

1GC | Family Law

Sharon Segal

Year of Call: 2000



Practice Overview

Sharon specialises exclusively in cases involving children, both in private law and public law proceedings, which results in her being instructed in the most complex of cases within each area. She is consistently ranked in the legal directories as a leading junior barrister who is outstanding in her field. Sharon is instructed as a junior to, and appears frequently against, Leading Counsel in a number of cases each year, and her workload sees her regularly appearing in the High Court, as well as appearances in the Court of Appeal and Supreme Court.

Children (Public Law)

Within the public law arena, Sharon is consistently instructed in cases, often in the High Court, where she acts for the local authority, parents, guardian or intervenors. Sharon has undertaken a range of cases involving vulnerable clients, allegations of abuse/neglect, non-accidental injury cases with complex medical issues; and, exceptional cases involving honour violence and wardship.

Sharon has acted pro bono in a number of recent cases in the Court of Appeal where wider issues of policy in public law proceedings have arisen.

Children (Private Law)

Sharon has extensive experience of child arrangement disputes within the private law field, and is regularly instructed in intractable child arrangement cases, leave to remove applications as well as having significant experience being instructed on behalf of the child in rule 16 cases.

Sharon is regularly instructed in surrogacy cases, often involving international considerations, and has recently been involved in a number of cases arising from errors made by fertility clinics including the leading case of *Re A and Ors* [2017] 1 FLR 366.

She frequently represents high-profile clients, often from the sports and entertainment industries with widespread media attention and multi-jurisdictional elements, which requires consideration of reporting restrictions.

International Family Law

Sharon regularly acts in cases involving cross-jurisdictional legal issues, whether in private or public

law proceedings. She has extensive expertise in relocation cases.

Domestic Violence & Injunctions

Sharon has considerable experience of seeking injunctions either as freestanding applications, or arising during proceedings. She represents clients who are seeking or responding to applications for injunctions linked to domestic violence, forced marriage or occupation of the family home, often where the factual background is complex.

Modern Families & Surrogacy

Sharon's experience in this area means she is regularly instructed in cases involving surrogacy and assisted reproduction disputes in which issues of legal parentage and child arrangements arise.

What the Directories Say

'A meticulous, detailed lawyer who leaves no stone unturned. Clients feel that the best possible job has been done because nothing's been missed. She's tough when she needs to be but she's not someone who will create an adversarial situation when there's no need to do so. On her feet she's very confident and articulate.' **Band 1, Chambers and Partners, 2019/2020**

'A classy advocate, she has a diet of high-profile work often appearing before High Court judges and the President of the Family Division.' **Tier 1, Legal 500, 2019/2020**

'Her systematic and in-depth approach to every case is a marvel.' **Tier 1, Legal 500, 2018/19**

'She is incredibly organised, meticulously detailed, and steadfastly conscientious in her work from the start to finish of every case.' **Band 1, Chambers and Partners, 2018/19**

A highly regarded practitioner: *'She is clever, clients like her and she's very, very thorough. You will never find a point she has missed, and her cross-examination is good without ever being aggressive.'* **Chambers and Partners, 2017/18**

'One of the most thorough barristers.' **Legal 500, 2017/18**

A highly regarded practitioner. *'She's fabulous and the most organised scheduler on the planet. Fantastically hard-working, she is a very effective senior junior who has a great way with clients.'* **Chambers and Partners, 2016/17**

'An outstanding junior; her passion and commitment sets her apart.' **Legal 500, 2016/17**

'Unbelievably dedicated and thorough, she sees points that others don't. Magnificent to have as part of your team, she produces schedules that are legendary.' **Chambers and Partners, 2015/16**

'She is able to cut to the central issues immediately in any case.' Legal 500, 2015/16

'Her passion, technical knowledge and preparation of cases inspire confidence in both solicitors and clients.' Chambers and Partners, 2014/15

'An outstanding junior barrister, with passion and commitment.' Legal 500, 2014/15

'Very impressive both in terms of her preparation and advocacy.' Chambers and Partners, 2013/14

'Recommended as a leading junior barrister.' Legal 500, 2013/14

'Exceptional for a junior barrister.' Chambers and Partners, 2012/13

'An outstanding junior barrister".' Legal 500, 2012/13

Notable Cases

Al M (Children) [2020] EWCA Civ 283 (28 February 2020)

Al M (Publication) [2020] EWHC 122 (Fam) (27 January 2020)

Al M (Assurances And Waiver), Re [2020] EWHC 67 (Fam) (17 January 2020)

Al M (Fact-finding) [2019] EWHC 3415 (Fam) (11 December 2019)

Re AB (Foreign Surrogacy Children out of the Jurisdiction) [2019] EWFC 22 (Fam)

In the Matter of X (A Child) (No 4) [2018] EWHC 1815 (Fam)

In the Matter of X (A Child) (No 5) [2018] EWHC 3442 (Fam)

Re A and R [2018] EWHC 2771 (Fam)

A Local Authority v A, B, C, D and E (Permission to Withdraw: Costs) [2018] EWHC 1841 (Fam)

Williams and Another (Appellants) v London Borough of Hackney (Respondent) [2018] UKSC 37

Re P-S [2018] EWCA Civ 1407

In the Matter of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008 (Cases P, Q, R, S, T and U) (No 2) [2017] EWHC 2532 (Fam)

Re R (Closed Material Procedure: Special Advocates: Funding) [2017] EWHC 1793 (Fam)

Re J (Children) [2017] EWCA Civ 398

In the Matter of X (A Child) (No 3) [2016] EWHC 2755 (Fam)

In the Matter of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008 (Case L) [2016] EWHC 2266 (Fam)

In the Matter of X (A Child)(No 2) [2016] EWHC 1668 (Fam)

In the Matter of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008 (Case G) [2016] EWHC 729 (Fam)

In the Matter of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008 (Cases A, B, C, D, E, F, G and H) [2015] EWHC 2602 (Fam)

Al-Hilli (Children), Re [2013] EWHC 3404

Al-Hilli (Children), Re [2013] EWHC 2190

In the Matter of A (A Child) [2013] 1 FLR 948

Surrey County Council v Al-Hilli & Others (4) [2012] EWHC 4394 (Fam)

Redbridge LBC v B and C and A (Through his Children's Guardian) [2011] 2 FLR 117

AB v JLB [2009] 1 FLR 517

Hertfordshire County Council v M and Ors [2007] EWHC 2660 (Fam)

A Local Authority v S.W.T (by his Guardian) [2004] 2 FLR 129 FD

Education

LLB Queen Mary & Westfield (University of London)

Awards

Shortlisted for Family Law Junior Barrister of the year 2016

Memberships & Associations

[Family Law Bar Association](#)

[Association of Lawyers for Children](#)

[Medico-Legal Society](#)