



Name: Annabel Wilkinson

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PRACTICE OVERVIEW

Annabel is a specialist Family Law barrister.

Annabel's main areas of work include:

- Children (public law)
- Children (private law)
- Domestic violence and injunctions

Annabel joined Chambers following the successful completion of her pupillage. She benefited from training in all areas of Chambers' work before specialising in Family law.

Annabel achieved a First Class degree in English from the University of Exeter before completing her LLB at the College of Law. She was awarded the Queen Mother and Jules Thorn Scholarships by Middle Temple. Annabel was selected to receive the Vice Chancellor's Excellence Scholarship from the University of Exeter in recognition of her academic achievements and her contribution to the student and local community through her voluntary work.

Annabel is noted for her pragmatism, efficiency, and professionalism both in and out of the courtroom, as well as a reassuring and gentle handling of clients.

PUBLIC LAW CHILDREN

Annabel regularly acts for local authorities, parents, grandparents, and children through their guardians. She has extensive experience in a wide range of public law matters including adoption, care, special guardianship, EPOs, and secure accommodation orders. She accepts instructions in cases of neglect, abuse (physical, emotional and sexual), domestic violence, and alleged non-accidental injuries.

Annabel spent several months on secondment in the Child Care section of Hampshire County Council Legal Practice undertaking case management and advocacy as well as attending legal strategy meetings. This gave her a valuable insight into the mechanisms of local authorities as well as the work of child care solicitors.

Annabel accepts instructions to draft Thresholds, Case Summaries, and other relevant documentation. She has also undertaken PII disclosure for local authorities.

Annabel accepts instructions to attend pre-proceedings meetings on behalf of parents.

PRIVATE LAW CHILDREN

Annabel is instructed in a wide range of private law children matters from straightforward Child Arrangements applications to disputes involving allegations of violence, abuse, and manipulation. She has built a good rapport with local solicitors and is known for putting even the most vulnerable and anxious clients at ease.

Annabel has also acted in urgent ex parte applications to secure the return of children wrongly retained by the other parent following contact.

Annabel has represented children through Guardians appointed in cases of suspected alienation or implacable hostility.

Recent instructions include:

- Acting for a father in a wardship matter in the High Court following concerns the mother had fled to South Africa with the children.
- Acting for a mother in first instance and appeal proceedings relating to the children's educational establishments; the mother sought for both children to move and the father opposed her application. Following a fully contested hearing the Court found in the mother's favour and ordered that the children should move school and nursery respectively. The father appealed, but the decision of the lower Court was upheld.
- Acting for a father in internal relocation proceedings. The Court found in the father's favour and made a Prohibited Steps Order restricting the scope of any move.
- Acting for a mother to secure the return of the child, pursuant to sections 33 and 34 Family Law Act 1986, Father having abducted the child and his whereabouts being unknown.
- Acting for the child through his Guardian in a case where the child had been alienated from his father. Contact was gradually rebuilt and family tensions improved.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND INJUNCTIONS

Annabel is regularly instructed to seek Non-Molestation Orders, Occupation Orders, and Prevention from Harassment Orders on an ex-parte basis. She has experience representing clients at contested injunction hearings, fact-findings, as well as in committal proceedings. Annabel has assisted solicitors with preparation of the Notice to Show Cause and advised as to committal procedure.

Recent instructions include:

- Securing non-molestation orders and occupation orders on an ex-parte basis
- Acting for the Applicant in committal proceedings relating to breach of undertaking and breach of Non-Molestation Order by her ex-partner. The Court made findings against the Respondent, awarded him a suspended sentence, and his Non-Molestation Order was extended
- Acting for the Applicant in committal proceedings relating to a breach of undertaking where there were simultaneous Child Arrangements proceedings. The Court made findings against the Respondent and sentenced him to a suspended prison sentence.

QUALIFICATIONS, MEMBERSHIPS AND APPOINTMENTS

Qualifications and Appointments

- BA (Hons) English, University of Exeter (First Class)
- LLB (Hons), College of Law (2:1)
- Queen Mother Scholarship (Middle Temple)
- Jules Thorn Scholarship (Middle Temple)
- Vice Chancellor's Excellence Scholarship, University of Exeter
- Chancellor's Career Development Award, University of Exeter
- Exeter Leaders Award, University of Exeter
- LexisNexis College of Law Mooting Competition Winner 2011
- Westlaw College of Law Mock Trial Competition Winner 2011

Memberships

- Family Law Bar Association Member
- Resolution Member