Poonam Bhari



Year of Call: 1999
Telephone: 020 7583 8055

Court of Protection

Poonam Bhari is an experienced advocate who acts in a range of Court of Protection (COP) matters including welfare, property and affairs, serious medical treatment and applications for costs order.

She has expertise in mental capacity and mental health law. She regularly attends COP hearings in the High Court and Round Table Meetings.

Poonam acts and advises in matters relating to the inherent jurisdiction of the High Court for both children and vulnerable adults. She has acted in many cases in relation to applications for deprivations of liberty of children and young people.

Poonam receives instructions from individuals, local authorities, the public Guardian, care home /residential school, children through their children's guardian.

She regularly acts in complex proceedings, including cases involving Nearest Relative Displacement proceedings, financial deputy, lasting powers of attorney and financial abuse issues.

She was instructed in the notable case of South Gloucestershire Council v DN [2022] EWCOP 35 (12 August 2022) Read more about this case here:

- BAILII
- Local Government Lawyer
- Court of Protection Hub

Recommendations

"Poonam has a real understanding of the impact of domestic abuse, being involved in a number of committees addressing changes in procedures to protect those who have been abused. I have seen her practical but sensitive way of dealing with these issues. She has a great empathy that she brings to her work."

Legal 500 2027/Family: Children and Domestic Abuse/London Bar

Poonam Bhari is ranked in **Legal 500 2026**/Family: Children and Domestic Abuse/London Bar
Poonam Bhari is ranked in **Legal 500 2026**/Family: Children and Domestic Abuse/Midlands Circuit

Poonam Bhari is ranked in **Legal 500 2025/**Family: Children and Domestic Abuse/London Bar
Poonam Bhari is ranked in **Legal 500 2025**/Family: Children and Domestic Abuse/Midlands Circuit

'Poonam is pragmatic, methodical, and sympathetic and fights for clients. She puts clients at ease and makes them feel that they are being listened to.'

Legal 500 2024/Children Law (including public and private law)/London

'Poonam has a great eye for detail. She is empathetic with her clients and strikes up a rapport with them. She is particularly in demand in dealing with clients with vulnerabilities.'

Legal 500 2024/Family: Children and Domestic Violence/Midlands Circuit

Poonam Bhari is ranked in the **Legal 500 2023**/Children Law (including public and private law)/London edition. Poonam Bhari is ranked in the **Legal 500 2023**/Child Law (public and private)/Midlands Circuit edition.

'Poonam is a brilliant and effective communicator, not just on a professional level with Instructing Solicitors and the other parties but also with the lay clients and any relevant support networks that they have.'

Legal 500 2022/Child Law (public and private)/Midlands Circuit 'Her client handling is excellent.'

Poonam Bhari is ranked in the **Legal 500 2022**/Children Law (including public and private law)/London edition.

Legal 500 2021/Child Law (public and private)/Midlands **'A superb advocate.'**

Legal 500 2021/Children Law (including public and private law)/London **'A strong family law generalist.'**

Legal 500 2020/Family and Children Law/Midlands **'Outstanding with clients and an excellent advocate.'**

Legal 500 2020/Children Law (including public and private law)/London **"A family law specialist"**

Legal 500 2018/19/Family and Children Law/Midlands **"An empathetic advocate"**

Legal 500 2018/19/Children Law (including public and private law)/London

''Thank you Poonam and thank you so much for your hard work and advice this week''

Social worker

Academic qualifications

- B.Ed (Hons)
- MA in Education
- Graduate Diploma in Professional Studies
- Graduate Certificate in Applied Professional Studies
- Graduate Diploma in Law
- Bar Vocational Course
- CALM Mediation, Open College Network training completed 2013-2014

Professional qualifications & appointments

- Family Procedure Rule Committee Member (March 2021 to date)
- CALM Mediation trained

Professional bodies

Current:

- Family Law Bar Association
- LexisNexis case analysis panel
- Middle Temple
- Fellow of Royal Society of Arts (FRSA)

Previous:

- Association of Lawyers for Children executive committee member 2016-2018
- FLBA committee member 2006-2008
- Legal Action Group (Charity) member 2004-2016; Chair of Board of Trustees 2006-2016
- Children Law UK board member (2004-2007)
- The General Council of the Bar (Elected Member 2006-2008; Member of GMC and various Bar Council committees)
- Midland Circuit Women's Forum committee member
- West London Law Society