

Harriet Dudbridge



YEAR OF CALL: 2015

INN: INNER TEMPLE

Practice Overview

Harriet is a specialist family law barrister who practises in the following areas:

- ▶ Children Private Law
- ▶ Children Public Law
- ▶ Schedule 1 Children Act 1989
- ▶ Divorce & Financial Remedies
- ▶ Part IV Family Law Act 1996 (Domestic Violence)
- ▶ ToLATA 1996

Harriet joined St John's Chambers as a Justice First Fellow, a scheme devised by the Legal Education Foundation for the next generation of social welfare lawyers.

As part of the Fellowship, Harriet worked as a Caseworker for Advocate (previously The Bar Pro Bono Unit) and has devised a successful programme teaching children about their role within the family justice system.

Areas of Expertise

Family & Divorce

Children Private Law

Harriet is developing an extensive practice in children private law, and is regularly instructed in a variety of hearings from FHDRA's to finding of fact and final hearings.

Recent cases include:

- ▶ 7 day hearing involving allegations of serious parental alienation, contested expert evidence and consequent transfer of residence.
- ▶ Obtaining an indefinite no contact order after a multi day finding of fact hearing, proving 12 allegations, including physical harm against the child.
- ▶ Acquiring a stepped order for contact for a recovering alcoholic parent.
- ▶ Cases with international elements including hearings to remove the child from the jurisdiction permanently.

Harriet has also represented clients in FLA 1996 proceedings, obtaining non-molestation orders at contested hearings and also dealing with cross undertakings where appropriate.

Children Public Law

Harriet receives instructions from all parties in public law proceedings and has represented local authorities, parents and guardians in a variety of hearings, including interim care orders, interim removal hearings and final hearings from the Magistrates to the High Court. Harriet has represented clients in cases involving neglect, substance misuse, immigration issues and domestic abuse.

Harriet gained direct public children experience when working with volunteers in child protection, she was partnered with a family with children on a CPP and visited them weekly attempting to help the family manage their lifestyle. This has given Harriet an opportunity to work within public proceedings from a different angle.

Divorce & Financial Remedy

Harriet has a growing practice representing both applicants and respondents throughout divorce proceedings including FDAs, FDRs, final hearings and preliminary issue hearings.

Recent examples of work include:

- ▶ *T v T* – Contested final hearing on the appropriate division of considerable compensation monies paid to one party after separation
- ▶ *B v B* – Successfully persuaded judge to make findings of concealed assets after repeated non-disclosure by the other party
- ▶ *M v M* – Settlement at FDR in a case concerning issues of a potential concluded agreement of dubious fairness
- ▶ *T v T* – Favourable judgment at final hearing in a case of combined business assets and joint business loans
- ▶ *B v H* – Settlement in a low value needs case including ring fencing monies for children's medical care

Harriet also has experience in disputes arising under ToLATA either as free-standing applications or preliminary issues within financial remedy proceedings.

ToLATA

Harriet has a growing practice in disputes arising under ToLATA either as free-standing applications or preliminary issues within financial remedy proceedings.

Harriet has represented claimants and defendants at a wide variety of hearings including CCMCs, directions hearings, trials and mediations.

Harriet recognises the importance of early advice in such disputes and has provided advice on merits before issue of a claim, and advice as to merits of ToLATA/ Schedule 1 applications.

Related Articles

- ▶ *PQ v RS and others* (Legal Parenthood: Written consent) [2019] EWFC 65
- ▶ *AA & 25 Ors* (Children) [2019] EWFC 64
- ▶ *F v M* (Temporary Leave to Remove: Alleged Risk of Onward Abduction to Non-Hague Country)

Qualifications & Awards

- ▶ BPTC (University of Law) – Very Competent
- ▶ GDL (Nottingham Law School) – Commendation
- ▶ BA (Hons) Philosophy and Classical Civilisation (The University of Nottingham)
- ▶ BPTC Exhibition Scholar (2014) – The Honourable Society of the Inner Temple
- ▶ GDL Exhibition Scholar (2013) – The Honourable Society of the Inner Temple

Contact Harriet

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