

1KBW

PUBLIC LAW MONTH

Conference Programme & Speaker Biographies

MAY 2024

Leading in family law

Session One: Thursday 2 May 2024, 3pm

Workshop 1

Local Authorities, Parental Responsibility and Duties of Care

[Speaker: Victoria Green](#)

- There are many decisions that local authorities make for looked after children under their parental responsibility. But, where are the boundaries, and what are the implications of parental responsibility when it comes to a duty of care? What decisions can a local authority make without a parent's agreement, and when does there need to be agreement or an order from the court? This talk will explore some of the issues that can arise.



Victoria Green

Victoria has been a specialist family practitioner for many years, having previously also practised in criminal law. She has appeared at all levels of tribunal and against both junior and leading counsel. In public law children cases, Victoria has experience of dealing with cases in which there are the most serious allegations of harm to children.

Workshop 2

Unregistered Placements

[Speaker: Joseph Landman](#)

- The shortfall in the availability of secure accommodation for children remains, meaning that the authorisation of children within unregistered placements is still a common occurrence. This talk will cover the practical and legal points relating to the placement of children in unregistered placements. What are the key issues when dealing with an application involving a child being placed in an unregistered placement? What is the best practice that should be complied once the placement has been authorised?



Joseph Landman

Joseph is a family law specialist accepting instructions in all areas of family law. He has been instructed on a range of matrimonial finance, private children, public children, and international matters. He has experience appearing as sole counsel in the High Court, and has assisted members of chambers up to the Court of Appeal.

Session Two: Thursday 9 May 2024, 3pm

Workshop 1

FDAC: Suitability, scope and success

[Speaker: Andrea Watts](#)

- The FDAC model has led to positive outcomes for many families since its inception, but what is it that makes FDAC successful when standard care proceedings might have yielded a different result? What factors determine whether a family can go into FDAC, and what can be done to replicate the FDAC process in those cases where it is not an option? This talk will consider the recent developments in this area and offer practical tips to manage similar cases.



Andrea Watts

Andrea has a broad children practice covering care proceedings, adoption, private children proceedings and international cases including abduction and wardship. She is an experienced mediator in private children issues. Andrea also deals with cases involving applications for protective orders such as forced marriage protection orders and FGM protection orders as well as non-molestation and occupation orders.

Workshop 2

Older children and applications for public law orders

[Speaker: Lucinda Ferguson](#)

- The care of older children, especially those aged 16 and 17, raises particular problems for local authorities and the courts. Local authorities are increasingly being criticised by the courts and in public policy discourse for misusing section 20 agreements. But when should a local authority apply for an interim care order 'vs' make use of a section 20 agreement for a child just about to turn 17? When should care proceedings continue after a child turns 17? What is the impact on these issues of the child's capacity?



Lucinda Ferguson

Lucinda is an associate member of chambers alongside her roles as Associate Professor of Family Law at the University of Oxford and Tutorial Fellow in Law at Oriel College, Oxford. Lucinda is a specialist in family law and education law and has advised and acted at all levels up to and including the High Court.

Session Three: Thursday 16 May 2024, 3pm

Workshop 1

The ever changing world of digital & technical forensic evidence

Speaker: [Anna McKenna KC](#)

- How to get the best from your forensic expert.



Anna McKenna KC

Anna specialises in public and private law children cases in her public law work she is renowned for successfully managing the most serious and complex cases. involving child deaths, NAI, FII, Child Trafficking and sexual abuse.

Workshop 2

Discharging Placement and Adoption Orders

Speaker: [Martha Holmes](#)

- A look at the recent case law around revoking placement and adoption orders and consider the right approach to an application to seek leave to challenge a placement or adoption order, whether you are representing a parent or a local authority. What evidence is needed? What assessments are appropriate? Is the court striking the right balance for parents and children?



Martha Holmes

Martha is a highly regarded family law barrister specialising in children law, balancing a practice encompassing public law, private law and child abduction at all levels of court. She represents parents, local authorities and Guardians. She is a trained mediator and collaborative lawyer, bringing strong client handling and negotiation skills to her work.

Session Four: Thursday 23 May 2024, 3pm

Workshop 1

Publicity and Transparency in Public Law Cases

Speaker: [Frank Feehan KC](#)

- A survey of the guidance and rules with an update as to likely direction of travel in relation to the publication of care cases in England and Wales.



Frank Feehan KC

Frank is a highly experienced, specialist family law practitioner with outstanding expertise covering all areas of the field from high-conflict and international private law children work, including child abduction, to the most serious public law cases. His work in this area is an even mix of private HNW clients and children's rights cases in the public law sphere.

Workshop 2

When Abduction and Care meet: Local Authority exposure under s.5 of the Child Abduction and Custody Act 1985

Speaker: [Tadhgh Barwell-O'Connor](#)

- Every Local Authority risks potentially unlimited exposure to the costs of securing the 'welfare' of a child such as one who is taken into their care, needs to be housed, or educated during an application for summary return under The Hague Convention 1980. The wide ranging powers of the courts in such circumstances may be a very valuable resource for parents as well as children and any appointed Guardian.



Tadhgh Barwell-O'Connor

Tadhgh is a family law specialist accepting instructions in all areas of family law. He has experience representing clients from first to final hearing at all levels up to and including the High Court, including in complex, international multi-day trials.

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