

1GC | Family Law

Alev Giz

Year of Call: 1988



Practice Overview

Alev is a Child Law specialist whose busy practice encompasses the spectrum of private and public law proceedings in which she acts for all parties and appears at all levels of court. She has particular expertise in cases involving the international movement of children and the separate representation of children and has appeared in landmark Court of Appeal decisions in both these areas. Alev also specialises in Court of Protection and High Court proceedings concerning the mental capacity, deprivation of liberty, personal welfare and property of vulnerable and incapacitated adults.

Children (private law)

Alev is regularly instructed on behalf of parents and children (whether separately or through their Rule 16.4 Guardian) in cases where there are significant and often entrenched disputes about where children should live and how much time they should spend with a non-resident parent. She has particular experience and expertise in cases where serious allegations of abuse (physical, sexual or emotional) and parental alienation/hostility are made. Alev also acts in cases with an international dimension.

Notable Private Law Children cases in which Alev has acted include:

N v J (Power to Set Aside Return Order) [2017] EWHC 2752 (Fam)

Re F (A Child) (International Relocation Cases) [2015] EWCA Civ 882

H v S (Surrogacy Agreement) [2015] EWFC 36

Re A and D (Children) (Removal Outside Jurisdiction: Habitual Residence) [2011] EWCA Civ 265; [2011] 1 FLR 2025

ES v AJ [2010] EWHC 1113 (Fam); [2010] 2 FLR 1257

Children (public law)

In the Public Law field, Alev regularly acts for parties in care proceedings, adoption and Wardship. She has particular expertise in cases involving catastrophic non-accidental injury where there is complex and conflicting medical opinion, factitious illness and sexual abuse. Alev brings skills from

her Court of protection practice to her Public Law work enabling her to sensitively represent parents who have mental health issues. Alev regularly advises on the placement of children abroad and local authority obligations, particularly to care leavers.

Alev is particularly successful in the sensitive representation of children, either separately or through their court appointed Guardian and appeared on behalf of the child in the landmark Court of Appeal case of *W (A Child)* [2016] EWCA Civ 1051, which provided much needed guidance on the circumstances in which the separate representation of a child is appropriate and the statutory provisions which enable separate representation to be put in place.

Alev is also instructed in cases in the High Court concerning serious medical treatment or withdrawal of life sustaining treatment.

Notable Public Law Children cases in which Alev has acted include:

Re M-Y (Children) [2018] EWCA Civ 1306 <http://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWCA/Civ/2018/1306.html>

HK (Serious Medical Treatment) (No.3) [2017] EWHC 2991
<http://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWHC/Fam/2017/2991.html>

HK (Serious Medical Treatment) (No.2) [2017] EWHC 2581
<http://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWHC/Fam/2017/2581.html>

An NHS Hospital Trust v GM and Others [2017] EWHC 1710 (Fam)
<http://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWHC/Fam/2017/1710.html>

W (A Child) [2016] EWCA Civ 1051 <http://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWCA/Civ/2016/1051.html>

Re J (A Child) [2014] EWCA Civ 875 <http://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWCA/Civ/2014/875.html>

Re B (A Child) (Care Proceedings: Habitual Residence) [2013] EWCA Civ 1434; [2013] WLR(D) 461
<http://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWCA/Civ/2013/1434.html>

Re E-F (A Minor) [1998] EWCA Civ 97

Re M: Section 94 Appeals [1995] 1 FLR 546

International family law

Alev is frequently instructed in High Court cases relating to the international relocation of children (she appeared in the landmark Court of Appeal decision of *Re F (A Child) (International Relocation Cases)* [2015] EWCA Civ 882) in child abduction matters, both within and outside the provisions of the Hague Convention and other cases with cross-border jurisdictional issues.

N v J (Power to Set Aside Return Order) [2017] EWHC 2752 (Fam)
<http://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWHC/Fam/2017/2752.html>

Re F (A Child) (International Relocation Cases) [2015] EWCA Civ 882
<http://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWCA/Civ/2015/882.html>

Re B (A Child) (Care Proceedings: Habitual Residence) [2013] EWCA Civ 1434; [2013] WLR(D) 461
<http://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWCA/Civ/2013/1434.html>

Re A and D (Children) (Removal Outside Jurisdiction: Habitual Residence) [2011] EWCA Civ 265;
[2011] 1 FLR 2025 <http://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWCA/Civ/2011/265.html>

ES v AJ [2010] EWHC 1113 (Fam); [2010] 2 FLR 1257
<http://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWHC/Fam/2010/1113.html>

Court of Protection

Alev is regularly instructed by the Official Solicitor to represent vulnerable adults who lack capacity in proceedings concerning their health, welfare, property and deprivation of liberty. She also regularly represents local authorities and family members in cases where best interests, property or deprivation of liberty issues are before the court.

Notable Court of Protection cases in which Alev has acted include:

Essex County Council v RF and Others (Deprivation of Liberty and Damage) [2015] EWCOP 1
<http://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWCOP/2015/1.html>

YLA v PM & MZ [2013] EWHC 3622 (Fam) <http://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWCOP/2013/4020.html>

Re MIG and MEG [2010] EWHC 785 <http://www.bailii.org/ew/cases/EWHC/Fam/2010/785.html>

What the directories say

2019: *'She has an incredibly calming demeanour, yet in court is a force to be reckoned with.'*
Legal 500

2019: *'She is extremely bright and knowledgeable.'* Legal 500

2019: *'She can be extremely smooth and persuasive, and has one of the best bedside manners I've seen with a client. She's also capable of being ferocious in her cross-examination.'* Chambers UK

2018: *'Very bright, she always takes a good position in a case, and is an experienced and wise counsel.'*

'She deals with very sensitive cases very skillfully and sensitively.'

'She's a firm presence in court and very good with child clients.'

'An experienced barrister who maintains a broad children practice covering both public and private issues. She is instructed to act for guardians, local authorities, children and parents. Giz has particular expertise in matters concerning the relocation of children internationally and domestically.' Chambers UK

2017: *'Her calm, gentle manner belies her thoroughness and rigour.'* Legal 500

2017: *'Recommended for deprivation of liberty cases.'* Legal 500

2016: *'Her advocacy is calm and measured but behind it sits an authority and determination.'*
Legal 500

Education

LLB (Hons) Kings College, London

Memberships & Associations

The Honourable Society of Gray's Inn

The Family Law Bar Association

The Association of Lawyers for Children

The Human Rights Lawyers Association

Court of Protection Bar Association

Seminars and Lectures

Alev has spoken at a number of training events and seminars arranged by chambers. She has recorded podcasts and webinars (for Jordans and Sweet and Maxwell) and writes regularly for Family Law, most notably providing a regular Children Public Law update.

Personal

Travelling in Turkey and Italy and the cuisine of both nations, playing the piano, literature, theatre and her family (she is married with two sons).