

Siân Smith

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Siân is a family practitioner specialising in financial and children matters. She is regularly instructed in matters of complexity, including allegations of serious harm and complex expert evidence.

Siân is a member of the FLBA national committee (since 2016) and chairs the FLBA's Advocacy Working Group which developed the Advocacy and the Vulnerable training for the Family Bar. Siân is one of a small number of qualified Facilitators who deliver this essential training nationally.

Family Law

Family finances

Siân is joint head of the Financial Remedy team. She has extensive experience in matrimonial proceedings and is often instructed in cases involving intervening international elements, third party interests and hidden assets where her meticulous and forensic approach is of particular benefit. Siân represents clients in high net worth cases and has appeared on her own against leading counsel. Siân focuses on providing considered, clear and practical advice from the outset. She is effective in achieving results through negotiation and in court. Siân is also instructed in applications for financial provision under Schedule 1 of the Children Act 1989. She is also available to act as a private FDR Judge.

Children

Siân is an experienced private law children practitioner who puts her clients at ease whilst providing expert representation. She undertakes the full range of private law children matters often representing parents and family members in cases involving complex factual and legal issues. She has is experienced in cases involving allegations of coercive control, economic, sexual and physical abuse as well as intractable contact disputes and allegations of parental alienation. Siân's background in public law work means that she has a wide experience of cases where local authorities are involved including where there is complex medical evidence or allegations of non-accidental injury, sexual abuse, fabricated or induced illness, neglect, substance misuse and emotional abuse. Siân is skilled in addressing the needs of vulnerable clients both in and out of court. She advises on applications involving specific issues such as applications to relocate in the UK and abroad and school selection.

Direct Access

Siân accepts instructions directly from members of the public under the direct public access scheme. She is lecturing at the Judicial College in 2024.

Training and lecturing

Siân regularly gives seminars and bespoke in-house training in all her practice areas. She has authored articles in Family Law, Family Affairs (FLBA Newsletter) and Counsel Magazine. Siân has recently joined the Family Law Week team providing questions for the financial remedies CPD programme.

Selected cases

- G (Children: Intractable Dispute) [2019] EWCA Civ 548
- Y (A Child) (S.38(6) Assessment) [2018] EWCA Civ 992
- P-G (Children) [2015] EWCA Civ 1025
- Hampshire County Council v A, B, C, D & E [2015] EWFC B186