



# Zara Mahmood

Year of Call: 2018

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## Overview

Zara is a specialist family law practitioner who has a thriving practice in both public and private law children matters. She is a robust advocate, committed to achieving the best outcome for her clients by taking a thorough and analytical approach in each and every one of her cases.

Zara is particularly well known for her straightforward and personable manner with clients; she is regularly commended by her instructing solicitors for her ability to quickly build an excellent rapport with clients as well as always providing her clients with clear, concise and thorough advice.

Within her practice in public children law matters, Zara has appeared up to the High Court level; in particular, Zara has experience of being a led junior, having recently been involved in a complex nine-day finding of fact hearing in the High Court.

Outside of her court commitments, Zara has co-delivered training seminars for local authorities and has appeared as a guest speaker at conferences hosted by Chambers.

Prior to commencing her career at the Bar, Zara undertook a niche role assisting both senior prosecution and defence counsel with the electronic presentation of digital evidence during the course of several complex and serious criminal matters (including fraud and murder trials). Zara was also instructed as the sole operator responsible for presenting digital evidence within a long-running government corruption and bribery trial in the Supreme Court of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Zara was ranked in the Legal 500 (2024) as Tier 1 Rising Star.

## Practice Areas

### Public Law Children

Zara accepts instructions in all public children matters. Zara has a thriving and varied practice, regularly appearing on behalf of local authorities, parents, children's guardians and extended family members/relatives at all stages of hearings including contested interim hearings, finding of fact hearings, final hearings, case management hearings and issues resolution hearings.

Zara's experience includes an array of complex matters well beyond her year of call, including non-accidental injuries

suffered by children, chronic neglect, serious domestic abuse as well as drug and alcohol misuse. Zara further has significant experience in successfully dealing with the following types of matters that arise in public law proceedings:

- Contested removal applications;
- Contested part 25 applications;
- Applications to discharge care orders; and
- Contested applications for leave to oppose the making of an adoption order.

Within her practice in public children law matters, Zara has appeared up to the High Court level; in particular, Zara has experience of being a led junior, having recently been involved in a complex nine-day finding of fact hearing in the High Court.

As an advocate, Zara is confident, robust and fearless; she is well known for her meticulous attention to detail and her analytical approach. She further has a vast amount of experience in representing vulnerable clients, including those with cognitive functioning difficulties.

## Private Law Children

Zara has a diverse and thriving private law practice. She regularly receives instructions acting on behalf of parents, children (through their FPR 16.4 Guardian) as well as extended family members across all stages of hearings including finding of fact hearings and final hearings.

Zara is incredibly popular with both solicitors and clients within private law matters and has significant experience dealing with a range of private family law matters including:

- Applications for a Child Arrangements Order (Live With/Spend Time With);
- Applications to vary a Child Arrangements Order (Live With/Spend Time With);
- Applications for Specific Issue Orders and/or Prohibited Steps Orders;
- Applications for a Special Guardianship Order;
- Applications for Non-Molestation Orders; and
- Applications for Occupation Orders.

In particular, within the private children law sphere Zara's caseload specifically encompasses a range of complex issues such as:

- allegations of domestic abuse, including coercive and controlling behaviour, physical, emotional and sexual abuse;
- the international relocation of children; and
- allegations of implacable hostility and intractable contact disputes.

As an advocate, Zara is confident, robust and fearless; she is well known for her meticulous attention to detail and her analytical approach. She further has a vast amount of experience in representing vulnerable clients, including those with cognitive functioning difficulties.

## Qualifications

Bar Professional Training Course, Nottingham Law School, 2018

Master of Laws in International Law (LLM), University of Nottingham, 2016

Bachelor of Laws in Law (LLB Hons), University of Leicester, 2015

# Scholarships

Nottingham Law School's Dean's Professional Scholarship for Academic Excellence, Nottingham Law School, 2017.

The University of Nottingham Masters Scholarship, University of Nottingham, 2015.

Chancellor's Scholarship, University of Leicester, 2012.

# Memberships

The Honourable Society of the Middle Temple

Family Law Bar Association

West Midlands Family Law Bar Association

Midlands Circuit

# Recommendations

Legal 500 (2024): Tier 1: Rising Star: 'Zara is extremely professional. She explains everything to the client brilliantly, and her advocacy is well-planned, clear, and concise.'

# Recent Publications

["For every promise, there is a price to pay" Re-visiting the Doctrine of Proprietary Estoppel in Guest v Guest \[2020\] EWCA Civ 387](#)

["To Fact-Find or not to Fact-Find: That is the question"](#)

# Privacy Notice

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