

# 1GC | Family Law

## Karen Kabweru-Namulemu

Year of Call: 2001



## Practice Overview

Karen specialises in family law, with over 18 years' experience in this area. She advises and represents children, children's guardians, the Official Solicitor, parents, relatives, prospective adopters and Local Authorities.

Karen has considerable experience in all areas of children law with a particular emphasis on complex private law matters and child protection cases. She appears in public law cases involving non-accidental injury, fabricated induced illness, child deaths and sexual abuse. In the private law arena she represents parents and children in the most serious cases, involving domestic abuse, allegations of emotional harm and issues relating to parental mental health.

Karen's approach to her clients is noted as being highly personable, warm, open minded and thorough, be they lay or professional clients. She is known for her sympathetic, clear and honest advice and has a reputation for fighting her client's interests.

## Children (Public Law)

Karen has many years of experience representing Local Authorities, parents, children and relatives in care and adoption proceedings appearing in multi-week trials and matters of complexity.

Karen appears in cases involving serious violence against children; non-accidental injuries including child deaths and shaken babies, factitious illness and sexual abuse as well as those involving significant emotional harm to children.

## Children (Private Law)

Karen frequently appears in private law disputes relating to children, representing mothers, fathers, children and relatives. She appears in complex cases, involving serious allegations of domestic abuse, sexual abuse, physical assault and coercive and controlling behaviour. She represents clients in intractable contact disputes involving allegations of parental alienation, cases involving parents with serious psychiatric and psychological conditions and other complex matters requiring a Rule 16.4 Guardians, including cases with an international element.

## International Family Law

Karen has experience of dealing with international aspects of Children Law. She appears in cases involving applications for permission to remove a child from the jurisdiction. She has experience of adoptions with an international elements, cases international assessments and the transfer of proceedings to EU countries.

## Notable Cases

*Re P (No 2: Welfare)* [2026] EWCA Civ 571

*Re J, Re M, Re P (Loss of Parental Responsibility)* [2026] EWCA Civ 344

*P v Q & Ors* [2024] EWFC 85 (B)

*Re M (Applications by Email)* [2021] EWCA Civ 806

*O, (A Child), Re (application for a final care order-return to Nigeria) No 2* [2017]

*BC v EF (No.2) (Parental Responsibility: Immunisation)* [2017]

*Re BC and EF, In the matter of M and N* [2016]

*O, (A Child), Re (application for a final care order- child having family in Nigeria-whether there should be further assessment) No 1* [2016]

*Re H (Care Order: Designated Local Authority)* [2016] EWFC 39

*Leicester City Council v S* [2014] EWHC 1575 (Fam)

*In the Matter of A (Children)* [2011] EWCA Civ 472.

## What the directories say

"Karen is a great lawyer, full of passion and will fight her client's corner but is also able to connect with clients and make them feel empowered and listened to." **Band 3 - Chambers and Partners, 2026**

"Karen is always on top of her papers, she is unafraid of making difficult points and giving advice." **Band 3 - Chambers and Partners, 2026**

"Karen is a natural advocate and has the ear of the judge. She will be fierce when she needs to be, and she is brilliant at thinking outside of the box." **Tier 3 - Legal 500, 2026**

"She is excellent, she is very efficient and willing to help." **Band 3 - Chambers and Partners, 2025**

"Karen Kabweru-Namulemu is a gifted barrister who has gone above and beyond for clients. She works very well with instructing solicitors ensuring the best outcome for the lay-client." **Band 3 - Chambers and Partners, 2024**

*"Karen is a very diligent and hard-working barrister."* **Band 3 - Chambers and Partners, 2024**

*"Karen is an extremely hardworking and likeable barrister who is empathetic but practical, offering sensitive advice even when difficult for a client to hear. She is a great support throughout the case, even after the conclusion."* **Tier 3 - Legal 500, 2024**

*"Karen is always very up-to-date, very practical, and goes above and beyond on preparation."* **Band 3 - Chambers and Partners, 2023**

*"Karen is a skilled advocate. She is eloquent and powerful in court provides honest advice to clients who respect her for that."* **Band 3 - Chambers and Partners, 2023**

*"Karen is an excellent advocate in and out of the courtroom. She is not afraid to speak clearly and advise the client of any potential issues or points the other parties will raise. She is excellent in drafting, gives full attention to details, and is respectful but firm when addressing the court. She is a true professional with a warmth and confidence in her inter-personal interactions."* **Tier 3 - Legal 500, 2023**

## Education

Masters of Laws LLM, King's College London 2004-2005

Bar Vocational Course BVC, Inns of Court School of Law 2000-2001

Bachelor of Laws LLB, University of East Anglia 1997-2000

## Awards

LALY Awards 2026 Shortlisted for Legal Aid Barrister

Women & Diversity in Law Awards 2026 Shortlisted for Mentor of the Year - Barrister

## Memberships & Associations

Association of Lawyers for Children (ALC)

Honourable Society of Lincoln's Inn

Member of the South Eastern Circuit & Midland Circuit

Family Law Bar Association (FLBA)

Women in Family Law (WiFL)

Resolution

Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire Law Societies

Member and secretary of the Midland Circuit Women's Forum

Founder of BME@TB

Personal

Karen enjoys baking and ran a small business baking mainly traditional Caribbean Rum Cakes. She is a member of the Hope Community Gospel Choir and enjoys going to the theatre and cinema, the arts generally, keeping fit and travelling