



Mavis Amonoo-Acquah

Call: 2013

Mavis' practice encompasses all areas of Family Law – in particular Private Law, International Law, Surrogacy Law and Public Law Children. Her practice also includes High Court work.

As an advocate, Mavis conveys an air of calm – which always puts clients at ease, whilst maintaining an authoritative presence within the courtroom.

Her meticulous preparation coupled with her robust written and oral advocacy, regularly achieves positive outcomes for her clients. With each case, Mavis seeks to provide considered and realistic advice as early as possible within proceedings, to ensure the strongest possible position can be put forward for every client.

Prior to her career at the Bar, Mavis assisted with UNICEF and UN-commissioned research projects on International Children Law at the Coram Children's Legal Centre. In addition, her experience as an advocate began with successfully conducting cases as a volunteer advocate with the Free Representation Unit, School Exclusions Project and Philadelphia Employment Advocacy Project. Mavis also worked as an English teacher in Peru and South Korea.

Mavis is passionate about widening access to the legal profession and is regularly invited to speak in schools and at careers conferences as part of social mobility programmes.

Mavis is a keen traveller, musical theatre enthusiast and long-suffering Arsenal supporter.

Private Law Children

Mavis has considerable experience in Private Law work including applications for Child Arrangement Orders, Prohibited Steps Orders, Special Guardianship Orders and Specific Issue Orders. Her work in this area often involves highly contentious disputes where issues of parental alienation, significant harm and allegations of domestic abuse arise. Mavis

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

has also acted in proceedings regarding both international and internal relocation.

International Children Law

Mavis' international practice encompasses cases regarding the movement of children – most notably, Hague and non-Hague abduction and international relocation. She also has experience of proceedings relating to the recognition and enforcement of orders (pursuant to Brussels II Revised), wardship and jurisdictional disputes.

Surrogacy & Modern Families

As a Pegasus Scholar, Mavis undertook a period of secondment working for Vorzimer Masserman – a leading Fertility Law Firm in Los Angeles, where she advised the firm's UK clients on issues pertaining to UK Surrogacy Law and obtaining Parental Orders. She thus has a thorough working knowledge of both UK Surrogacy Law and Californian Surrogacy Law.

Mavis has a keen interest in Surrogacy Law reform; she has published two articles on this subject matter, spoken at conferences and co-drafted the Bar Council's response to the Law Commission's 2019 Consultation Paper.

Mavis also has a significant interest in modern family arrangements and Fertility Law. She has assisted on residence disputes arising from informal surrogacy agreements, and applications seeking declarations of parentage following fertility treatment.

Public Law Children

Within care proceedings, Mavis acts for parents, guardians, grandparents and Local Authorities and has particular experience representing vulnerable parties. Within her practice, Mavis has been instructed on a wide spectrum of matters, concerning serious physical harm, sexual abuse, mental health issues, chronic neglect, applications for leave to oppose adoption orders and jurisdiction disputes.

Family Finance

Mavis represents clients at all stages of financial relief proceedings, from First Appointment through to contested Final Hearings. Her previous work has also involved TOLATA applications and cases concerning the admissibility of foreign marriages and divorces in English Law.

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

Direct Access

Mavis is qualified to accept instructions directly from members of the public under the Direct Access Scheme in appropriate circumstances.

Appointments

- Family Justice Council
- Family Law Bar Association (Committee Member)
- School Governor

Publications

- Surrogacy and legal parentage: let intentionality prevail. 2-part series, Jordans Family Law (2019)
- Placement and adoption: if a thing is worth doing, it is worth doing well, Family Law Week (2015)

Memberships

- Family Law Bar Association
- Child Abduction Lawyers Association
- Bar Council Young Barristers' Committee
- Bar Council Law Reform Committee
- The Honourable Society of the Inner Temple
- Bar Pro Bono Unit (Panel Member)

Education

- MA (Law), University of Cambridge
- Masters in Law (LLM), University of Pennsylvania Law School (USA)

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

Prizes

- Pegasus Scholarship, Inner Temple (2018)
- Major Exhibition Award, Inner Temple (2012)
- Michael Hodge Scholarship, Inner Temple (2012)
- Dean's Scholarship & Potts Scholarship, University of Pennsylvania Law School (2011)

London

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

Barristers regulated by the Bar Standards Board.

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