



Rebecca Cross

Year of Call: 2015

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Overview

Rebecca is a family law specialist with an established practice in family finance matters and private law children's cases. Noted as having an approachable, professional and highly likeable manner with clients, solicitors and judges alike, she is considered a tenacious advocate with maturity beyond her year of Call. She is regularly instructed in complex disputes, often appearing against senior barristers of leading family chambers and has been instructed to appear against King's Counsel in both children and matrimonial finance matters. Rebecca has been briefed in her own right up to all levels including the Court of Appeal.

She has experience of all stages of proceedings in financial remedies, private children and injunctive proceedings. She provides written advice in all areas of her specialism.

Rebecca is sensitive toward the particular challenges which are posed in family litigation whilst maintaining a thoughtful approach to her client's strategic aims. Rebecca welcomes instruction at an early stage in proceedings in order to work in partnership with her solicitors so that her clients have the benefit of their full legal team.

Rebecca is the co-author of the book 'A Practical Guide to Practice Direction 12J and Domestic Abuse in Private Law Children Proceedings' published by Law Brief Publishing in December 2021. The link to the book can be found by clicking [here](#).

Rebecca regularly speaks on all aspects of her specialisms to solicitors and other professionals and is a contributor to legal publications. Rebecca is an Advocate Panel Member (formerly The Bar Pro Bono Unit). Within Chambers, she is a member of the Complaints Panel, Pupillage Committee and assistant to Chambers' librarian.

Prior to joining the Bar, Rebecca worked in Westminster as a Parliamentary Assistant to a Member of Parliament and thereafter two peers in the House of Lords, working on a wide variety of policy areas including the Armed Forces Bill and the Syrian refugee crisis.

Rebecca was nominated by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association to represent the UK at the 8th Commonwealth Youth Parliament in Victoria, British Columbia in November 2016, an annual event that is held in a different Commonwealth region each year.

Practice Areas

Family - Finance

In financial remedy proceedings Rebecca deals with cases ranging from those dominated by need to those where the assets are substantial or difficult to trace. Rebecca regularly appears for applicants, respondents and interveners at all stages of proceedings, including multi-day final hearings and appeals, under the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973 and the Civil Partnership Act 2004. She also represents parties in applications pursuant to the Trusts of Land and Appointment of Trustees Act 1996 and applications under Schedule 1 of the Children Act 1989.

Rebecca is frequently instructed at pre-issue stage, where focus is primarily upon strategy, settlement and advice as to evidence.

Rebecca has a wide range of experience in family finance matters in cases involving:

- Dissipation of assets;
- Complex pension assets to include public sector pensions;
- Company valuation and complex company structures;
- Cases involving insolvency;
- Farming assets and agricultural issues;
- Assets abroad;
- Fraudulent non-disclosure;
- The enforcement of consent orders;
- The set aside of orders on the grounds of misrepresentation;
- Appeals.

Rebecca regularly advises clients in conference, both before and after the issue of proceedings and is able to provide prompt written advice within this specialism. Rebecca prides herself on providing realistic and pragmatic advice whilst always being prepared to robustly pursue her client's case. Rebecca is happy to represent clients in all forms of Alternative Dispute Resolution, including at Mediations, private FDRs, Early Neutral Evaluations and Arbitrations.

Private Law Children

Rebecca is popular with solicitors and clients in difficult, complex and/or high-conflict private children cases. Rebecca receives instructions in private law proceedings acting for both parents, grandparents, connected carers and children (through their Rule 16.4 Guardian).

Rebecca has wide experience in the representation of parties in private law proceedings. This includes experience of:

- Complex child arrangement proceedings such as those involving allegations of domestic abuse, allegations of alienation and challenge to section 7 reports;
- Transfer of living arrangements;

- Cases involving Re W determinations and where appropriate, the cross-examination of children (and other vulnerable witnesses);
- Cases with an international element including international relocation;
- Applications relating to surrogacy and declarations of parentage;
- Female genital mutilation (FGM);
- Forced marriage;
- Allegations of factitious illness;
- Child and parental death;
- Cases involving the invocation of the inherent jurisdiction;
- Proceedings which have current or previous local authority involvement;
- Special guardianship
- Adoption.

On a number of occasions, Rebecca has secured favourable costs orders, including against publicly funded parties.

Rebecca represented the children, instructed by the National Youth Advocacy Service (NYAS), in a case spanning 27 months. The case concerned a finding of parental alienation by one expert of two, and the impact of domestic abuse on child arrangements. The proceedings were described by the expert psychiatrist as “about as acrimonious as they get”. To view this reported case, please [click here](#).

Rebecca also receives instructions in applications for injunctive relief under the Family Law Act 1996.

Rebecca is happy to represent clients in all forms of Alternative Dispute Resolution, including Arbitrations and Early Neutral Evaluations.

Qualifications

Bar Professional Training Course, Nottingham Law School, 2015

Bachelor of Laws (LLB), University of Birmingham, 2014

Memberships

The Honourable Society of Gray’s Inn

The Honourable Society of Inner Temple (Ad Eundem)

Family Law Bar Association

West Midlands Family Law Bar Association

Midland Circuit

Midland Circuit Women’s Forum (committee member)

Resolution. Rebecca sits on the committee of Young Resolution West Midlands as Education Officer and Assistant Treasurer

Reported Cases

Re V and T (Placement application; disabled child) [2022] EWFC 125

Rebecca Cross represented parents with learning difficulties whose child has significant physical and developmental needs. The local authority's application for a final care order and placement order was successfully resisted.

To read this reported case please click [here](#).

K v L Re M, N [2019] EWFC B50

In private children proceedings Rebecca represented the children, instructed by the National Youth Advocacy Service (NYAS), in a case spanning 27 months. The case concerned a finding of parental alienation by one expert of two, and the impact of domestic violence on child arrangements. The court heavily criticised one of the expert witnesses. The proceedings were described by as "about as acrimonious as they get". To read this reported case, please click [here](#).

Awards/Scholarships

James Crouch Scholar (major BPC Scholarship), Gray's Inn 2014

1st Place, No. 1 High Pavement Plea in Mitigation Competition 2015

3rd Place, Nottingham Law School 50th anniversary essay competition (judged by Lord Saville) 2022

Advanced International Advocacy Course scholar (Keble College, Oxford) 2022

Further Information

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Publications

Co-author of the book 'A Practical Guide to Practice Direction 12J and Domestic Abuse in Private Law Children Proceedings' published by Law Brief Publishing in December 2021. The link to the book can be found by clicking [here](#).

Recommendations

Legal 500 2023: "Rebecca is a skilled and persuasive advocate. She is totally dedicated to her clients and achieves fantastic results through her calm and sensible approach. Her preparation is impeccable, with meticulous attention to detail."

Legal 500 2022: "Rebecca is pragmatic in her approach, realistic, prepared to argue the client's case strenuously and has a good manner with clients. She's bright and I think is one to watch for the future in terms of financial remedy as she develops her practice area and takes on bigger cases."

Privacy Notice

Click [here](#) to view the Privacy Notice for Rebecca Cross.