

Ayesha Bell-Paris

Year of Call: 2012
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Overview

Family barrister Ayesha Bell-Paris is regularly instructed in cases following the breakdown of a relationship and offers a holistic wrap-around service; whether that be resolving the arrangements for children, or the parties' financial affairs.

Ayesha has a balanced practice and has represented Local Authorities, parents, extended family members, intervenors, cohabitees, divorcees, same sex couples, and children (both directly and via a Guardian). She has been instructed in cases at all levels of allocation, including in the High Court and the Court of Appeal.

Ayesha has also assisted clients at mediation, resulting in the resolution of matters without the need for proceedings to be issued.

Ayesha is regularly instructed in cases involving complex family dispute issues such as international relocation, parental alienation, substance misuse, mental health issues, domestic violence and non-accidental injury.

Ayesha also accepts instructions directly from members of the public under the Direct Access scheme.

Outside of chambers, when not kept busy by her two young children, Ayesha enjoys country pursuits, skiing and travelling. She supports and has been a volunteer with the charity, Independent Parental Special Education Advice (IPSEA), which helps children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities in England to get the right education.

Family

Family barrister Ayesha Bell-Paris specialises in disputes over children in privately-funded disputes over parents' financial affairs and suitable arrangements for their children. She focuses on private law children (including cases involving international elements and removal from the UK), matrimonial finance and TOLATA cases.

Ayesha has a developed a busy and varied practice advising local authorities, parents, wider family members, children, divorcees and cohabitees.

Reported cases:

W-C-T (Children) [2019] EWCA Civ 845
Ayesha acted for a respondent to an appeal following a fact-finding hearing in Care Proceedings whereby findings of sexual abuse had been made against the appellant by a Circuit Judge. The appeal was successfully defended and dismissed by the Court of Appeal.

Recent cases:

P v F [2022]

Ayesha successfully defended an application for an Occupation Order brought by her client's ex-partner. The court ultimately agreed that Ayesha's client should remain living in the property and an order was made against the Applicant to vacate the property.

Re M [2019]
This was a private law dispute involving an application for permanent removal from the Jurisdiction. Ayesha successfully achieved an order permitting her client to relocate to Germany with the subject children and discharge of previous prohibited steps orders.

B v P [2015 & 2018]
TOLATA proceedings culminating in a final hearing at which Ayesha obtained an order for sale of a jointly owned property and a favourable division of the equity for her client. Ayesha was instructed in the subsequent enforcement proceedings in which a possession order was obtained and costs awarded.

Articles

In the context of rapid technological changes, three years on from M (A Child – Private Law Children Proceedings - Case Management - Intimate Images) [2022] EWHC 986 (Fam), Ayesha Bell-Paris revisits Knowles J's much needed guidance on how the use of intimate images should be managed in private law proceedings.

View Article

Recommendations

"Ayesha is approachable, knowledgeable, and great with clients. She is pragmatic and sensitive in her approach and strives for the best outcome for clients. Ayesha is absolutely a 'safe pair of hands' to leave clients in, and someone I will always recommend to clients, in both straightforward and complex proceedings. Further, she communicates well both before and after hearings, updating swiftly once concluded. Ayesha is also on hand to assist with queries and guidance when needed - even being on hand to assist with finding counsel on a weekend for an urgent hearing!"
Legal 500 2027/ Family: Children and Domestic Abuse/Leading Junior/Midlands

'Ayesha is an excellent advocate. She cares deeply for her clients and this is shown by her thoughtful explanation of the process to clients and her attention to detail about their specific case, which immediately puts clients at ease.'
Legal 500 2026/Family: Children and Domestic Abuse/Leading Junior/Midlands

"Ayesha is renowned for her impeccable preparation of cases and outstanding written work. Her sensitive and pragmatic approach has been commended by lay clients and judges alike."

"Ayesha also appreciates the importance of being able to work as a team alongside her professional clients and recently received the following feedback from an instructing solicitor:"

"It has been greatly reassuring to have counsel in this matter that I have been able to completely rely upon."

"Ayesha recently assisted me via "direct access" for my divorce. She comes very highly recommended. She explains things in simple terms that I understood. She also discussed any concerns I had at length. In court she was confident and put across our points well. She was also a great negotiator, managing to resolve our case without the need to attend a final hearing, thus saving me money long term"

Academic qualifications

- Kaplan Law, BPTC, Very Competent
- Kaplan Law School, GDL, Commendation
- University College London, BA (English) 2:1

Scholarships

- Lord Denning Scholarship
- Winner of Crowther Shield for Advocacy

Professional bodies

- Family Law Bar Association
- The Honourable Society of Lincoln’s Inn
- The Denning Society

Direct Access

Ayesha Bell-Paris is qualified to accept instructions directly from members of the public and professional clients under the Direct Public Access scheme.