

Private Law Conference 2023 Speakers



Elizabeth Isaacs KC

Elizabeth Isaacs KC is a specialist family law silk who has a wealth of experience in all aspects of private law proceedings relating to children and is committed to providing an efficient and robust approach within the dynamic and challenging field of private law practice. Elizabeth has a formidable reputation for excellence and is highly regarded for her persuasive oral and written advocacy skills at all levels of court.

She prioritises a collaborative approach with solicitors and clients, providing clear leadership within the team to deliver the best outcomes in the case. Elizabeth regularly acts for parents, interveners, children and the Official Solicitor. Particular areas of expertise and interest include –

- LGBTQ and Modern Families parenting issues
- Children's living and contact arrangements
- Intractable welfare disputes
- Disputes about habitual residence
- Domestic and international relocation
- Disputes about education, religion and medical issues
- Surrogacy and parental order application
- Special guardianship
- Media/privacy law in family proceedings



Tom Harrill

Tom is experienced in acting for parents, children and members of the extended family in all aspects of private-law disputes. He is sensitive toward the particular challenges which are posed in private law litigation whilst maintaining a tactically-driven approach. Tom prefers to be instructed at an early stage in private proceedings and to work in partnership with his solicitors so that his clients have the benefit of their full legal team.

Tom has recently been instructed in cases with issues including:

- Alleged serious physical and sexual violence
- Alleged parental alienation
- Alleged drug and alcohol misuse
- Internal and external relocation, including to non-Hague Convention countries
- Challenging section 7 reports
- Transfer of living arrangements
- Contact
- Schooling
- Change of name
- Declarations of parentage
- Special guardianship

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Holly Hilbourne-Gollop

Holly has a varied private law practice, appearing on behalf of both parents and children (through their rule 16.4 Guardian). Holly has experience of directions hearings, final hearings and fact-finding hearings.

Holly is well equipped at dealing with various applications in private law, including:

- Child Arrangements Order
- Applications to vary a Child Arrangements Order
- Enforcement of Child Arrangements Orders
- Specific Issue Orders
- Prohibited Steps Order

Holly has experience in cases involving parental alienation, emotional abuse, allegations of sexual abuse, fabricated illness and physical abuse.

Holly was recently instructed in a 5-day fact-find where she successfully defended allegations of rape and sexual abuse of a child, and secured findings of alienation and indoctrination.

Holly also has experience in fertility/surrogacy law, having recently secured a Parental Order before Mr Justice Hayden sitting in the High Court at the Royal Courts of Justice.



Zara Mahmood

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-Molestations 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.



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Eloise Marriott

Eloise has a busy private law practice. She regularly appears on behalf of parents, grandparents and children (through their 16.4 Guardian) in Children Act proceedings. Eloise also has experience in Family Law Act matters.

Eloise has involvement at all stages of private law proceedings, from directions hearings to multiday fact-finding and final hearings.

In Children Act proceedings, Eloise is regularly instructed in a broad range of matters involving emotional, financial, physical and sexual abuse, as well as issues of parental alienation and implacable hostility. Eloise also has experience in relocation applications and matters concerning cultural and religious issues.

Eloise is sensitive to the particular challenges posed in private law proceedings and is adept at quickly building a rapport with her clients. She is commended for offering excellent client care, whilst maintaining a tactically-driven, pragmatic and robust approach.

