

1GC | Family Law

Eleanor F Platt QC

Year of Call: 1960 Year of Silk: 1982



Practice Overview

Eleanor has had experience over many years in all aspects of the law, however in the late 1980s she decided to specialise. She was the first Silk to join Alison Ball's Chambers in 1990, not long after its formation, and became joint head. She was involved in building the set through its expansion and helping it to focus on the development of its independently acknowledged expertise as one of the leading Barristers' chambers specialising in family law and related matters. She stood down as joint head in 2007 but continues to practice from 1GC|Family Law.

Throughout her career at the Bar and as a Silk, Eleanor has played a significant part in influencing the way in which the family courts approach cases involving children. This was hugely affected by the landmark Cleveland enquiry in which she was instructed on behalf of the Northern Region, the employers of the two doctors concerned. Ultimately this led to the Children Act with its radical reforms of the law relating to children, their families, and the role of the state in families' lives. Additionally, she was involved in the development of the first statute that was enacted concerning surrogacy and parental orders in relation to a landmark case in which she represented a couple who had to use surrogacy to have their own genetic children.

Eleanor has for many years been a Legal Assessor for the GMC, (MPTS) and the General Dental Council. More recently she has chaired cases for the Pharmaceutical Council.

Children (public law)

Eleanor's expertise relates particularly to medical issues that arise in such proceedings, including all forms of alleged NAI and FII and neglect.

She has been instructed on behalf of many Local Authorities, Parents and Children's Guardians.

Children (private law)

Eleanor has a particular interest in Jewish family law and chairs the Family Law Group of the Board of Deputies of British Jews. She has represented Jewish, Muslim, and Asian clients in divorce proceedings and children's issues of all kinds and understands the particular concerns in relation to the religious issues in particular.

Regulatory law

Eleanor has for many years been a Legal Assessor for the GMC, (MPTS) and the General Dental Council. More recently she has chaired cases for the Pharmaceutical Council.

Notable Cases

Eleanor has been involved in numerous cases, most notably *G v G* [1985] 1WLR 647 (HL) and *The Cleveland Enquiry*.

Other recent cases include:

Raani v Charazi [2015] EWFC B202 (24 August 2015)

LA v DG and ors [2013] EWHC 734 Fam

Re G (Children: Religious Upbringing) [2012] EWCA Civ 1233

Re A (Fact Finding Hearing: Judge Meeting with Child) [2012] 2 FLR 369

In the Matter of M (a minor) [2011] EWCA Civ 317

In the Matter of K (children) [2009] EWCA Civ 987

In Re G (a child) (Adoption: Placement outside Jurisdiction) [2008] 1 FLR 1484 and [2008] 1 FLR 1497, [2008] 3WLR 853

Re P (Adoption: Leave provisions) [2007] 2 FLR 1069, [2007] 1 WLR 2556

Re W, Re A, Re B (Change of Name) [1999] 2 FLR 930

R v Cornwall CC ex parte E [1999] 1 FLR 1055

Re PJ (Adoption: Practice on Appeal) [1998] 2 FLR 252

Re B (Residence Order: Leave to Appeal) [1998] 1 FLR 520

Education

LL.B (London)
Trained Mediator

Appointments

Legal Advisor to General Dental Council 2010-2016
President Medico-Legal Society 2002-2004
Legal Assessor to the General Medical Council 1995-
Deputy Chairman of the National Health Service Tribunal 1995-2001

Gene Therapy Advisory Committee 1993-1998
Joint Head of Chambers 1990-2007
Deputy High Court Judge (Family Division) 1987-2004
Matrimonial Causes Rule Committee 1986-1990
Recorder of the Crown Court 1982-2004

Memberships & Associations

Member [FLBA \(Former Treasurer and Acting Chairman\)](#)
Member [S E Circuit](#)
Fellow [Royal Society of Medicine](#)
Member [Association of Women Barristers](#)
President [Jewish Family Mediation Register](#)
Member [Association of Jewish Lawyers and Jurists](#)
Member [Bar Musical Society](#)
Member [Bar Yacht Club](#)
Vice President [Board of Deputies of British Jews 2003-2006](#)
Member [Ethics and Jewish Genealogy Panel, of International Institute for Jewish Genealogy 2012](#)

Publications

Contributor to Jowitt's Dictionary of English Law.

Seminars and Lectures

Child Care Law and Practice (Chairman) 2011 and also gave a paper on The Law on current thinking in NAI Head Injury.

Private Child Law update (Chairman) 2011 for LexisNexis.

Child Care Law and Practice (Chairman) 2010, similarly in earlier years.

Languages

Fluent French

Personal Interests

While Eleanor generally enjoys all aspects of her life she takes a particular interest in the arts, travel and genealogy. She is married with two children and four grandchildren.