

1GC | Family Law

Siobhan F Kelly MCI Arb

Year of Call: 1995



Practice Overview

Siobhan is a leading junior and specialist family practitioner with extensive experience in all aspects of the law relating to children. She is “Amazingly robust, she gets through to the root of the case and is incredibly effective.” and “A force to be reckoned with who will fight hard for the client”. Her main area of practice lies in acting for children, parents, and extended family members in public law proceedings. She is frequently instructed to represent young mothers within care proceedings.

Siobhan is a arbitrator qualified under the IFLA scheme for children matters.

Children (Public Law)

Siobhan is regularly instructed on highly complex matters including those involving the death of children, extensive medical evidence, allegations of non-accidental injury and extreme sexual abuse. She has detailed knowledge of cases related to factitious induced illness and cases in which there are parallel criminal proceedings.

Children (Private Law)

Siobhan has a particular familiarity with representing children in private law applications whether through their guardian in Rule 16.4 cases or separately. She represents parents within any private law parental disputes, with a specific emphasis on applications for domestic and international relocation.

International Family Law

Siobhan is experienced in cases involving the international movement of children including both convention and non-convention abduction cases and other matters with an international element.

Notable Cases

C v M (A Child) (Abduction: Representation of Child Party) [2023] EWCA Civ 1449

WSP (A Child) (Vaccination: religious objection), Re [2023] EWHC 2622

D (A Child), Re (Abduction: Child's Objections: Representation of Child Party) [2023] EWCA Civ 1047

A Local Authority v The Mother & Ors [2020] EWHC 1233

C (Children: Covid-19: Representation) [2020] EWCA Civ 734

K (Threshold – Cocaine Ingestion – Failure to give evidence) [2020] EWHC 2502

Re TA (A Child) [2016] EWFC 21

Re R BL (A Child) (Supervision Order) [2015] Lexis Citation 47

A & B (Children) [2014] EWHC 818

A&B (Children) [2013] EWHC 4150

The London Borough of Barking & Dagenham v SG & Ors [2014] EWHC 3761

A Local Authority v J [2008] EWHC 1484

Westminster City Council v RA, B AND S [2005] EWHC 970

RE S (Identification: Restrictions on Publication) [2003] EWCA Civ 963

Re M (Intractable Contact Dispute: Interim Care Order) [2003] EWHC 1024

What the Directories Say

"When I know Siobhan is involved in a case, I instantly relax. She is always very well prepared and has an excellent grasp of all the issues involved." **Band 2 - Chambers and Partners, 2025**

"Incredibly bright and astute, she really gets straight to the issues and is never distracted. She's very plain-speaking, which is attractive to both the judiciary and also her own clients." **Band 2 - Chambers and Partners, 2025**

"Anything she doesn't know about children law isn't worth knowing. She's a formidable advocate." **Band 2 - Chambers and Partners, 2025**

"Siobhan is a skilled and sought-after junior." **Tier 5 - Legal 500, 2025**

"An exceptionally talented barrister, who's got such a nice rapport with the judges; they sit up and listen when she makes submissions and her points are always spot-on." **Band 2 - Chambers and Partners, 2024**

"She tactically knows how to put something and is always one step ahead." Band 2 - Chambers and Partners, 2024

"She fights very hard for her clients." Band 2 - Chambers and Partners, 2024

"An experienced, charismatic and reliable junior." Legal 500, 2024

Education

University of Kent at Canterbury

College of Law

Inns of Court school of Law

Appointments

Siobhan is an arbitrator, qualified under the IFLA scheme for children matters.

Siobhan sits as both as a Recorder and a Deputy District Judge.

Memberships & Associations

Chartered Institute of Arbitrators

Association of Lawyers for Children - Siobhan was the co-chair from 2020 to 2023 and remains a member of the executive committee.

Family Law Bar Association

Middle Temple

Member of the Child and Family Law Quarterly Editorial Board

Member of the Nuffield Family Justice Observatory Advisory Council

Publications

Siobhan is a contributor to Capacity to Change: Understanding and Assessing a Parent's Capacity to Change within the Timescales of the Child.