

Laura Wakeford

Called: 2016



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Practice Overview

Laura welcomes instructions to advise and represent clients in all areas of Family Law.

Laura has appeared in all levels of Court, up to and including the High Court. Laura is meticulous in her preparation; her attention to detail, calm manner and professionalism win her favour with clients. Laura gives straight forward and clear advice and frequently secures favourable outcomes. Laura regularly appears in Court and has a busy practice in Chambers.

Laura is very experienced in private children law applications, dealing with complex allegations of domestic abuse and alienation, including in cases where the child is represented. Laura has experience representing clients in both temporary and permanent leave to remove applications and is interested in expanding her practice in these areas. Laura has advised and represented clients in cases where habitual residence is in issue and in standalone applications for specific issue orders and prohibited steps orders in a broad range of areas, including peremptory return applications.

Laura has experience with appeals; preparing grounds of appeal and skeleton arguments and advocacy in relation to both permission and substantive appeal applications. Laura has successfully secured an urgent stay and permission to appeal following a child arrangements order, changing the child's living arrangements, being made at a FHDRA.

Laura has broad experience in financial remedies work. She has represented clients at all stages of proceedings; FDA, FDR and final hearings, including multiday final hearings. Laura has experience of complex cases dealing with third party property ownership, company assets and international elements. Laura accepts instructions in Schedule 1 and TOLATA applications.

Laura has a busy public law children practice, with experience representing Local Authorities, parents, grandparents and Guardians in care proceedings. Laura is regularly instructed in interim care order hearings, case management hearings and issues resolution hearings. Laura has been instructed in and represented clients in multiday final hearings within care proceedings.

Laura is regularly instructed to represent vulnerable clients and has experience representing clients with learning difficulties/ disabilities.

Laura accepts instructions in applications for injunctive relief under the Family Law Act 1996 and has vast experience representing clients both seeking and opposing applications for non-molestation and occupation orders. Laura has some experience of applications where Forced Marriage is in issue.

Prior to joining chambers, Laura gained broad legal experience working as a paralegal undertaking fitness to practise investigations on behalf of large regulators and in employment law.

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Degree/University

LLB Law, Southampton University (First)
BPTC, University of Law (Outstanding)

Scholarships/Awards/Prizes

Philip Teichman Award, Inner Temple
Prize for obtaining "Outstanding" on the BPTC, Inner Temple

Memberships

The Honourable Society of Inner Temple
Family Law Bar Association

Areas of Practice

Domestic Violence
Family Finance
Public Children Law
Private Children Law

Other interests

Laura sits on the Management and Pupillage Committee within Chambers.
Laura is a keen netball player.
Laura provides ad hoc pro bono assistance to clients through the Centre for Women's Justice as a Legal Reference Panel Member