless driving (collision with motorcycle in opposing carriageway). Lincoln Crown Court.

R v Hutchison (2015) medical defence to allegation of careless driving (loss of consciousness due to medication). Acquitted.

R v Hill (2015) – Two counts of causing serious injury by dangerous driving; crossing into opposing carriageway causing collision. Lincoln Crown Court.

R v Dakin (2015) – Careless driving allegation where catastrophic injury caused to injured party. LGV driver

alleged to have caused multiple vehicle collision by drifting into opposing carriageway. Acquitted.

Public Access

Tom Gent may accept [Public Access](#) work, where he can be instructed directly by a member of the public rather than a solicitor.

Contact Tom's clerk

[Madeleine Gray](#) on [0113 202 8603](#)

Regulatory & Public

Ranked in Tier 1 for Regulatory, Health and Safety, and Licensing – The Legal 500 (2018)

“His advice is very pragmatic.” – The Legal 500 (2018)

“He can immediately put clients at ease.” – The Legal [500 \(2017\)](#)

“He shows excellent attention to detail and focus on the case at hand.” – The Legal [500 \(2016\)](#)

“He has a great manner with clients.” – The Legal [500 \(2015\)](#)

“A persuasive advocate with a keen eye for detail” – The Legal [500 \(2014\)](#)

Tom is the Head of the Health and Safety team at Park Square Barristers. He is a B-List Specialist Regulatory Advocate and frequently defends cases prosecuted by the HSE and local authorities.

He has particular expertise within the construction industry, 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

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.

Inquests

Tom has a significant practice representing interested persons before the Coroner's Court. Although this is most often in relation to cases where there is either HSE or local authority interest, he increasingly welcomes instructions in other cases, where there might be CQC interest or a public law angle.

He recognises the sensitivity of such inquiries, which often require the need to balance public perception with the protection of the client. He is frequently required to produce skeleton arguments in relation to the application of Article 2 and the necessity for a jury and is known for his ability to handle particularly sensitive and emotionally charged cases.

Recent Inquests

Johnston – Article 2, jury. Mental health patient who died having swallowed a knife. Represented the InMind Group who ran the secure rehabilitation unit in which she resided.

Donaldson – death of an employee whose tractor freewheeled into a quarry whilst he was operating a mulcher attached to it. Acted for employer Company.

Taylor – Article 2, no jury. Death in a house fire. Acted for WY Fire & Rescue Service.

Tozer – Article 2, no jury. Death of a young man with severe autism and epilepsy who was under the care of Mencap. Represented CYC.

Brown – Article 2, jury. Death of an employee when a stack of pallets fell on him from a forklift truck. Represented Howdens Joinery Ltd.

Perks – Jury inquest. Death of a security guard at Immingham Docks as a result of a collision with a delivery truck.

Ratcliffe – Article 2, jury. Employee of construction company died when a freestanding wall fell on him. Represented the employer company

Sport

Tom is a registered lawyer under the FA Football Agents Regulations and has been involved in advising on procedure at county FA level. He is also a registered lawyer with the RFL and has an excellent understanding of all the rules and regulations across a wide spectrum of sports.

Notable recent cases

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

HSE v Dufell Roofing Limited – Construction. Issue as to whether a roof's construction meant it should be

regarded as a fragile surface.

HSE v Rhino Precast Limited – Construction (non-fatal fall from height). CDM Regulations 2015.

City of York Council v Jacob Rowntree Housing Trust – allegation against care home following the suicide of an elderly resident.

HSE v Neesam & Son Limited – Construction. Freestanding wall allowed to fall on employee, causing death.

HSE v Altak Limited and AP & HC Barber (a partnership) . For second defendant, charged with s.3(1) when a bolt flew from a ramp mechanism that he had designed, killing an employee of the first defendant.

HSE v St Helens Bistro (a Partnership) – Death of a customer who entered a private cellar door in a Public House and fell down a staircase.

HSE v Acorn Scaffolding (Yorkshire) Limited – Construction (non-fatal fall from height)

HSE v Lightwater Valley Attractions Ltd. and David Geary – Severe injury to a child on a rollercoaster.

HSE v Barnsdale Scaffolding – Construction (death from fall from height)

Nottingham City Council v Hodgson Elkington LLP – Severe injury to member of public when travelling on a faulty escalator in a shopping mall.

Bradford City Council v Rosegarland – s.3 allegation against a care home when an elderly resident had fallen to her death down an unguarded staircase.

HSE v Pockmoor – Agriculture (severe injury when bale of straw fell on employee)

R v Waterfall – allegation of manslaughter made against a farmer whose bull was alleged to have killed a rambler in a field with a public footpath.

Calderdale Borough Council v Oasis (Hebden Bridge) Ltd. and DHL Supply Chain Ltd. – death of employee of second defendant who fell down an unprotected staircase whilst delivering to a retailer.

Public Access

Tom Gent may accept [Public Access](#) work, where he can be instructed directly by a member of the public rather than a solicitor.

Contact Tom's clerk

[Madeleine Gray](#) on [0113 202 8603](tel:01132028603)

[Patrick Urbina](#) on [0113 213 5250](tel:01132135250)