

Kate Kochnari

Call 2008

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Kate is a Family Law specialist who has acted and advised at all levels up to and including the Court of Appeal. Her thriving family law practice includes all areas of complex public law, private law children and family finance.

Her conscientious and tenacious approach has led to a swift progression in the complexity of cases she is instructed on.

Specialist Practice Areas

- Care and Adoption (for parents and guardians)
- Private Law Children work
- Financial Remedy
- Injunctions
- International/ Abduction/ Wrongful Retention
- Cohabitation Disputes

Kate is a regular speaker at the Judicial College.

She has completed the Bar Council Vulnerable Witness Training

She was also part of a small team who updated Atkins Court Forms Family: Financial Remedies ACF volume.

Away from Chambers, Kate enjoys cooking, travelling and walking her beloved Border Collie.

Family law

Kate's aptitude to fearlessly promote and protect her client's interests was acknowledged in the Court of Appeal by Lord Justice McFarlane who commented in *W-J (Children)* [2015] EWCA Civ 788 'In the course of the robust and constructive representation that the mother had at the hearing provided by Ms Kochnari'.

Public Family Law

Kate regularly receives instructions from parents, Guardians and other family members in complex care proceedings. She often represents vulnerable and learning-disabled clients, including receiving instructions from the Official Solicitor. Kate has experience representing parents, competent children and interveners in alleged non-accidental injury cases and cases involving allegations of sexual abuse.

Financial Remedies

Kate is regularly instructed in Family Finance proceedings and has experience in dealing with matters involving interveners, international property and maintenance pending suit claims.

Private Family Law

In Private Law matters and Family Law Act cases, Kate has experience in matters involving serious allegations of domestic abuse, coercive control, sexual abuse/ grooming, neglect and parents dealing with Mental Health difficulties.

Lay clients always report positively in respect of Kate's approach to cases given her warm personality, attention to client care and ability to give robust and realistic advice when required.

Kate is available to deliver training / CPD seminars.

Reported Cases:

- [M \(A Child\)\(Non-Accidental Injuries; Wider Canvas\), Re \[2024\] EWFC 209 \(B\)](#)
- [A & Ors \(Care Proceedings: 1996 Hague Convention: Habitual Residence\) \[2024\] EWFC 110](#)
- [W-J \(Children\) \[2015\] EWCA Civ 788](#)

Direct access

Kate is authorised to accept instructions direct from members of the public. She encourages clients who are considering this route to contact Chambers and discuss their problem.

In suitable cases, Kate can provide client conferences, written advices and representation at court.

Memberships & Committees

- FLBA (Family Law Bar Association)
- Association of Lawyers for Children (ALC)

Education

- LLB (Hons.) University of Kent, Canterbury 2006
 - Bar Vocational Course, BPP, London 2008
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Quotations:

- *"Kate is meticulous, highly thorough, but also has a great client manner outside of court."
"Kate is organised and she is able to think ahead tactically. She is calm, patient, and reassuring to vulnerable clients."
"Kate excels in simplifying complex issues, making her a trusted adviser to clients and a go-to barrister for solicitors navigating difficult cases."*

Chambers & Partners 2026

- *'Kate is a really outstanding barrister. In court, she is a force to be reckoned with and she fights her client's corner with skill and dedication.'*

'Kate is kind and calm and incredible with vulnerable clients, her cross-examination is second-to-none, and she is clearly a silk in the making. Kate has developed a High Court practice many years above her call, meaning that she has had the opportunity to learn from her peers, and it is clear that she has put this into practice in everything she does.'

Legal 500 2026

- *"Kate is an amazingly impressive advocate."*

"She knows her case inside out, is not afraid to ask difficult questions and leaves clients feeling sure that their case has been presented optimally."

"Kate is an expert in ensuring sophistication in her work and delivering fantastic advocacy."

Chambers & Partners 2025

- *'Kate's advocacy is always passionate. She combines forensic abilities with commitment and passion to her client's case.'*

Legal 500 2025

- *'Kate is always well prepared for hearings, her attention to detail is excellent, and she always puts her client's case*

well.'

Legal 500 2025

- *'Kate is pragmatic, responsive, and a great team player.'*

Legal 500 2025

- *'Kate is resourceful, organized and has an incredible eye for detail. She has a fantastic manner and communicates effectively and efficiently with clients, putting them at ease. Her cross-examination is clever. She frames questions appropriately and gets the answers she needs. She always knows the papers thoroughly.'*

Legal 500 2024

- *"She is a strong advocate and is good with vulnerable clients, explaining the issues to them and treating them all with respect."*

Chambers & Partners 2023

- *"Kate is an all-round strong advocate and prepares very well for cases. She is very much liked by clients."*

Chambers & Partners 2023

- *"She is very thorough and meticulous in her approach."*

Chambers and Partners 2022 – band 2

- *"Kate is an excellent communicator. She is empathetic and supportive to clients, prepares well and knows her cases in detail."*

Legal 500 2022 – ranked as a leading junior

- *"An impressive performer specialising in family law and Court of Protection cases. She acts in a host of children law cases, including care proceedings. She often acts for children and parents and is a strong choice for vulnerable clients with mental health issues."*

Chambers and Partners 2021 – band 3