



Julia Cheetham QC

Called: 1990

Silk Date: 2015



0844 561 7135



jcheetham@harcourtchambers.co.uk

Practice Profile

Julia's practice involves complex proceedings relating to children including care proceedings, adoption, wardship and judicial review. Julia was appointed as a Recorder in 2008 (Public Law Family, Private Law Family and Civil). Julia is head of the family team at Deans Court Chambers and Deputy Head of Chambers.

PRACTICE

Julia regularly appears in cases which involve complex medical evidence relating to the death or serious injury of children including sexual abuse and abnormal illness behaviour. She appears in the High Court in cases involving serious medical treatment issues and complex packages of care (including the withdrawal of life sustaining treatment) and in the Court of Protection.

Cases where one parent has killed the other are a particular area of expertise for Julia. She regularly represents children, parents and local authorities in such cases, many of which have involved high profile criminal proceedings and/or serious case reviews. She has represented the children in cases involving alleged removal of children from the jurisdiction to Syria.

In 2018 and 2019 Julia represented respondents in two of the largest cases of alleged sexual abuse which have been heard in the Family Court.

Julia has significant experience of work in St Helena and is on the roll of advocates of the Supreme Court of St Helena, Ascension Island and Tristan de Cunha. She has undertaken work in the UK for the Falkland Islands and St Helena Governments. She has a particular interest in jurisdictional issues affecting the overseas territories and in 2018 presented a paper at FCO to the British Overseas Territories Steering Group on family law. Julia has also represented local authorities in high profile cases involving jurisdiction issues with Scotland.

She has an interest in disability issues and Human Rights, in particular those relating to deaf and learning-disabled parents. She has significant experience in cases involving transgender children and represented the father in the ground breaking case of **Lancashire County Council v TP [2019] EWFC 30**.

Julia regularly gives seminars to professionals working within the field and has been involved in expert witness training. She sits as a Recorder in Public and Private Law Family and Civil cases and is authorised to sit as a High Court Judge pursuant to Section 9 (1). Julia was recently approved as an advocacy trainer for the FLBA vulnerable witness training programme.

NOTABLE CASES

Re X and Y (Children) (No2) [2015] EWHC 2358



Case involving the security measures to be put in place following the interim hearing in X (Children) below.

XBC v X and Others [2015] EWFC B7

Case involving secure accommodation and good practice for the provision of mental health services to vulnerable young people.

X (Children) and Y (Children) (Emergency Protection Orders) [2015] EWHC 2265

Case involving the provisions to be made for children where it is alleged there is a flight risk to Syria.

Cumbria County Council v Q (Injuries to an infant with bone disorder) [2015] EWFC

Case involving injuries to a young child with vitamin D deficiency and a metabolic bone disorder.

Blackpool v A (A Child) [2015] EWFC 9

Case involving the killing of a two year old by the mother's boyfriend.

Re A (A Child) [2014] EWCOP 920

Case involving orders for NG tube feeding of a young woman against her expressed wishes.

Lancashire County Council v CM and F (Children Fact Finding) [2014] EWFC 3

Re-opening of finding of fact hearing where a subsequent child of the family died.

Derbyshire County Council v A Mother and A Father [2013] EWHC 1864 (Fam)

Case involving the salt poisoning of a young infant.

Re X (A Child) [2011] EWHC 3401

Case involving the consideration of whether a young person with Aspergers Syndrome should give evidence in care proceedings.

Re X

A Child: Evidence

A Local Authority v A, B and E

Case concerning an application made within complex care proceedings for the revocation of a violent father's PR.

In the Matter of A and B

(One Parent Killed by the Other) EWHC B25

Re S and W

(Care Proceedings) [2007] EWCA Civ [232] [2007] 2 FLR 275.

X County Council v B

(Emergency Protection Orders) [2004] EWHC 2015 (Fam) [2005] 1 FLR 341.

Re L (Contact: Domestic Violence), Re V (Contact: Domestic Violence)

Re M (Contact: Domestic Violence) Re H (Contact: Domestic Violence) [2000] 2 FLR 334.

Oldham MBC v. E and Others

[1994] 1FLR 194.

ENDORSEMENTS

"Dogged in her pursuance of her client's case" Legal 500 UK Bar 2020



"Julia takes an extremely thorough approach and has an incredible eye for detail, leaving no stone unturned. She is very calm and patient and deals with the client in a calm and friendly way, which puts them at ease."
Chambers UK Bar 2020

Highly experienced in matters involving children and vulnerable adults. Her cases cover a range of issues including injuries, sexual abuse and child trafficking. She has a deep understanding of the laws governing British Overseas Territories. *"She never fails to impress me with her knowledge and expertise, her calming manner and her proactive, hands-on approach in difficult circumstances."* *"Julia's client care skills are second to none. In court she is always courteous, well prepared and able to present her case clearly and effectively."* Chambers UK Bar 2019

'Very experienced in cases of serious injuries and sexual abuse involving children.' Legal 500 UK Bar 2018

'Her practice includes wardship, care and adoption matters.' Legal 500 UK Bar 2017

'Highly experienced in complex children law proceedings' Legal 500 UK Bar 2016

Experienced in cases involving neglect and serious injuries to children, as well as medical treatment matters.
Legal 500 UK Bar 2015

Experienced in cases involving fatalities and non-accidental injuries to children. Legal 500 UK Bar 2014

'of silk quality' Legal 500 UK Bar 2014

MEMBERSHIPS

Northern Circuit

Family Law Bar Association