

1GC | Family Law

Olivia Magennis MCI Arb

Year of Call: 2005



Practice Overview

Olivia specialised in the law as it relates to children, acts in all levels of court and has appeared in the High Court and Court of Appeal both with and without a leader. Olivia has considerable experience of the application of human rights law to children law cases, in particular claims for declarations and/or damages made against Local Authorities. In the private law field she has extensive experience of complex child arrangements disputes, and is regularly instructed in intractable cases as well as having experience being instructed on behalf of the child.

Children (Public Law)

Olivia has a busy Public Law practice and acts for parents, children and their Guardians and Local Authorities. Olivia regularly represents vulnerable parents, and has particular experience with clients with learning disabilities and mental health problems.

Olivia's areas of experience include:

- Serious physical injury, including complex and conflicting medical evidence;
- Sexual abuse;
- Factitious or Induced Illness (FII)/Insulin poisoning;
- Serious domestic violence;
- Disclosure and public interest immunity (PII) issues relating to children;
- Neglect;
- Revocation of Placement Orders.

Notable cases include:

Williams & Anor v LB Hackney [2018] UKSC 37

Re B [2018] EWCA Civ 20

X County Council v AB [2015] EWFC 98

PD v SD [2015] EWHC 4103 (Fam)

P v Local Authority [2016] EWHC 2779 (Fam)

A Local Authority v B [2017] EWCA Civ 1635

Children (Private Law)

Olivia is regularly instructed in complex private law proceedings, including:

- All aspects of child arrangements order, including 'implacable hostility' cases, 'no contact' cases and shared care arrangements;
- Representation of the child through a r16.4 Guardian;
- Temporary/permanent leave to remove from the jurisdiction;
- Internal relocation;
- Disputes between same-sex couples regarding child arrangements;
- Allegations of physical, sexual and emotional abuse;
- Education, religion and change of name disputes.

Judicial Review & Administrative Law

Olivia has experience of cases involving public policy in family law. She has acted pro bono in test cases involving issues of legal aid, human rights and the lawfulness of actions taken by public bodies.

Domestic Violence & Injunctions

Olivia represents clients who are seeking or responding to applications for injunctions linked to domestic violence or occupation of the family home.

Court of Protection

Olivia is developing a practice in the Court of Protection.

Arbitration

Olivia is an arbitrator, qualified to take on children work.

What the Directories Say

"Olivia is fabulous at delivering unpalatable advice to clients which does not impact their working relationship. She has great approach of the court irrespective of the level of judge. Her written work is on a par with her excellent advocacy." Tier 5 – Legal 500, 2023

"She leaves no stone unturned when considering the papers. Olivia is a firm advocate and has a solid grasp of the law and is one of the most empathic but realistic barristers." Tier 5 – Legal 500, 2022

"Is a no-nonsense, straight talking barrister, who always prepares better than the opposition and is able to fight her clients' corner with a high degree of effectiveness. A force to be reckoned with in the courtroom. She's a real class act!" Tier 5 - Legal 500, 2021

Notable Cases

X v Y [2022] EWFC 77

Re Ms L; Ms M (Declaration of Parentage) [2022] EWFC 38

X (A Child: Surrogacy: Marriage) [2018] EWFC 15

Williams & Anor v LB Hackney [2018] UKSC 37

Re B [2018] EWCA Civ 20

X County Council v AB [2015] EWFC 98

PD v SD [2015] EWHC 4103 (Fam)

P v Local Authority [2016] EWHC 2779 (Fam)

A Local Authority v B [2017] EWCA Civ 1635

Education

BA Hons, Law, Christ's College, Cambridge University

BVC, Inns of Court School of Law (2004)

MA, Cantab (2007)

Bilingual Summer School in International Criminal Law, Leiden University, Netherlands (2008)

Appointments

MCI Arb

2015: Recorder (Crime)

Awards

South-Eastern Circuit Advocacy Scholarship, Levin College of Law, University of Florida, US (2009)

Pegasus Scholarship: Washington DC, USA (2010)

Memberships & Associations

[Family Law Bar Association](#) Committee Member (co-opted 2014, elected 2015)

[Midland Circuit](#)

[South Eastern Circuit](#)

Languages

French (conversational), Spanish (conversational), Russian (basic).