

Komal Patel

Year of Call: 2016
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Overview

Komal Patel is a specialist family barrister with a substantial practice in financial remedies and private law children proceedings. She is regularly instructed on behalf of parents, children through their Rule 16.4 Guardians, and vulnerable parties in complex and highly contested family litigation.

Her practice focuses on complex private law children and financial remedy litigation, including cases involving domestic abuse, parental alienation, non-disclosure, overseas assets, and jurisdictional disputes.

Komal is known for her meticulous preparation, incisive case analysis and persuasive advocacy. She is frequently instructed in matters involving extensive documentary evidence, expert reports and significant factual disputes. Professional and lay clients alike value her ability to identify the central issues quickly, provide clear strategic advice and present cases with precision and authority.

Prior to coming to the Bar, she worked as an advocate specialising in mental health law, regularly representing detained patients before the First-tier Tribunal, including in complex forensic cases. This experience continues to inform her work with vulnerable clients and cases involving mental health and capacity issues.

Outside practice, Komal is a mother of two young children, enjoys travelling, and appeared on the televised MasterChef competition in 2016.

Private law

Komal has a substantial private law children practice and is regularly instructed on behalf of parents, children through their Rule 16.4 Guardians, grandparents and wider family members in complex and highly contested proceedings.

She represents clients at every stage of proceedings, from urgent applications and FHDRA appointments to multi-day fact-finding hearings, welfare hearings and appeals. She is particularly experienced in cases involving allegations of domestic abuse, coercive and controlling behaviour, parental alienation, relocation, mental health difficulties, substance misuse, cultural and religious conflict, and applications for transfer of residence.

Komal is frequently instructed in cases requiring detailed analysis of extensive documentary evidence. Her previous background in mental health law provides additional insight in cases involving psychiatric evidence, capacity issues and vulnerable individuals.

Known for her meticulous preparation, strategic judgement and persuasive advocacy, Komal is particularly effective in managing high-conflict litigation while maintaining a clear child-focused approach.

Private Law Children: Reported Cases

- **F v M & Anor [2026] EWFC 133 (B)** – Represented the child through her Rule 16.4 Guardian in a reported fact-finding hearing concerning allegations of sexual abuse, with the court providing important guidance on professional objectivity, confirmation bias and the treatment of alleged disclosures.
- **M v F (Children: Treatment of Expert Evidence) [2025] EWFC 442 (B)** – Represented the children through their Rule 16.4 Guardian in a reported private law children dispute involving findings of coercive and controlling behaviour and the assessment of expert psychological evidence.

Private Law Children: Notable Cases

- **J v J** – Represented the mother in highly contested proceedings involving allegations of domestic abuse, coercive control, parental alienation and spiritual harm, securing findings on all allegations advanced on behalf of the mother.
- **H v E** (ongoing) – Represented Rule 16.4 Children's Guardian in complex proceedings involving allegations of domestic abuse, parental alienation, child refusal and extensive multi-agency involvement.
- **S v B** – Represented the mother in variation proceedings concerning a child with autism and learning difficulties, securing a variation of contact arrangements and a section 91(14) order.
- **W v W** – Represented the father in proceedings involving substance misuse, welfare concerns and a transfer of residence from the mother to the father.
- **T v S** – Represented the mother in complex proceedings involving coercive and controlling behaviour, emotional harm and manipulation of the child, resulting in findings against the father and no direct contact order being made.

Recommendations

"Komal's case preparation is thorough. Clients feel they are in safe hands with her."
"Komal Patel is a punchy, direct and effective advocate. She provides clear advice, excellent preparatory work and strong client engagement."
"Komal Patel is impressive. She has excellent advocacy and negotiation skills."
"Komal Patel's application of the law is excellent. Clients are very happy with her advocacy."
Chambers UK 2027/Family: Matrimonial Finance/South Eastern

'Komal demonstrates exceptional strength as a barrister, combining sharp analytical ability with clear persuasive advocacy. Her compassion for her clients is what sets her apart from the average barrister. Her compassion is what allows her to connect the law to the human reality behind it. She does not just present facts and legal principles; she understands the impact on the children. That insight helps her frame arguments in a way that feels grounded, authentic, and meaningful.'
Legal 500 2027/Family: children and domestic abuse/South Eastern Circuit/Leading Junior

"Komal's grasp of the background and key issues was exceptional. Her calm approach and ability to explain matters clearly made a difficult and intimidating process far easier to navigate."

"Her advocacy was skilled, measured and highly professional. We felt reassured throughout the proceedings and confident that our case was in safe hands."

"Komal combines meticulous preparation with clear, practical advice. She identifies the key issues quickly and provides strategic guidance that clients can understand and trust."

"I have been particularly impressed with her careful and meticulous preparation, her quick grasp of the relevant issues and the speed with which she has reported back. Mrs Patel had completed calculations for various possible scenarios and provided these to us in a spreadsheet which will now form the basis of future negotiations– a novel approach which no other Counsel has utilised in my 20-year experience."

"Komal is extremely adept at dealing with vulnerable clients. She has a very reassuring manner that puts clients at ease and makes them feel that they are in safe hands. She is very thorough and timely in her communication and feedback. Komal is always on hand to assist where needed with complex issues and is an invaluable asset to a case" (following a successful five-

day DV fact-finding hearing).

Academic qualifications

- LLB Law with Business, University of Brighton, First Class Honours
- BPTC, City Law School, Very Competent

Languages

In addition to English, which is Komal's first language, she speaks Gujarati fluently and can speak Hindi and Punjabi at a conversational level.

Scholarships

- Lord Denning Scholarship, Lincoln's Inn
- Incorporated Council of Law Reporting (ICLR) Prize for Mooting

Professional bodies

- Resolution
- Family Law Bar Association
- Lincoln's Inn
- Midland Circuit

Direct Access

Komal Patel is qualified to accept instructions directly from members of the public and professional clients under the Direct Public Access scheme.