



# Alyssa Howard

Year of Call: 2014

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## Overview

Alyssa has a particular interest in difficult and complex private children cases and is often instructed on cases involving parental alienation and implacable hostility. She appears at all stages of proceedings and at all levels of court; she has been briefed up to the Court of Appeal in her own right.

Alyssa has experience in matrimonial finances cases at all stages of proceedings. Her practice also encompasses acting for Intervenors, TOLATA 2006 and Schedule 1 Children Act 1989 matters.

## Practice Areas

### Private Law Children

Alyssa has a particular interest in difficult and complex private children cases and is often instructed on cases involving parental alienation and implacable hostility. She appears at all stages of proceedings and at all levels of court.

Alyssa is frequently instructed to appear on behalf of clients in a wide variety of Private Children Law cases including Child Arrangements Orders, International and Internal Relocation applications, Hague Convention and Abduction proceedings, Special Guardianship Orders and Private Adoption. She is also regularly instructed to provide advice in these areas, both in writing and in conference.

Alyssa is popular with solicitors and clients in difficult, complex and/or high-conflict private children cases. A recent case she was instructed on was described by the expert psychologist as 'the most serious case of parental alienation I have come across in my entire career.'

In addition to her private law children practice, Alyssa is keen to develop her practice in the area of law relating to the Human Fertilisation and Surrogacy Act 2008, as well as applications in the Court of Protection.

#### Notable cases:

**P (A Child) [2015] EWCA Civ 1428** – Alyssa acted at first instance and thereafter successfully for her client in the Court of Appeal in a complex private law children matter involving international elements and an 'abusive' mother, with an order for no direct contact being upheld by the Court of Appeal.

**S (A Child) [2015] EWFC B212** – Private law children case involving unknown whereabouts of Respondent birth parents. Child Arrangements Order made in client's favour.

**London Borough of Waltham Forest v AD [2014] EWHC 1985 (Fam)** – Instructed on a case for a Local Authority on behalf of the child requesting a reporting restriction in a case where the Father had killed the Mother. Guidance given by Keenan J as to procedure in such applications.

## Family - Finance

Alyssa has experience in matrimonial finances cases at all stages of proceedings. Her practice also encompasses acting for Intervenors, TOLATA 2006 and Schedule 1 Children Act 1989 matters.

Recent work Alyssa has undertaken in this area includes:

- Cases involving the Official Solicitor
- S37 injunctions
- The successful setting aside of a consent order on the grounds of misrepresentation and duress
- Acting for Intervenors in a case involving a large family property portfolio
- Cases involving insolvency
- Financial disputes concerning farming and agricultural enterprises

Alyssa regularly provides advice in these areas, at conference and by way of written opinion.

## Qualifications

BA History of Art, Trinity Hall, Cambridge University (1st Class Honours), MA History of Art, Cambridge

Graduate Diploma in Law and BPTC (BPP Law School London)

## Memberships

Family Law Bar Association

Association of Women Barristers

Fawcett Society

Association of Lawyers for Children

## Awards/Scholarships

Lincoln's Inn, Lord Denning Scholarship

Lincoln's Inn, Hardwicke Scholarship

Trinity Hall Cambridge University Bateman Scholarship (for top first in the year)

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