



Charles Geekie QC

Year of Call: 1985 | QC: 2006

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Overview

Charles is a barrister specialising in family law. His practice centres on legal issues concerning children, including public and private law cases. He has great experience in dealing with complex residence cases and those involving relocation. He represents local authorities, parents and Guardians in public law and adoption cases. He has particular experience in complex care cases involving fatalities, serious injuries, sexual and emotional abuse and cases where there is a conflict of medical evidence.

Practice Areas

Public Law Children

Charles is a barrister specialising in family law. His practice centres on legal issues concerning children, including public and private law cases. He has great experience in dealing with complex residence cases and those involving relocation. He represents local authorities, parents and Guardians in public law and adoption cases. He has particular experience in complex care cases involving fatalities, serious injuries, sexual and emotional abuse and cases where there is a conflict of medical evidence.

Recommendations:

Chambers and Partners: leading junior 2004, 2005, 2006; leading silk 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 Recommended in Legal 500 2010.

Charles was shortlisted for Family Silk of the year for the Chambers Bar Awards 2014. Both in 2013 and 2014 Charles was shortlisted as Family Silk of the year by the Legal 500.

First tier in 2013, 2014, 2015 and 2016 directory.

Chambers & Partners 2017: Renowned for his handling of extremely complex and sensitive children matters, public and private, such as international adoption, relocation and abduction. He co-leads chambers and routinely engages in cases relating to sexual, emotional and physical abuse.

"Charles is an absolute leader in the field of children work. He is a great strategist who is highly intelligent, charming and reassuring to clients in difficult situations. He commands the greatest respect from both solicitors and the court."

Legal 500 2016: "An incredible cross-examiner; he is the classical understated but deadly advocate."

Chambers & Partners 2016: "He's extremely knowledgeable and a real authority, who's incredibly hard-working. He inspires confidence in his clients and solicitors, judges really like him and his written work is excellent. He is absolutely a first-choice barrister

for any tricky children case.”

Legal 500 2015: “It is an utter joy to watch his cross-examinations; he is a hugely knowledgeable advocate.”

Chambers & Partners 2015: “He picks things up and spots things early, gently guiding the case in the direction that he wants it to go.”
“Completely up on the law, he’s very good with the clients, and has quiet authority.”

Legal 500 2014: “He leaves no stone unturned, and his cross-examination is formidable.”

Chambers & Partners 2014: “A very well-versed barrister, he is to the point, courteous and succinct. He’s a terrific and highly effective advocate,” who’s “a top children’s silk.”

Legal 500 2013: “Advocacy skills that are second to none, and outstanding judgement.”

Chambers & Partners 2013: “well-prepared, measured and thoughtful” advocacy... “he presents cases very clearly to the court and is very communicative with solicitors.”

Chambers & Partners 2012: “extremely highly regarded for his involvement in the most complex of children cases. His work often involves sexual abuse and the death of children, and sources describe him as ‘assured, knowledgeable and supportive’.”

Chambers & Partners 2011: “He’s got it all – the ability to cross examine, a thorough grasp of the law and concise but extremely powerful written documents.”

Chambers & Partners 2010: “has thrived in silk and has particular skill in child abuse cases and those with medical issues attached”
(Chambers & Partners)

Chambers & Partners 2009: “a solicitor favourite who has won the respect of innumerable industry figures with his calm and authoritative demeanour” “Solicitors beat a path to his door as he understands his clients and makes them feel safe and confident.”

Chambers & Partners 2008: “a formidable opponent”

Chambers & Partners 2007: “very good at presenting difficult material in a comprehensive way” “forensically excellent”

Chambers & Partners 2006: “thoughtful about the law and thorough in his preparation of the arguments”

Notable cases:

[Re W \(Children\) \(Abuse: Oral Evidence\) \[2010\] EWCA Civ 57](#)

[Re W \(Children\) \(Abuse: Oral Evidence\) \[2010\] UKSC 12, \[2010\] 1 FLR 1485](#)

[Re M-W \(Care Proceedings\) \(Expert Evidence\) \[2010\] EWCA Civ 12, \[2010\] 2 FLR 46](#)

[Re MA \(Care Threshold\) \[2009\] EWCA Civ 853, \[2010\] 1 FLR 431](#)

A Local Authority v S [2009] EWHC 2115 (Fam); [2010] 1 FLR 1560 Re P (Placement Orders: Parental Consent) [2008] 2 FLR 625

Re R (Wardship: Medical Treatment) [1992] 1 FLR190

Re M (Care: Leave to interview child) [1995] 1 FLR 825

Re M (Child Abuse: Video Evidence) [1995] 2 FLR 571

M v M (Stay of Proceedings: Return of Child) [2006] 1 FLR 138

Re N (Sexual Abuse Allegations: Professionals not Abiding by Findings of Fact) [2005] 2 FLR 340

Qualifications

LLB Bristol University

Memberships

Elected representative on the committee of the Family Law Bar

Association Member of the Association of Lawyers for Children

Appointments

Family Recorder 2006

Joint Head of Chambers 2013

Deputy High Court Judge 2016

Publications

Contributor to Rayden and Jackson on Divorce and Family Matters, Halsbury's Laws (Children volume) and Family Law.

Further Information

Drafted training protocol for Expert Witnesses. Run, jointly with senior consultant psychiatrists, training sessions for expert witnesses.
Drafted FLBA response to Government consultation on Expert Witnesses, Munroe Review and GMC review in relation to child protection.