

## Damian Woodward-Carlton QC

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### Introduction

Damian is a family practitioner, appearing in the Family Court (High Court, County Court and Appellate Courts) in London and the South East. He regularly appears in complex cases involving a range of public law matters.

He has been recommended by Chambers UK and the Legal 500 for a number of years and is currently ranked in the field of Family: Children. In the Legal 500 2018 he is described as, 'An excellent public law children barrister.'

Damian has expertise in cases with medical, expert and scientific evidence; cases involving allegations of factitious and induced illness; the perpetration of non-accidental injuries; cases raising allegations of radicalisation to extremist thought and terrorism, and sexual abuse.

Damian's clients include those with learning disabilities, mental health issues, substance abuse problems, and vulnerable witnesses along with a range of professional witnesses including local authorities and guardians.

Damian has written and lectured on radicalisation cases in the family courts and on the changing face of adoption policy and practice and participated in research into the ethics of social work practice in relation to adoption.

Damian has been a governor of a local primary school since 2006, with special interest in safeguarding matters and advocating and supporting the transition to local state secondary schools.

Damian is married with three children and a dog.



## Recent Cases

- Damian has a number of recent complex High Court matters, including disclosure to the police and security services following a radicalisation case, fact-finding in relation to allegations of supporting terrorism and family members traveling to Syria, fact-finding regarding alleged serious non-accidental injury and a case of alleged factitious illness

## Recent reported cases

- Damian Woodward-Carlton QC acted for the mother in Re Q (Child: Interim Care Order: Jurisdiction). Child approaching 17 - Effect of s 38(4) of the Children Act 1989. [More information can be found here](#)
- H (A Child : Hair Strand Testing) [2017] EWFC 64 (29 September 2017)
- The London Borough of Brent v D & Ors (Compliance with Guidelines on Judges Meeting Children) [2017] EWHC 2452 (Fam) (05 July 2017)
- AD & AM (Fact-Finding: Re-Hearing) [2016] EWHC 2912 (Fam)
- D (Discharge of care order) [2016] EWFC B80 (23 September 2016)

## Qualifications and Appointments

- BSc (Psychology) – University of Durham (1986)
- University of Durham Scholarships (1984 and 1985)
- The Gabbet Prize for Psychology (1984)
- MA (by thesis) – University of Durham (1988)
- Diploma in Law – City University (1994)

## Recent Publications

- A radical challenge, Counsel Magazine December 2016
- 'The Adoption Debate' – Counsel Magazine December 2017