



Edward Devereux QC

Call: 2001 / QC: 2017

Edward was the youngest specialist family barrister to be appointed a QC in the last twenty years and he remains the youngest family law QC in England and Wales. He is widely regarded as one of the leading barristers of his generation.

He has been variously described as “a titan” (Chambers UK Guide to the Legal Profession (2020)), “one of the most impressive advocates at the family bar” (The Legal 500, (2021)) and “one of the heavyweights of family law, a phenomenal advocate... terrifying to the other side when he cross-examines” (Chambers UK Guide to the Legal Profession (2020)).

He has a wide-ranging practice in family law with a particular emphasis on cases with an international dimension. Many of the cases in which Edward has argued (whether at trial or at appellate level) have significantly changed the law in the UK or around the world.

Over the course of his career, he has appeared before, or presented submissions to, a large number of national and international courts, including the UK Supreme Court (on ten occasions between 2019 – 2019), the House of Lords, the Court of Justice of the European Union, the European Court of Human Rights and the United States Supreme Court. He has appeared in over 75 cases reported in the *Family Law Reports*. A full list of his reported cases can be found here.

Edward is an author and editor of the foremost book on the conflict of laws, *Dicey, Morris and Collins, The Conflict of Laws* (where he writes the chapters on domicile and residence, children, legitimacy, legitimation and adoption, and mental incapacity). He is also an author and editor of *Clarke Hall and Morrison on Children* (where he writes the chapters on confidentiality, information and disclosure, representation of children and *Cafcass*, evidence and appeals, judicial review, complaints and other remedies). With His Honour Judge Hess and His Honour Judge Dancey, he authored the *Standard Family Orders Handbook, volume 2, Children and Other Orders* (2018). He also wrote the chapter on child abduction for *Child Case Management Practice* (editors, Lord Justice Ryder and Iain Goldrein QC, third edition).

In 2015, Edward won Junior Family Barrister of the Year at the Chambers and Partners Bar Awards. In 2014, he was shortlisted (as one of only four) for International Family Lawyer of the Year at the Family Law Awards. Edward was one of

London

2 Harcourt Buildings, Temple, London, EC4Y 9DB
T: +44 (0)20 7242 355
e: clerks@harcourtchambers.co.uk
DX: DX 373 LDE

Oxford

Churchill House, 3 St Aldate's Courtyard, 38 St Aldate's, Oxford OX1 1BN
T: +44 (0)1865 791559
e: clerks@harcourtchambers.co.uk
DX: DX 96453 Oxford 4

the barristers profiled in *Family Law Advocacy How Barristers Help the Victims of Family Failure*, Mavis Maclean and John Eekelaar (2009, Hart Publishing).

Edward acted for Madonna and Guy Ritchie's son, Rocco, in *Madonna Ciccone v Guy Ritchie and Rocco Ritchie* [2016] 4 WLR 60 and *Madonna Ciccone v Guy Ritchie and Rocco Ritchie (No 2)* [2016] 1 WLR 3545 and, in the Court of Appeal, for the recipient of the largest ever reported monetary award in the UK in a case involving an unmarried couple: *In re A (A Child) (Financial Provision: Wealthy Parent)* [2015] 3 WLR 48.

In 2018, he acted for the mother of a child with global brain damage seeking to resist applications by a Hospital trust to withdraw life support for that child: see, *Re HK (Serious Medical Treatment)*, Nos 1, 2 and 3 [2018] 1 FLR 1241, 1251 and 1256. In that case, he drafted the guidance which was endorsed by the court as to how the child's and the family's rights should best be given respect and dignity in the aftermath of the withdrawal of the child's life sustaining treatment.

Edward has also appeared as sole counsel for the United Kingdom before the Court of Justice of the European Union in a number of important cases in recent years. In December 2019, he was the principal author of an Amicus Brief for *Reunite International Child Abduction Centre* in the matter of *Monasky v Taglieri* (No.18-935) before the United States Supreme Court. He was represented one of the parties in the landmark alternative dispute resolution case of *AI v MT (Alternative Dispute Resolution)* [2013] 2 FLR 371.

A full list of his reported cases can be found [here](#).

International Law

For many years, Edward has been regarded as one of the leading barristers in the country practising in international family law. The *Chambers UK Guide to the Legal Profession* has described him as "a leading expert in the international movement of children" and has said of him that "he has been involved in landmark cases that have shaped the country's laws...his extensive knowledge of EU law is impeccable. He has a great strategic mind..."

Edward has appeared in many of the most important international family law cases in the UK in recent years.

He principally practises in the following areas:

- The international movement of children (with a particular focus on cases engaging the 1980 *Hague Convention* and/or the 1996 *Hague Convention* and non-*Hague Convention* cases)
- International disputes relating to children or divorce jurisdiction
- Proceedings under the inherent jurisdiction
- Proceeding involving European Regulations
- Complex private law *Children Act* 1989 proceedings involving an international dimension such as temporary or permanent relocation or disputed jurisdiction
- Care and adoption proceedings involving an international dimension

London

2 Harcourt Buildings, Temple, London, EC4Y 9DB
T: +44 (0)20 7242 355
e: clerks@harcourtchambers.co.uk
DX: DX 373 LDE

Oxford

Churchill House, 3 St Aldate's Courtyard, 38 St Aldate's, Oxford OX1 1BN
T: +44 (0)1865 791559
e: clerks@harcourtchambers.co.uk
DX: DX 96453 Oxford 4

Notable International Law cases

- **Monasky v Taglieri (No. 18-935), (2020), (United States Supreme Court)**
- **Hampshire County Council v C.E. & Another [2019] 1 WLR 2019, C-325/18 PPU and C-375/18 PPU (Court of Justice of the European Union)**
- **Re W (A Child) (Return Order: Power to Set Aside) [2018] 4 WLR 149 (Court of Appeal)**
- **OL v PQ, C-111/17 PPU, June 2017 (Court of Justice of the European Union)**
- **Re C-W (A Child) (Contact Overseas: Risk of Non-return) [2017] 4 WLR 51 (Court of Appeal)**
- **Re J (A Child) (Reunite International Child Abduction Centre & Others Intervening) [2016] AC 1291 (United Kingdom Supreme Court)**
- **Re D (A Child) (Supreme Court: Jurisdiction) (Reunite International Child Abduction Centre and another intervening) [2016] AC 1117 (United Kingdom Supreme Court)**
- **Cicccone v Ritchie (No 1) and (No 2) [2016] 1 WLR 3545 and [2016] 4 WLR 60 (High Court)**
- **E v B (Case C-436/13) [2015] Fam 162, (Court of Justice of the European Union)**
- **Re LC (Children) (Reunite International Child Abduction Centre Intervening) [2014] 1 AC 1401 (Supreme Court)**
- **Re K (A Child) (Reunite International Child Abduction Centre Intervening) [2014] 1 AC 1401 (Supreme Court)**
- **AI v MT (Alternative Dispute Resolution) [2013] 2 FLR 371 (High Court)**
- **Re A (Family Proceedings: Electronic Tagging) [2009] 1 FLR 891 (High Court)**

Private Law Children

Edward represents all parties (including parents, grandparents, and the children themselves) in disputes relating to children. Such disputes include matters relating to whom a child should live, how much time a child should spend with a parent and under what conditions they should spend such time, and whether a child should travel abroad either permanently or on a temporary basis. Often the cases with which Edward deals have complex facts and/or medical evidence, physical, sexual and/or emotional abuse, or allegations that one party has alienated the child from, or is negatively influencing the child against, the other party. Edward has a particular specialism in representing, or questioning, children in court (see, for example, the leading case on Judges meeting with children: *In Re KP (Abduction: _____*

London

2 Harcourt Buildings, Temple, London, EC4Y 9DB
T: +44 (0)20 7242 355
e: clerks@harcourtchambers.co.uk
DX: DX 373 LDE

Oxford

Churchill House, 3 St Aldate's Courtyard, 38 St Aldate's, Oxford OX1 1BN
T: +44 (0)1865 791559
e: clerks@harcourtchambers.co.uk
DX: DX 96453 Oxford 4

Rights of Custody [2014] 1 WLR 4326 (Court of Appeal)).

Notable Private Law Children cases

- **Re G & Another (Children) (Jurisdiction: Presence in England and Wales) [2018] 3 WLR 1679**
Jurisdiction in a children's case.
- **S v S (Relocation) [2018] 1 FLR 825 (High Court)**
Permanent relocation.
- **Re C-W (A Child) (Contact Overseas: Risk of Non-return) [2017] 4 WLR 51 (Court of Appeal)**
Temporary relocation.
- **Re D (A Child) (Supreme Court: Jurisdiction) [2016] AC 1117 (Supreme Court)**
Recognition of a foreign order.
- **Re W (Jurisdiction: Mirror Order) [2014] 1 FLR 1530 (Court of Appeal)**
Recognition of a foreign order.
- **Re KP [2014] 1 WLR 4326**
Guidance for Judges meeting with children.
- **C v S [2011] 2 FLR 19**
Divorce jurisdiction.

Public Law Children

For many years, Edward has undertaken heavy-weight public law cases involving serious injuries to children, and/or disputed medical evidence, and/or complex facts. He acts for local authorities, parents, grandparents, family members accused of serious allegations and children. In 2019, he acted in a lengthy trial lasting about three months which concerned allegations involving endemic sexual abuse within a family and a community in the North East of England. Often he is brought in to argue cases on appeal – whether before the Court of Appeal or the Supreme Court – involving difficult issues of law.

Notable Public Law Children cases

- **Re Q (A Child) [2019] 2 WLR 1161 (High Court)**
How long can a care order last for.
- **Re L (Children: Care Proceedings: Judge's Reasons) [2017] 4 WLR 141 (Court of Appeal)**
Was the permanent removal a child from a mother justified.

London

2 Harcourt Buildings, Temple, London, EC4Y 9BD
T: +44 (0)20 7242 355
e: clerks@harcourtchambers.co.uk
DX: DX 373 LDE

Oxford

Churchill House, 3 St Aldate's Courtyard, 38 St Aldate's, Oxford OX1 1BN
T: +44 (0)1865 791559
e: clerks@harcourtchambers.co.uk
DX: DX 96453 Oxford 4

- **Re N (Children) (Adoption: Jurisdiction) (Aire Centre & Others Intervening) [2016] 2 WLR 1103 (Supreme Court)**
Adoption and transfer of proceedings abroad.
- **A v A (Abduction Children: Interim Care Order) [2014] 2 FLR 265 (High Court)**
Interim care order.
- **Islington London Borough Council v E [2011] 1 FLR 1681 (High Court)**
Should a care order or another order be made to facilitate the placement of a child abroad.

Court of Protection

Edward acts in a range of different matters before the Court of Protection including matters concerning the assessment of capacity, the deprivation of liberty, and the international abduction of vulnerable adults.

Appointments

- Member of the of legal working group of Reunite International Child Abduction Centre

Publications

- Contributor to and editor of *Dicey, Morris and Collins, The Conflict of Laws*
- Contributor to and editor of *Clarke Hall and Morrison on Children*
- Co-author, *Standard Family Orders Handbook, volume 2, Children and Other Orders* (2018), (with HHJ Hess and HHJ Dancey)
- Contributor to *Child Case Management Practice* (editors Lord Justice Ryder and Iain Goldrein QC)

In addition, Edward is the author of numerous articles including articles for *Counsel*, *Family Law* and *International Family Law*. He has also given many lectures over the course of his career including lectures to the *Butterworths LexisNexis Child Care Law conference*, the *International Bar Association*, the *Association of Lawyers conference*, the *Jordans Children Law and Practice conference*, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, and the *Family Bar Association*.

London

2 Harcourt Buildings, Temple, London, EC4Y 9DB
T: +44 (0)20 7242 355
e: clerks@harcourtchambers.co.uk
DX: DX 373 LDE

Oxford

Churchill House, 3 St Aldate's Courtyard, 38 St Aldate's, Oxford OX1 1BN
T: +44 (0)1865 791559
e: clerks@harcourtchambers.co.uk
DX: DX 96453 Oxford 4

Memberships

- Family Law Bar Association
- Child Abduction Lawyers Association

Education

- The College of Law, London
- City University, London
- Peterhouse, Cambridge University (Exhibitioner in History)

Prizes

- Chambers & Partners Young Barrister of the Year (2015)
- Short listed for International Family Lawyer of the Year, Jordan's Family Law Awards (2014)
- Runner up in the Rosemund Smith competition for mooting (legal argument) (2001)
- Benefactor's Scholarship, Middle Temple (2001)
- Exhibitioner in History, Peterhouse, Cambridge

London

2 Harcourt Buildings, Temple, London, EC4Y 9DB
T: +44 (0)20 7242 355
e: clerks@harcourtchambers.co.uk
DX: DX 373 LDE

Oxford

Churchill House, 3 St Aldate's Courtyard, 38 St Aldate's, Oxford OX1 1BN
T: +44 (0)1865 791559
e: clerks@harcourtchambers.co.uk
DX: DX 96453 Oxford 4