



Malvika Jaganmohan

Year of Call: 2017

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Overview

Malvika is a family practitioner, accepting instructions in all areas of family law, including applications under Part IV of the Family Law Act 1996, public and private law children, and matrimonial finance. Malvika completed pupillage at a specialist family law chambers in London before joining St Ives as a tenant.

Malvika prides herself on her approachable manner, and her ability to put even the most vulnerable and anxious clients at ease.

Within her public law practice, Malvika acts for both local authorities and parents, and she has appeared up to High Court level. Her caseload has spanned a range of complex issues, including non-accidental injury, serious domestic abuse and deprivations of liberty, to name but a few.

Malvika has a busy private law practice and has acted for parents and r. 16.4 Guardians. She has a particular interest in cases concerning intractable hostility to contact; private law matters with a public law dimension, and cases with overlapping immigration issues.

Malvika has a growing financial remedies practice. During pupillage, she was exposed to a range of ancillary relief matters and spent a week "on exchange", shadowing members at a specialist matrimonial finance chambers.

Before coming to the Bar, Malvika spent nine months as a Legal Officer in a Local Authority legal services department within their childcare team. This has given her a firm grounding in public child law processes, particularly from a local authority perspective.

Malvika is a panel member at Advocate (formerly the Bar Pro Bono Unit). She was voted Advocate's volunteer of the month in October 2019 in recognition of her "commitment to access to justice, her approachable manner, and her willingness to consider the case of anyone in need". Advocate described her as a "future pro bono star of the Bar".

Alongside her practice, Malvika is very active in the wider legal community. She is particularly passionate about mental health and wellbeing amongst lawyers and runs her own blog – Stiff Upper Lip – on the subject. She writes case analyses, book reviews and comment pieces regularly and she is frequently invited to speak on panels on a range of issues; recent talks have included well-being and resilience amongst junior lawyers, careers in legal aid, and family law post-LASPO.

Malvika is part of the core group for The Transparency Project, a charity which explains and discusses family law cases in England and Wales with the aim of demystifying the family justice system. She is committed to improving access to justice; she sits on the Young Legal Aid Lawyers (YLAL) national committee and helps to coordinate YLAL Midlands.

Malvika is also a founding member of Women in Family Law (WiFL). She is currently hosting a series of weekly 'Instagram Live' interviews with a range of women in family law on the impact of COVID-19 on their practices.

Practice Areas

Qualifications

London School of Economics and Political Science, LLB Law (First Class Honours)

Sciences Po Paris, Campus de Menton (Exchange Programme)

Nottingham Trent University, LLM BPTC (Very Competent in BPTC; Distinction in LLM)

Memberships

Association of Lawyers for Children

Associate Member of Resolution

Family Law Bar Association

The Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn

Young Legal Aid Lawyers

Awards/Scholarships

Herbert Smith Freehills Prize for Best Performance in Part I, London School of Economics and Political Science, 2014

Joint Winner, Mike Redmayne Prize for Law of Evidence, London School of Economics and Political Science, 2016

Slaughter and May Prize for best overall degree performance, London School of Economics and Political Science, 2016

Marchant Scholarship, The Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn, 2016

Nottingham Law School Dean's BPTC Scholarship for Academic Excellence, Nottingham Trent University, 2016

St Mary's Family Law Second Prize, Nottingham Trent University, 2017

Hubert Greenland Scholarship, The Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn, 2018

Publications

Malvika Jaganmohan has written for Resolution's 'The Review' on behalf of The Transparency Project. This piece warns against sidelining open justice and transparency in the family courts during COVID-19. May 2020. To read more click [here](#).

UPDATE: Z (A Child: committal proceeding) – a reminder that no one can be committed to prison without being named publicly. May 2020. To view client [here](#).

Remote hearings: a gulf between lawyers and lay parties? March 2020. To view click [here](#).

How technology almost thwarted the family courts again (Z (A Child: committal proceeding)). March 2020. To view click [here](#).

"I hurt you because I love you" – what did TV's Silent Witness get right and wrong about the treatment of domestic violence in the family courts? January 2020. To view click [here](#).

No take-backs? The parents who changed their mind about adoption and the local authority who got it very, very wrong. October 2019. To view click [here](#).

F (A Child: Fact-Finding Appeal) [2019] EWCA Civ 1244: what's the difference between an expert witness and a witness with expertise? August 2019. To view click [here](#).

The President's Expert Witness Working Group Symposium: in which lawyers (for once) were not the loudest voices in the room. July 2019. To view click [here](#).

Picking up the pieces post – LASPO. July 2019. To view click [here](#).

Expert Witnesses: The Crisis in Family Courts. June 2019. To view click [here](#).

Film Review: On the Basis of Sex. March 2019. To view click [here](#).

'In Your Defence: Stories of Life and Law': An Interview with Sarah Langford. March 2019. To view click [here](#).

Book Review: 'Eve Was Shamed' by Helen Kennedy QC. December 2018. To view click [here](#).

Client Testimonials

"Our client contacted me at the end of last week to say how pleased he was with Malvika over the 2 day FH last week. I attended with counsel also and she was excellent. She knew the case inside out and was confident and compelling on her feet." – representative from instructing solicitor's firm.

"I can't thank Malvika enough and I would highly recommend her services as professional, focussed and outcome-driven." – pro bono client