



Laura Williams

YEAR OF CALL: 2017; ADMITTED AS A SOLICITOR: 1994



Laura specialises in public family law cases. She was an accredited Law Society Children Panel solicitor and obtained her Higher Rights before joining the bar in 2017.

Laura specialises in public law proceedings including care, supervision, adoption and where the High Court's authorisation is sought to deprive a child or young person of their liberty. She is regularly instructed in cases involving allegations of inflicted injury, chronic neglect, substance misuse and domestic abuse and has experience of dealing with cases involving parents with learning disabilities, young and inexperienced parents and parents with mental health difficulties.

Laura provides realistic and straightforward advice, combined with an approachable, sympathetic style. Laura has a reputation for her thorough preparation of the papers.

"Laura was great. She was very attentive, thorough and helped us inside and outside the courtroom."

LAY CLIENT, 2024

If you would like to get in touch with Laura please contact the clerking team:

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You can also contact Laura directly:

lauraw@gclaw.co.uk

FAMILY LAW: CHILDREN'S LAW

Laura specialises in public law proceedings including care, supervision and adoption. She has represented children's services in cases involving non-accidental injury, chronic neglect, substance misuse, mental health, domestic violence, physical and emotional abuse, parents with severe learning disabilities, young and inexperienced parents and adoptive parents with teenage children beyond their control.

Laura has been instructed in cases with international elements, including transfer of jurisdiction. She has experience in conducting CMHs, contested interim care order hearings and final hearings.

Laura is an experienced advocate in care proceedings, emergency protection proceedings, applications for secure accommodation orders, recovery orders, wardship and other orders under the High Court's inherent jurisdiction, deprivation of liberty applications, special guardianship applications, placement orders and orders in adoption proceedings (including applications for leave to oppose), designation disputes between local authorities and in private law proceedings where there is local authority involvement.

NOTABLE CASES

***T and J (Children)* [2020] EWCA Civ 1344**

Represented the local authority (led by King's Counsel) in an appeal by a mother against findings made in the care proceedings.

***H-M (Children)* [2021] EWCA Civ 748**

Represented the local authority (led by King's Counsel) in a mother's second appeal relating to a fact-finding hearing. The criminal proceedings and the family proceedings had reached incongruent outcomes, in that the mother was in the family court's pool of perpetrators but was exonerated of causing injury in the criminal court. Jackson LJ's judgment upheld the lower court's decision to refuse her application to reopen and set out

the proper approach when criminal and family court outcomes are incongruent.

BACKGROUND

Prior to joining the Bar worked in-house as a solicitor advocate at LB Croydon, LB Lambeth and Hertfordshire County Council.

TRAINING AND SEMINARS

Laura has extensive experience in providing training to social workers and other child protection professionals on court skills (giving evidence, writing statements for court, and what to expect at court).

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

Family Law Bar Association

South Eastern Circuit

Gray's Inn

Association of Lawyers for Children

Women in Family Law

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