

Olivia Pike



YEAR OF CALL: 2008

INN: MIDDLE TEMPLE

“ Olivia is incredibly user friendly. For clients, she is calm and reassuring, and helps the clients to feel comfortable with the direction their case is taking.”

LEGAL 500, 2022

CHILD LAW (PUBLIC AND PRIVATE)

Practice Overview

Olivia is a family law barrister, specialising in public and private law cases concerning children. She was called to the Bar in 2008 and practised in Cardiff, before joining St John's Chambers in 2018.

Olivia represents local authorities, parents, extended family members, interveners and children (separately or by their Guardians). Her expertise includes cases involving allegations of sexual abuse, non-accidental injury, domestic abuse, emotional abuse, chronic neglect and drug and alcohol abuse.

In suitable cases, Olivia accepts instructions to act directly from members of the public.

Areas of Expertise

Education

Olivia undertakes all aspects of education law, advising and representing local authorities, schools, parents and students at the Special Educational Needs Tribunal for Wales (SENTW), First-Tier Tribunal (Special Educational Needs and Disability – SENDIST) and County Court. She has experience of cases involving:

- ▶ Appeals against refusals to undertake a statutory assessment.
- ▶ Appeals against refusals to make a statement of special educational needs following statutory assessment.
- ▶ Appeals against parts 2, 3 and 4 of a statement of special educational needs.

- ▶ Claims of disability discrimination in relation to a child's repeated exclusion.

Children Private Law

Olivia acts on behalf of parents and children (separately or by their Guardians) in private law cases, particularly those involving complex child arrangements disputes. She appears in cases where there are serious safeguarding concerns necessitating fact-finding hearings.

She also acts in proceedings under the Family Law Act 1996, including applications for occupation orders and non-molestation orders.

Olivia's areas of expertise include cases involving allegations of sexual abuse perpetrated against both children and adults, non-accidental injury and domestic abuse; implacable hostility to contact and parental alienation; risk of abduction; relocation cases; and enforcement of private law orders.

Direct access

Olivia accepts instructions directly from members of the public, where appropriate. Recent cases in which she has acted on a direct access basis include:

- ▶ Representation of a mother alleged to be implacably hostile to contact in an intractable dispute.
- ▶ Representation of a father in private law proceedings involving allegations that he physically assaulted the child necessitating a fact-finding hearing.
- ▶ Representation of a father in a dispute over child maintenance payments.

Children Public Law

Olivia acts on behalf of local authorities, parents, extended family members, interveners and children (separately or by their Guardians) in public law cases.

She has expertise in cases involving the representation of vulnerable parents, including those with learning disabilities and mental health conditions; allegations of sexual abuse (including historic abuse), non-accidental injury, domestic abuse and chronic neglect; placement order applications, including revocation of placement orders; and adoption order applications, including permission to oppose the making of adoption orders and cases where adoptive placements have broken down.

Professional memberships:

- ▶ Family Law Bar Association
- ▶ Middle Temple
- ▶ Wales and Chester Circuit

- ▶ Western Circuit
- ▶ Association of Lawyers for Children

Qualifications & awards:

- ▶ Bar Vocational Course (2008: Centre for Professional Legal Studies, Cardiff)
- ▶ LLB Law (2004 – 2007: Cardiff University)
- ▶ Queen Mother Scholar (Middle Temple: 2008)

Contact Olivia:

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