

# Claire Brissenden

Call 2004

"Empathetic and very caring towards clients. Her preparation for a hearing or conference is always thorough and she puts herself out to really fight the client's corner. Also very supportive towards instructing solicitors" Legal 500

## EXPERTISE

- Family
- Private Law Children
- Domestic Abuse & Injunctions
- Internal and External Relocation Cases
- Finding of Fact hearings
- Ancillary Relief & Matrimonial Finance
- Pensions
- Armed Forces

Following a successful career in business Claire was a mature entrant to the Bar. Claire has considerable experience representing parents in private law children matters involving residence and contact, as well as applications relating to domestic abuse. In addition to complex contact and shared residence cases, she specialises in finding of fact hearings, implacable hostility cases, and changes of residence.

Claire recently appeared in the High Court successfully defending an appeal after a rehearing of a finding of fact hearing concerning a single issue of rape [F v M \(Appeal: Finding of Fact\) \[2019\] EWHC 3177 \(Fam\)](#).

Claire also has extensive experience of applications for temporary and permanent leave to remove from the jurisdiction, internal and external relocation cases. She represented the father in the reported appeal [Re H \[2014\] EWCA Civ 989](#) and subsequent rehearing of [Re H \[2015\] EWFC 39](#) concerning an application by the mother to take their child to Iran for a holiday, despite the father's status as a political asylum seeker.

Claire represents clients in all aspects of ancillary relief and matrimonial finance applications. She is particularly experienced in cases involving modest assets where a creative solution is often required to achieve a 'fair' result. She has also represented a number of serving and retired members of the armed forces, and has expertise in pensions.

Claire is especially aware of the need for sound advice from the earliest stages of proceedings to avoid the stress and expense of protracted litigation. She understands that clients need to feel supported and listened to, and is very capable of putting them at ease. She is experienced in dealing with litigants in person, and being a trained mediator is able to communicate effectively with them in order to achieve negotiated solutions.

Claire is fully committed to the continued representation of both privately and publicly funded clients.



## Expertise

Family - Finance & Property

Family - Public Law & Children

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)

International & Offshore

Claire's article in [Family Law Week "Changing Residence - A Judgment of Solomon"](#) addresses the difficulties faced by the courts in deciding whether to change a child's residence, particularly in view of a child's wishes and feelings to the contrary.

## APPOINTMENTS

- Family Law Mediator (Children and Ancillary Relief)

## MEMBERSHIPS

- Family Law Bar Association
- North Eastern Circuit
- Inner Temple

## EDUCATION

- LLB (Hons) Buckingham University
- BVC Northumbria University

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Claire enjoys foreign travel, scuba diving, skiing and photography. She supports Newcastle United and sometimes enjoys it. Claire is divorced with two children and two dogs.



## Clerking team



**Steven Preen**  
Lead Family Clerk  
0191 232 1927



**Ken McLafferty**  
Family & Immigration  
Clerk  
0191 245 9531



**Paula McLure**  
Family Clerk  
0191 245 9530



**Erin May**  
Family & Court of  
Protection Clerk  
0191 245 9590



**Chris Gibbin**  
Criminal & Family Clerk  
01642 247 569



**Fiona Bullock**  
Direct Access Clerk  
01642 247 569

## What Others Say

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"Claire is a skilled negotiator who demonstrates great empathy with clients. Her advice is robust."

**Legal 500 2023**

"Claire is an engaging advocate. She is tenacious, and fights her client's corner when required. Clients appreciate her calm and sensible approach."

**Legal 500 2022**

"Empathetic and very caring towards clients. Her preparation for a hearing or conference is always thorough and she puts herself out to really fight the client's corner. Also very supportive towards instructing solicitors"

**Legal 500 2021**

"Recommended for financial remedy matters"

**Legal 500 2019**

"An approachable, knowledgeable and equable lawyer"

**Legal 500 2017**

"A safe pair of hands in financial and children law matters"

**Legal 500 2016**

"She is a competent negotiator, and always strives to get the best result for the client"

**Legal 500 2015**

"A personable barrister, with strong client care skills"

**Legal 500 2014**

"very sensible and down to earth"

**Legal 500 2013**

"recommended"

**Legal 500 2012**