

Bethany Scarsbrook – Family & Divorce



YEAR OF CALL: 2014

INN: LINCOLN'S INN

Practice Overview

Bethany has developed a busy and thriving junior practice as a specialist family law barrister. She accepts instructions in all aspects of family law including:

- ▶ Financial Remedy Proceedings
- ▶ Schedule 1 Children Act 1989
- ▶ Private law Children Act matters
- ▶ Part IV FLA 1996 (Domestic Violence)
- ▶ ToLATA 1996

Before joining St John's Chambers, Bethany successfully completed pupillage at 1 Hare Court in London, where she obtained extensive experience in financial remedy disputes. This includes dealing with complex financial structures, high net-worth parties and assets outside of the jurisdiction.

Bethany is happy to advise in conference or in writing. She is pleased to consider instructions on a pro bono basis in appropriate cases.

Areas of Expertise

Family & Divorce

Children Private Law

Bethany is experienced in all types of applications under section 8 of the Children Act 1989, including child arrangement orders (contact and residence disputes), specific issue orders and prohibited steps orders. She has appeared in her own right in the High Court.

Bethany is experienced in handling hostile cases where contact has broken down, as well as cases with allegations of domestic abuse.

Where negotiation is possible, she strives to help her client's find creative solutions to their dispute, helping them to move forward in a manner that serves the best interests of their children.

Bethany also has a particular interest in cases where children law and medical law overlap. This may be a contact or residence dispute in relation to a child with physical or mental health difficulties, or alternatively in specific issue applications concerning a child's future medical treatment. This area combines Bethany's practical experience with her academic specialism of children's rights in the medical sphere.

Divorce & Financial Remedy

Bethany's practice encompasses the full range of financial remedy proceedings. She is comfortable handling complex trust structures, pension issues and family businesses. She has further acted in cases with offshore assets and suspected non-disclosure.

Bethany is well aware of the emotional strain entwined in financial remedy proceedings, and combines financial rigour with sensitivity for the client's personal situation.

Prior to joining St John's Chambers, Bethany completed pupillage at 1 Hare Court. As a pupil, she gained considerable experience in Schedule 1 CA 1989, Maintenance Regulation (EC), jurisdictional/forum disputes, No.4/2009 and financial remedy proceedings complicated by concurrent insolvency proceedings.

Bethany also acts in barrister led financial mediation and is happy to advise on potential financial settlements in conference.

Domestic Violence

Beth welcomes instructions in applications for non-molestation and occupation orders from urgent ex parte hearings through to final hearing. She has experience acting in multi-day contested final hearings under Part IV FLA 1996.

Beth also acts in applications for Domestic Violence Protection Orders under the Crime and Security Act 2010.

Recommendations

"Bethany's grasp of the relevant issues in this complicated case was outstanding. Her preparation leading up to the trial was fastidious, her advocacy skills exceptional and her attention to perfecting a complex order quite remarkable. The authoritative but sympathetic guidance she provided at Court was particularly invaluable, given the unpleasant nature of the case. I would not hesitate to instruct her or recommend her to others in the future."

Hellen Williams

Solicitor, Woodland Davies LLP

"I was personally very impressed with the manner in which Bethany dealt with the case going the extra mile to assist us and the client. Most importantly my client was extremely delighted with Bethany. Bethany is approachable and puts clients at ease. As a firm we would have no hesitation in instructing Bethany again and can highly recommend her."

Gemma Sampson

Solicitor & Director, Sampson Solicitors

Professional memberships:

- ▶ Family Law Bar Association
- ▶ Bar Prop Bono Unit
- ▶ Lord Dennin Society
- ▶ Lincoln's Inn

Qualifications & awards:

- ▶ BCL, Oxford University, (Distinction),
- ▶ BA in Jurisprudence, Oxford University, (First Class) (top of the year in family law and administrative law)
- ▶ BPTC
- ▶ BPP Law School, (Very Competent)
- ▶ Manches Prize (University of Oxford 2013)
- ▶ The Martin Wronker Prize (University of Oxford 2013)
- ▶ Lord Denning Scholarship (Lincoln's Inn 2013)
- ▶ Hardwicke Entrance Award (Lincoln's Inn 2012)
- ▶ 4 New Square Scholarship (University of Oxford 2014)
- ▶ Sunley Scholarship (Lincoln's Inn 2015)
- ▶ Ruth Deech Prize (St. Anne's College, University of Oxford 2016)
- ▶ Ely Carter Prize (St. Anne's College, University of Oxford 2016)

Additional Information:

Originally from Cornwall, Beth moved to Oxford and thereafter London to complete her legal education and training. She developed her passion for family law and children's rights as an undergraduate at Oxford where she ultimately finished top in her year for the subject. Beth went on to receive a scholarship enabling her to become a postgraduate at Oxford, submitting a BCL dissertation scrutinizing the courts' treatment of Gillick competent children refusing medical treatment. This has given her a strong knowledge in the areas where family law and medical law overlap. She also spent her time as a postgraduate studying equality law and anti-discrimination mechanisms across the UK, EU, India and Canada. This included consideration of equal marriage rights and rights to a family/private life.

Throughout her training Beth has provided pro bono advice and representation on a range of private children and school exclusion matters. She has also worked as a children's rights research assistant, exploring whether children have rights specific to them as children.

Beth has written for Jordan's Family Law Online and Family Law Week.

Contact Beth:

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