

Davinia Riley

Year of Call: 2004
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Property and Estates

Davinia Riley specialises in a diverse range of property and probate-related legal work, with a focus on achieving practical and favourable outcomes for clients.

Davinia has significant expertise in representing both claimants and defendants in contested probate and estate disputes, including issues of undue influence, forgery, and proprietary estoppel claims. Recently, Davinia successfully secured a favourable judgment in a contentious estate matter which spanned a five-day hearing, involving the validation of a will and the dismissal of a counterclaim under proprietary estoppel.

Davinia has also been involved in a long-standing estate matter where allegations of forgery of a will were found against the defendant, and her clients successfully defended claims of undue influence.

Having extensive experience in Financial Dispute Resolution (FDR) hearings, Davinia regularly secures settlements for clients and achieves favourable outcomes through roundtable settlement discussions and mediations.

Davinia regularly provides written advice on the full range of contested probate matters including allegations of lack of testamentary capacity, undue influence and the validity of wills and claims under the Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependants) Act 1975. Additionally, Davinia advises on cohabitation disputes and property claims under TOLATA (Trusts of Land and Appointment of Trustees Act 1996) and and is able to sit as a FDR judge in cohabitee disputes.

Recommendations

"Great with clients, very down to earth, giving sound practical advice. Advocacy is strong - she will fight your corner confidently. Paperwork is clear and detailed."

Legal 500 2027/Family:Divorce and Financial Remedy/Midlands

`Davinia is straight talking and extremely personable. She goes above and beyond to help clients.'
Legal 500 2026/Family:Divorce and Financial Remedy/Midlands

"Davinia has excellent client care skills and can quickly find a rapport with clients and put them at ease. She is thorough in her case preparation and an excellent advocate, presenting her case in a calm and persuasive manner."
Legal 500 2025/Family:Divorce and Financial Remedy/Midlands

"Davinia is very good with clients. She can build rapport quickly and understand their concerns. She is an excellent advocate. She always prepares thoroughly, is calm and reasoned before the court and can make points succinctly and with impact."
Legal 500 2024/Family:Divorce and Financial Remedy/Midlands

"Davinia is an all-round star performer. She works tirelessly for clients and is able to argue their cases robustly while

demonstrating a thoughtful and creative approach to problem-solving and negotiation. She very swiftly gets to the heart of her instructions and engages with instructing solicitors before, during and after a hearing to provide invaluable support and advice."
Legal 500 2023/Family:Divorce and Financial Remedy/Midlands

"Davinia's paperwork is first-class and ahead of time. She establishes an early rapport with clients."
Legal 500 2022/Family:Divorce and Financial Remedy/Midlands

"Davinia – Professional, focussed, tenacious yet personable. Davinia came onto my case at the last minute for a final hearing in Liverpool. It had been a long and expensive divorce over 4 ½ years. She quickly grasped the financial aspects of the case with the help of my legal team (again who came on last minute). She was personable, tenacious yet remaining polite at all times. A no-nonsense attitude but with a focus on the key matters, she obtained for me a settlement which was significantly better than I expected. I cannot recommend her highly enough if you are in need" **Jonathan, Lay Client, Liverpool, 2024**

Academic qualifications

- Bar Vocational Course, Very Competent, Nottingham Law School
- Post Graduate Diploma in Law, Birmingham University
- BSc Psychology (2:1), University of East London

Scholarships

- Inner Temple Exhibition Award
- Duke of Edinburgh Scholarship
- The Struben Bequest

Professional qualifications & appointments

- Accredited Family Law Arbitrator (Financial Remedy)

Professional bodies

- Family Law Bar Association (FLBA)
- Midland Chancery and Commercial Bar Association (MMCBA)
- Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIArb)
- Institute of Family Law Arbitrators (IFLA)