

Harcourt Chambers – Infant Head Injury Conference

Speaker bio's

Mr John Vater KC



John Vater was called to the Bar in 1995 and took Silk in 2012. He specialises in child protection cases of the most serious and complex kind, and appears in public law children's cases all over the country in Courts at every level for parents, local authorities and children. He is particularly respected for his ability to understand, deploy or unpick complex expert evidence. He has extensive experience of, and a particular interest in, cases of alleged abusive infant head injury.

His skill as a cross examiner of experts from a broad range of disciplines is widely acknowledged in the profession. He is ranked as a 'leader at the Bar' across three separate Circuits by the legal directories, in which he has been described as 'the best trial advocate at the children's Bar'. John is passionate about the value and importance of oral advocacy and the adversarial forensic process.

Mr Aidan Vine KC



Aidan is a leading silk with a practice that encompasses all aspects of family law including public and private law children's cases (often with an international element), Court of Protection, conflicts of jurisdiction on divorce, matrimonial finance and cohabitation disputes, and civil litigation arising out of family law (human rights, local authority duties, and negligence).

Named as Family Law KC of the Year at the 2023 LexisNexis Family Law Awards, Aidan is known for his calm and collected manner in court, highly persuasive style of advocacy, meticulous preparation, and excellent client care. He combines his expert technical legal knowledge with a practical and empathetic approach to clients. He has a busy first instance and appellant practice and has been recognised in the legal directories for his experience in both matrimonial finance and children law matters.

Lord Justice Baker



Sir Jonathan Baker was called to the Bar by the Middle Temple in 1978 and has been a Bencher of the Inn since 2009. He practised principally in family law, specialising in children's cases, and was appointed a QC in 2001. He was a member of Harcourt Chambers for 29 years and served as Head of Chambers from 2004 to 2009. He sat as an assistant recorder from 1998, as a recorder in 2000 and as a deputy High Court judge from 2003.

In 2009, he was appointed a High Court judge assigned to the Family Division. From 2011 to 2017, he was Family Division Liaison Judge for the Western Circuit. From 2016 to 2018, he was

judge in charge of appeals to the Family Division. From 2017 to 2018, he was Senior Family Liaison Judge, in which capacity he acted as Chair of the Family Procedure Rules Committee and of the Family Justice Council. He also sat as a judge of the Court of Protection and is the General Editor of the Court of Protection Practice.

He was appointed as a Lord Justice of Appeal on 2 October 2018.

Dr Kieran Hogarth

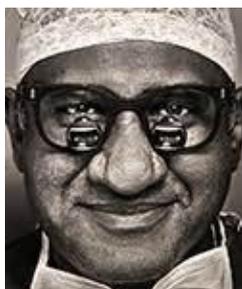


Kieran is a consultant neuroradiologist at the Royal Berkshire Hospital. He completed his neuroradiology fellowship training in London at King's College Hospital, Great Ormond Street Hospital and Queen Square. He started his consultant career in 2011 at the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust before moving to the Royal Berkshire Hospital in 2015. He has been writing reports for the Family Court since 2012 and has worked on over 350 cases. He gives evidence in court on a frequent basis.

He has worked on an array of high profile cases on matters involving alleged inflicted injury, salt poisoning, and infant and child deaths. He has provided independent reports for coroner's courts and for NHS Trusts. His clinical negligence work has encompassed cerebral palsy cases, cauda equina syndrome, infant meningitis, missed cancer diagnoses and other high value claims.

Kieran consulted on the NICE head injury guidelines in 2014. He authored the neuroimaging chapters of Clinical Negligence 5th and 6th editions (2015 and 2023 respectively).

Mr Jayaratnam (Jay) Jayamohan



Mr Jay Jayamohan is a consultant paediatric neurosurgeon based at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford. He qualified in 1995 at St. Mary's Hospital in London and trained in neurosurgery at The Atkinson Morley Hospital, London and at the Institute of Neurological Sciences, Glasgow. Thereafter he was the Rittersporn visiting fellow in paediatric neurosurgery at the Sick Children's Hospital in Toronto. Although fully trained in both adult and paediatric neurosurgery, he now devotes his clinical time looking after children and young people with neurosurgical conditions.

Mr Jayamohan's neurosurgical special interests include: craniofacial surgery, hydrocephalus, brain tumours, tethered cord, spinal dysraphism, spina bifida, Chiari malformation, children's brain and spine abnormalities, child and young adult head injury, spinal tumours and cysts, antenatal counselling for spina bifida and hydrocephalus.

Areas of medicolegal reporting include: civil cases involving personal injury and alleged medical negligence (claimant and defence), criminal cases involving paediatric and young adult brain injuries (prosecution and defence), and involvement in numerous care proceedings cases for the family courts. He also carries out assessments of patients for condition and prognosis reports.

Dr Patrick Cartlidge



My specialist field is Paediatrics. I qualified as a medical practitioner in 1980. I was a Consultant Paediatrician from 1990 until my retirement from NHS practice on 30 November 2017. I was also Senior Lecturer in Child Health. I have extensive teaching and research experience. I am a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians. I am a past Senior Examiner for the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health, and for Cardiff University. I have acted as an Expert Witness for more than 20 years.