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## Catrin John

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### Practice Overview

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Catrin practises primarily in the area of family law and is a well regarded practitioner often conducting complex cases alongside and against leading counsel.

She has predominantly been instructed to represent Local Authorities and Children's Guardians in complex cases involving serious sexual and physical abuse of children and has earned a reputation for being well prepared and robust.

Catrin has appeared in lengthy trials on alleged non-accidental injuries and issues of parenting impaired by mental or fabricated illness.

She is also Instructed by Local Authorities in cases under the Mental Health Act such as the displacement of a nearest relative.

#### Notable and Reported cases

- Representation of local authorities in cases where FFI (Munchausen Syndrome) of mothers has been alleged.
- The case of a poisoning of a child by its mother.
- A case involving the murder of a mother by a father.
- Abuse cases where 'cultural differences' alleged to be relevant to the case.
- Numerous cases where children have been seriously sexually abused, including multiple rapes by a family member.
- "Shaken baby syndrome" cases where medical opinions have been divided.
- The death of children.
- A case involving alleged forced marriage.

### Recommendations

- Experienced, knowledgeable and measured in her approach. Unflappable and clearly respected by the



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judges.' (Chambers UK, 2018)

- 'Her practice includes serious cases of abuse and non-accidental injuries'. (Legal 500, 2017).
- Highly regarded in the public law children field, she specialises in representing local authorities and guardians in heavyweight sexual and physical abuse matters. She has further notable experience in cases where parenting has been affected by mental illness. Strengths: "She is very capable, experienced in complex cases, is good with the clients and takes a very sensible approach to what she does." (Chambers UK 2017)
- 'Highly recommended for cases involving serious physical and sexual abuse.' (Legal 500 2016)
- 'Represents clients in an array of sensitive and complex family law proceedings. Acts for children's guardians and public authorities in cases involving non-accidental injury allegations. Highly regarded for her case preparation.' "Her experience is top-notch and she has an excellent approach." (Chambers UK 2016)
- 'She has a forte in children cases involving non-accidental injuries and factitious illnesses' (Legal 500, 2015)
- 'Highly regarded for her work in complex children's proceedings, particularly those concerning the physical and sexual abuse of children. She also undertakes work with a medical focus, including non-accidental injury matters, as well as ancillary relief cases.
- "She is an extremely able and highly conscientious practitioner." (Chambers UK 2015)
- 'She is always well prepared and firm in court' (Legal 500, 2014)
- "She is very professional in her approach, always very well prepared and ensuring she makes time for clients, making sure that they understand the process and are able to be fully involved in what is often a difficult and emotional experience." (Chambers UK 2014)

## Appointments

- Former Wales and Chester Circuit Junior

## Education & Qualification

- BVC IC SL
- LL.B Cardiff University

## Memberships

- Family Law Bar Association