

Sophie Smith-Holland - Family & Divorce



YEAR OF CALL: 2015

INN: MIDDLE TEMPLE

Practice Overview

Sophie is a specialist family law practitioner with a thriving junior practice across all of our family law practice areas, including:

- ▶ Children Private Law
- ▶ Children Public Law
- ▶ Divorce & Financial Remedies
- ▶ Part IV Family Law Act 1996
- ▶ Schedule 1 of the Children Act 1989
- ▶ ToLATA 1996

Sophie worked for two years in the family team of a highly respected national law firm assisting on children cases. She also spent a period of time working on public law children cases in the Children's Services Legal Team at a Local Authority in the South West and volunteering with the National Centre for Domestic Violence.

Areas of Expertise

Family & Divorce

Children Private Law

Sophie is regularly instructed for all types of hearings, including FHDRAs, DRAs, directions hearings, fact-finding hearings and final hearings. Sophie has particular experience of representing parties in cases involving serious allegations and concerns in respect of domestic abuse (including coercive control), mental health, substance misuse, parental alienation and implacable hostility.

Sophie is also regularly instructed in concurrent proceedings under Part IV Family Law Act 1996 concerning applications for occupation orders and non-molestation orders.

Sophie has experience of cases concerning jurisdictional issues and international elements, including applications to remove children from the jurisdiction and child abduction.

Children Public Law

Sophie regularly acts on behalf of Local Authorities, parents, extended family members, intervenors and children through their Children's Guardian.

Sophie is familiar with representing vulnerable clients (including those with learning disabilities, mental health conditions or other difficulties and disabilities).

Sophie has particular experience of cases concerning abusive behaviour (including sexual, physical, emotional, psychological, financial abuse and coercive control) non-accidental injury and chronic neglect.

Divorce & Financial Remedy

Sophie has extensive experience of representing applicants and respondents at all stages of proceedings, from FDAs, preliminary issue hearings, FDRs and final hearings. Sophie is regularly instructed in cases where there are complex issues concerning third-party interests, non-matrimonial property, non-disclosure and enforcement.

Sophie also accepts instructions in relation to applications brought under Schedule 1 of the Children Act 1989 and ToLATA 1996, either as free-standing or concurrent applications.

Related Articles

- ▶ HR v DS [2019] EWHC 2425 (Fam)
- ▶ Raqeeb v Barts
- ▶ R-B (A Child) [2019] EWCA Civ 1560
- ▶ Joy v Joy [2019] EWHC 2152 (Fam)
- ▶ A v Cardiff City Council & Ors [2019] EWCA Civ 1360
- ▶ W-P (Children) [2019] EWCA Civ 1120
- ▶ X (Wardship – Foreign Proceedings – Child's Evidence) [2019] EWHC 91 (Fam) Case Summary
- ▶ Financial remedy update June 2018
- ▶ "It's not you... and it's not me, either": The case for no-fault divorce in England and Wales

Professional memberships:

- ▶ Family Law Bar Association (FLBA)
- ▶ Resolution
- ▶ Western Circuit

Qualifications & Awards

- ▶ University of Law BPTC – Very Competent
- ▶ University of Sussex LLB (Hons)
- ▶ "Highly Commended" prize – Bar Council's Law Reform Essay Competition (2017)
- ▶ Joseph Jackson Scholarship (Major Award for Family Law) – The Honourable Society of the Middle Temple (2014)
- ▶ Blackstone Entrance Exhibition – The Honourable Society of the Middle Temple (2014)
- ▶ Scholarship – University of Law (2014)
- ▶ Winner – The Crown Prosecution Service Mooting Competition (2013)

Contact Sophie

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Contact the clerks

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