

1GC | Family Law

Jessica Bernstein

Year of Call: 2011



Practice Overview

Jessica specialises in all areas of law relating to children. She is regularly instructed in intricate and protracted children law matters domestically and internationally. In addition, Jessica also accepts instructions in education, community care and administrative law and applications in relation to the Family Law Act 1996.

Jessica undertakes the full range of private child law applications. She represents parents, children and extended family members in complex contact and residence disputes. She is also regularly instructed in difficult cases involving allegations of domestic abuse, alcohol and drug misuse, physical, sexual, and emotional harm, parental alienation and implacable hostility. Jessica has a particular interest in disputes over a child's education and religious upbringing.

In public law and adoption proceedings, Jessica has a wide range of experience representing parents, guardians, Local Authorities and interveners in cases involving alcohol and drug misuse, mental health concerns, emotional harm, neglect and violence, including non-accidental injuries in the county court and high court. She has particular expertise in representing young and vulnerable parents who have struggled with learning difficulties and mental health issues.

Jessica accepts instructions in relation to all applications under the Family Law Act 1996. She often represents clients who are seeking or responding to applications for injunctions linked to domestic violence or occupation of the family home.

Jessica has a reputation for being empathetic and sensitive with clients. She gives clear and practical advice, tailored, and delivered to the specific needs of the client ensuring that the client feels supported. She is a skilful negotiator who can assist parents to reach agreements wherever possible. Where agreements are not possible, she is a fearless and confident advocate who will vehemently argue her client's case contributing to successful outcomes for her clients.

Jessica accepts Direct Access instructions.

Children (Private Law)

Children (Public Law)

Court of Protection

Family Finance & Property

Domestic Abuse & Injunctions

Judicial Review & Administrative Law

International Family Law

Education

LLB, Law and Management, First Class, University of Leeds

BPTC, Very Competent, College of Law

Appointments

Benefactors Scholar, Middle Temple

Awards

Bar Ilan University Prize

First in the year for LLB Law and Management, 2010

First in the year for LLB Law and Management, 2009

Memberships & Associations

Bar Pro Bono Unit

Family Law Bar Association

Human Rights Lawyers Association (Executive Committee Member)

JUSTICE

Honourable Society of Middle Temple

Personal

Away from work Jessica has three children of her own, is a keen theatregoer and enjoys cycling.