



Victoria Flowers

Call: 2009

Victoria is a composed and persuasive family law barrister. She enjoys an established, specialist practice across children and financial remedies cases.

Victoria is considerate and empathetic with clients, whilst at the same time providing clear and pragmatic advice focused on the outcomes they seek.

Victoria is an accomplished trial advocate with strengths in cross-examining witnesses whose evidence is key to the outcome of a case and making compelling, articulate submissions.

Victoria is frequently instructed in complex private children law cases involving allegations of alienating behaviours. She has many years of experience of appearing in fact-finding hearings and multi-day final hearings. She has considerable skill in both securing findings of, and resisting allegations of, serious abuse.

Victoria has particular expertise in surrogacy law and the relocation of children, both domestically and internationally.

In 2019 Victoria was appointed as a Recorder and she sits on family cases on the South Eastern Circuit.

Victoria also sits as a fee-paid Judge of the First-tier Tribunal within the Special Educational Needs and Disability jurisdiction.

Private Law Children

Victoria offers clients in private law disputes specialist and practical advice focused on the outcomes they seek, alongside compelling and persuasive advocacy skills.

London

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She regularly appears in intractable contact disputes and cases raising allegations of alienating behaviours.

She has considerable expertise in private law cases involving domestic abuse, and the sensitive and meticulous approach required.

Clients particularly appreciate her familiarity with the potential complexities which arise in cases concerning children with additional needs and neurodivergence, and her careful focus on the impact of child arrangements on each individual child.

Her established public law practice enables Victoria to be a very effective advocate in private law cases with children's services involvement.

Victoria has recent experience of securing a lengthy section 91(14) order as sought by her client, and of successfully resisting an application for permission to appeal with a costs order being made against the appellant.

Victoria is adept at the different skills required for each stage of a private law dispute. She approaches each hearing with a sharp focus on the client's priorities in each child's interests.

Family Finance

Victoria has a confident courtroom presence in family finance cases. She provides realistic advice to clients whilst being sensitive to the emotional backdrop of the case.

She has a keen eye for detail and is an effective negotiator at FDR, including at private FDRs.

Her advocacy is measured and focused on the results the clients seek to achieve, whilst being appealing and engaging for the Judges whom she appears before.

Victoria's experience in family finance cases includes applications to vary and enforce orders, as well as cases raising issues of unmatched contributions, disputed earning capacity, overseas assets, serious non-disclosure and conduct.

International Family Law

Victoria has a particular strength in relocation applications and the forensic attention to detail required. She appears in cases involving Hague and non-Hague states, as well as domestic relocation and holidays abroad.

Victoria's effective cross-examination skills come to the fore in these cases, the outcomes of which will often have a fundamental impact on family life. She brings a focused and thoughtful approach and is always pleased to be involved from the initial stages to assist with the strategic direction of these cases.

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Surrogacy and Modern Families

Victoria brings considerable legal expertise to surrogacy cases.

Alongside her court work in surrogacy, she has co-authored a book 'Surrogacy: Law, Practice and Policy in England Wales' (cited in the Law Commission consultation paper). Her expertise in surrogacy law and parental order applications has led to her regularly delivering seminars on the topic to legal colleagues. She appeared in a debate chaired by Mr Justice Hayden about whether the Law Commission's surrogacy reform proposals should be accepted. Her article on the proposed changes 'Changes Afoot? An Outline of the Law Commission's Proposals for the Reform of Surrogacy Law' was published by Seen and Heard, the Journal for Nagalro, the Professional Association for Children's Guardians, Family Court Advisers and Independent Social Workers.

Victoria welcomes approaches from clients at the early stages of surrogacy cases, to ensure the process of securing parental orders is as smooth as possible in the circumstances.

Public Law Children

Victoria is a knowledgeable and established practitioner in public children law. She appears for children through their guardians, parents from all corners of society, local authorities and other intervening parties.

Victoria offers empathetic but realistic advice.

She brings skilful cross-examination of witnesses, including experts, to these acutely difficult cases.

Victoria has appeared in proceedings raising issues of significant gravity, including fabricated or induced illness, non-accidental injury, forced marriage and sexual abuse. Victoria regularly works with vulnerable clients and those with mental health difficulties and has completed advocacy and the vulnerable training.

She is frequently instructed when authorisation of restrictions upon a child's liberty is sought under the Inherent Jurisdiction of the High Court. Her knowledge of the Court of Protection enables her to be an effective advocate in cases involving transition from the DoLs list.

Victoria's practice in recent times includes cases involving questions of whether children should give evidence, separately represented children, and successfully resisting an application for permission to appeal to the Court of Appeal.

Notable Public Law Children cases

- **Re J (A Minor) [2016] All ER (D) 152 (Oct)**

Victoria represented the local authority in this application for a reporting restriction order following care proceedings. Hayden J decided that the mother should be prevented from speaking in the media about any aspect of 'gender dysphoria or gender identification' in so far as they related to the child.

Court of Protection and Medical Treatment

Victoria has a keen interest in the welfare aspects of Court of Protection work, and can bring her expertise in children law to this closely related area. Victoria has co-authored a book 'Dementia and the Law' and her contributions included the chapter on remedies in the Court of Protection.

She is an ongoing and regular contributor to the Court of Protection Law Reports journal published by Bloomsbury.

Notable Court of Protection and Medical Treatment cases

- **Birmingham City Council v D [2016] PTSR 1129**

Victoria appeared as a junior at first instance in this case concerning the deprivation of liberty of 16 and 17 year olds who lack capacity.

Alternative Dispute Resolution

Victoria is able to provide Early Neutral Evaluation for clients, both individually and together with the other party in the case, in private children law cases. She will provide an independent and expert opinion on the merits, which may greatly assist to narrow or resolve issues and avoid protracted litigation. Victoria's Early Neutral Evaluation advice can be given remotely via video technology as well as in writing.

Direct Access

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

Appointments

- Recorder (Family, South Eastern Circuit)
- Fee-paid Judge of the First-tier Tribunal (Special Educational Needs and Disability)

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Publications

- ‘When, and when not, to make a Calderbank offer’ Blog October 2024
- ‘Changes Afoot? An Outline of the Law Commission’s Proposals for the Reform of Surrogacy Law’ Seen and Heard, the Journal for Nagalro, the Professional Association for Children’s Guardians, Family Court Advisers and Independent Social Workers.
- ‘Surrogacy: Law, Practice and Policy in England and Wales’ (Co-author, LexisNexis 2018)
- ‘Dementia and the Law’ (Co-author, Jordan Publishing 2018)

Memberships

- Family Law Bar Association

Education

- BA Jurisprudence (Law with Law Studies in Europe), Oxford University

Prizes

- Pegasus Scholarship to New Zealand (2014)
- Lord Denning Scholarship, Lincoln’s Inn (2008)

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