



Sarah Hayward

Call: 2021

Sarah's practice encompasses all aspects of children law, with a particular focus on international and private children law cases.

She excels in handling complex family law matters, including those involving parental alienation, international relocation, and allegations of domestic or child abuse. Sarah is particularly skilled in representing vulnerable clients, offering tailored support and ensuring their interests are protected. Her empathetic approach, combined with her strategic advice and strong advocacy skills, enables her to navigate even the most challenging cases. Sarah's ability to communicate effectively in court and her meticulous preparation ensures she provides exceptional representation in diverse legal contexts.

Sarah completed her Law degree with European Law at the University of Nottingham. During her studies, she had the opportunity to present at the House of Lords before representatives from FTSE 100 companies. She has also worked as a university law lecturer, teaching Family & Child Law, and gained practical experience at two Legal 500 law firms, where she managed demanding caseloads and supported vulnerable clients.

International Family Law

Sarah is frequently instructed in international children law cases before the Family Division of the High Court. She has a strong interest in matters involving an international element, including international relocation, summary return applications under the 1980 Hague Convention, and the recognition and enforcement of international orders. With extensive experience in Hague Convention cases, Sarah is well-prepared to handle all stages of the process and has represented both Applicants and Respondents in such proceedings.

London

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Barristers regulated by the Bar Standards Board.

Oxford

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Notable International Family Law cases

- **Re U (Recognition and Enforcement of Orders Under the 1996 Hague Convention) [2023] EWHC 3494 (Fam)**
Case involving the recognition and enforcement of International orders under the 1996 Hague Convention.
- **Re U (a child) (welfare) [2024] EWHC 583 (Fam)**
Case involving the mother's application for access to the child under Art. 21 of the 1980 Hague Convention.

Private Law Children

Sarah has extensive experience in complex private children law cases, including those involving parental alienation, international relocation, and allegations of domestic or child abuse. She offers a practical, empathetic approach, ensuring clients feel supported through emotionally challenging proceedings.

Sarah excels at crafting tailored solutions, providing clear, strategic advice while maintaining a keen attention to detail. She prioritizes building strong client relationships, going the extra mile to ensure they feel secure. Understanding the stress of legal proceedings, she strives to alleviate this burden by offering clear, robust advice and practical solutions to difficult situations.

Notable Private Law Children cases

- **Re U: Findings of Fact [2024] EWHC 582 (Fam)**

Public Law Children

Sarah is regularly instructed in cases involving serious allegations, such as domestic violence, substance abuse, and child abuse. She represents a wide range of clients, including parents, children (through their guardians), and local authorities, which gives her a well-rounded perspective on complex public law family cases.

Skilled in managing vulnerable clients and addressing complex evidential issues, Sarah focuses on achieving practical, sustainable solutions. Her meticulous preparation and effective communication in court ensure her clients' voices are heard, and their interests are strongly represented. Sarah is committed to delivering a high standard of advocacy in every case.

Family Finance

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Memberships

Family Law Bar Association

The Honourable Society of Gray's Inn

Education

BPTC (City, University of London, 2019-2020)

LLB Law with European Law, First Class Honours (University of Nottingham, 2015-2019)

Prizes

The Richard Yorke Scholarship, Gray's Inn

The Faculty Academic Excellence Prize (top 3% of graduating cohort)

The John Hooper & Co prize, highest grade in the Family Law module

Commendation prize, highest grade in the Industrial Property module

Commendation prize, highest grade in the Intellectual Property module

Commendation prize, highest grade in the Maritime Law module

Commendation prize, placed in the top five students for final year results

Commendation prize, placed in the top five students for second-year results

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