

## Briony Palmer

Called: 2009



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### Practice Overview

Briony is instructed in all aspects of the law relating to children. She has a particular interest in very high conflict or 'intractable' disputes over where children should live and what time they should spend with parents or other family members.

In public law matters, Briony acts for parents, children and local authorities. She has appeared at all levels of court up to and including the High Court and drafted an urgent appeal to the Court of Appeal which resulted in the local authority compromising on the issue of separation of mother and baby before the matter could be heard.

She also accepts instructions in proceedings relating to domestic violence, including injunctions and transfer of tenancy.

Briony is acutely aware of the emotional pressures faced by all involved in litigation and is noted for her resourceful, compassionate and cost-conscious approach. Within her public law practice she is instructed in particular on behalf of clients who are vulnerable due to a mental health condition, learning disability or specific language impairment.

#### Articles

'Have We Created a Monster? Intractable Contact Disputes and Parental Alienation in Context' - Family Law Week

#### Seminars

'Representing Parents and Children in Intractable Contact Disputes'

'Implacable Hostility and Parental Alienation'

'Domestic Violence: Personal Protection and Rights of Occupation'

'Housing Law for Family Lawyers: Transfer of Tenancies'

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#### Degree/University

BA Hons (Oxford) -1st class

MSt (Oxford) -Distinction

Dip Law (City)

BVC (City)

#### Scholarships/Awards/Prizes

Inner Temple -Philip Teichman Benefactor's Award

Inner Temple Exhibitions for GDL and BVC



Toynbee Hall ASG Debating Cup Winner  
Arts and Humanities Research Council Master's Studentship  
Styring Scholarship

**Memberships**

Family Law Bar Association

**Areas of Practice**

Domestic Violence  
Family Finance  
Public Children law  
Private Children law  
Adoption  
Transfer of Tenancy

**Outside Interests**

Briony is a keen violinist and currently plays in a ceilidh band.

## Catherine Piskolti

Called: 2003



+44 (0) 20 7353 4854



clerks@3djb.co.uk



### Practice Overview

Catherine is a specialist family law barrister. In addition, Catherine is a Deputy District Judge on the South Eastern Circuit.

Catherine is a highly skilled barrister with over 20 year's experience, specialising in family law, with a particular focus on both private and public law cases. Known for her attention to detail, unwavering tenacity in Court, and rigorous cross examination. Catherine is dedicated to achieving the best outcomes for those she represents.

#### Private Law Proceedings

In private law cases, Catherine is frequently instructed in high-conflict child arrangement disputes, including those involving allegations of alienating behaviours, sexual abuse, and domestic abuse. She also has experience in cases where parents are opposing applications to permanently remove children from the jurisdiction or are seeking to relocate internationally. Additionally, Catherine represents parents in international child abduction proceedings under The Hague Convention 1980 and in wardship proceedings.

#### Public Law Proceedings

Catherine regularly represents parents and guardians in complex public law cases, including those involving mental health issues, non-accidental injuries, sexual abuse, serious neglect and fabricated or induced illness. Catherine is also instructed in deprivation of liberty cases. Her comprehensive approach ensures that her clients receive the highest level of care and advocacy throughout these sensitive proceedings.

#### Injunctive Proceedings

Catherine represents both applicants and respondents in applications under the Family Law Act 1996, providing expert guidance through the intricacies of injunctive proceedings.

Catherine's approach to every case is both professional and compassionate, ensuring that her clients' needs are always at the forefront of her work. Whether dealing with complex legal matters or sensitive family issues, she is committed to providing the highest standard of representation.

#### Appointments

In 2024, Catherine was appointed as a Deputy District Judge by the Lady Chief Justice and sits on the South Eastern Circuit.

#### Reported Cases

Re D, E, and F (Children) (The Children Act 1989) [2025] EWFC 174 (B)  
E (A Child: Care Proceedings Fact Finding) [2023] EWCA Civ 858



JH v MF (2020) EWHC 86 Fam  
J (A Child), Re (Fact Finding Hearing in Care Proceedings) [2019] EWFC 73 (11 December 2019)  
Re DAM (Children) [2018] EWCA (Civ) 386  
London Borough of Newham v L [2016] EWFC B125 (Local Authority Failures, Costs Orders)  
In the matter of U (Children) [2016] EWCA Civ 1332  
HU v. SU [2015] EWFC 18  
Re Z-O'C (Children) [2014] EWCA Civ 1808

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#### **Degree/University**

LLB in Law with French Law and French Language / University of Leicester  
Diplôme d'Etudes Juridiques Françaises / Université de Strasbourg  
BVC

#### **Scholarships/Awards/Prizes**

Droop Scholarship  
Lord Denning Scholar

#### **Memberships**

FLBA  
Association of Lawyers for Children (ALC)

#### **Areas of Practice**

Domestic Violence  
Public Children Law  
Private Children Law  
International Family Law  
Child Abduction

#### **Languages**

Fluent French

#### **Outside Interests**

Enjoys going to the theatre, travelling and is a keen photographer.