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Claire Williams

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Practice Overview

Claire is an experienced family law practitioner and is a member of the Family@30 and Public@30 teams. In the main, she is instructed by Local Authorities in all types of complex cases, including those involving serious allegations of physical and sexual abuse. In addition, she has a wealth of experience of representing parents, interveners, guardians, foster carers and prospective adopters.

She has undertaken cases in her own right in the High Court and the Court of Appeal and has appeared in cases where other parties are represented by Queens Counsel.

Claire also practices in the field of Education Law. She has represented Local Education Authorities, parents and learners at tribunals relating the admissions and Special Educational Needs. She is also able to advise in respect of all matters relating to the duties and functions of schools and LEAs including judicial review.

Claire is also a fluent Welsh speaker and can conduct cases through the medium of Welsh.

Notable and Reported cases

- Re P-S (Children) [2013] EWCA Civ 223

Led junior in a case on whether a competent child has the right to give evidence in relation to welfare issues concerning himself

Recommendations

Respected junior frequently instructed by local authorities in a range of serious physical and sexual abuse cases. She also represents parents and guardians, and her extensive experience has been further cemented by undertaking cases in the High Court and the Court of Appeal. Strengths: "She is extremely bright, an excellent advocate and has a good approach with clients." (Chambers UK 2017)

'A clear analytical thinker, who is always prepared and responds robustly to unusual issues.' (Legal 500, 2016)

'Highly rated junior with a comprehensive family practice. She regularly represents local authorities as well as parents and guardians. She is well regarded for her work in care proceedings and Children Act cases and has appeared in the High Court and the Court of Appeal.' "Her brain works so quickly and thinks about every eventuality. She's thinking several moves ahead and anticipates everything." (Chambers UK 2016)

'Lauded for her work in serious children's proceedings, she undertakes a variety of family law cases, including



financial and cohabitee disputes. She is noted for her considerable strength in complex child care cases; she has represented local authorities, guardians and parents in sexual abuse, shaken baby and infanticide matters. "The quality of her cross-examination and her command of extensive papers are impressive. She is always appropriate in her style." (Chambers UK 2015)

"She is supportive, bright and quite a character. She is a performer, and very popular amongst instructing solicitors and clients." (Chambers UK 2014)

Qualification

- 1993 -2000: Ysgol Gyfyn y Strade, Llanelli
- 2000-2003: LLB Cardiff University
- 2003-2004: Bar Vocational Course