

# Melissa Jones

Call: 2017



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Melissa Jones is an experienced junior barrister who specialises in Family and Public law.

Known for her clear, pragmatic advice and strong advocacy, she is regularly instructed in complex and sensitive matters, often involving vulnerable individuals and emotionally charged proceedings.

Melissa is currently acting for three families in the Gleision Colliery Inquests, led by Christian Howells, and is frequently instructed by families and professional parties in Article 2 inquests. She is adept at identifying key issues early and supporting clients through both advisory and advocacy stages of the inquest process.

In family law, Melissa's work covers the full range of public children law proceedings. She represents local authorities, parents, interveners, and children in cases involving serious allegations of neglect, emotional, physical, and sexual harm. Melissa prides herself on her ability to combine attention to detail and tenacity with a personable and thoughtful approach to ensure the best-possible outcome for her clients.

Her Court of Protection practice includes acting for local authorities, health boards, and RPRs in disputes under the Mental Capacity Act 2005. She is regularly instructed in cases where issues relate to capacity disputes, as well as decisions regarding residence, care, contact, and medical treatment. Her approach is empathetic and focused, with an emphasis on working collaboratively throughout the life of the case.

Melissa is valued for her meticulous written work, practical advice, and confident courtroom presence.

Educated at Cardiff High School, Melissa read Law at the University of Bristol and remained in Bristol to complete the Bar Professional Training Course before returning to Cardiff for pupillage. In 2022, she was awarded a Pegasus Scholarship by the Inns of Court and spent eight weeks working in the legal sector in Queensland, Australia.

## Expertise

### Court of Protection & Community Care

Melissa regularly acts for local authorities, health boards, and RPRs in Court of Protection proceedings under the Mental Capacity Act 2005. Her

cases involve capacity disputes and best interests decisions about care, residence, contact, and medical treatment. She is known for her clear advice and practical, personal approach.

## Family & Childcare

Melissa represents local authorities, parents, children, and interveners in public law children proceedings involving allegations of neglect, emotional, physical, and sexual harm. She is experienced across all litigation stages and is recognised for her empathetic, focused advocacy and ability to build constructive working relationships with both lay and professional clients.

## Inquests & Inquiries

Melissa is regularly instructed in complex inquests, including Article 2 cases. She acts for both families and professional bodies and is currently representing three families in the Gleision Colliery Inquests. She is skilled at identifying the key issues early and supporting clients with care through the inquest process.

## Appointments

- Young Bar Representative for the Wales and Chester Circuit
- Chambers Wellbeing Office (2019)

## Awards

- Inns of Court, Pegasus Trust Outgoing Scholarship, Australia (2022)
- Middle Temple, Jules Thorn Scholarship (2016)
- Middle Temple, Blackstone Entrance Exhibition (2016)
- University of Bristol, Bristol Outstanding Award (2015)
- University of Bristol, Bristol PLUS Award (2014)

## Education

- BPTC (Very Competent), University of the West of England (2016 – 2017)
- LLB (Hons), University of Bristol (2013 – 2016)

## Memberships

- Family Law Bar Association