Esther Lieu



Year of Call: 2011
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Family

Esther Lieu is a specialist family lawyer with an emphasis on private family law matters and cases involving financial provision following divorce or dissolution of marriages and separation of unmarried couples.

Articles

Esther Lieu considers how a 'child arrangements' order made by a court in another country that is a signatory to the Hague Convention on Jurisdiction, Applicable Law, Recognition, Enforcement and Co-operation in Respect of Parental Responsibility and Measures for the Protection of Children 1996 ('the 1996 Convention') can be recognised and/or registered for enforcement in the Family Court of England and Wales.

View Article

Esther Lieu analyses I County Council v TD & Others [2017] EWHC 379 (Fam) for Family Law Week and considers of the difference between care orders and supervision orders.

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Esther Lieu analyses W v X (Jurisdiction in matters of parental responsibility) [2017] EUECJ C-499-15 for Family Law Week

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Fact finding into serious injuries: Esther Lieu summarises A v W and Others No 1 (Fact Finding) [2016] EWFC 64 for Family Law Week.

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Esther Lieu analyses M v F [2016] EWHC 3194 (Fam) (Jan 2017) for Family Law Week.

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Esther Lieu summarises Re AB (Surrogacy: Consent) [2016] EWHC 2643 (Fam) (Nov 16).

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ECtHR Judgment finding that the delays in the mother's enforcement proceedings against her former husband for unpaid child support constituted a breach of her Article 6 rights: Veiga da Silva Braga v Portugal (Application No. 39507/13) (Aug 16).

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An analysis by Esther Lieu for Family Law Week.

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An analysis by Sarah Jennings & Esther Lieu, 3PB, with District Judge Julie Exton look at the Family Drug and Alcohol Court for Family Law Week.

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Esther Lieu explores the circumstances in which parental responsibility may be terminated and considers the effect of s.4(2A) in anticipation of the Court of Appeal's judgment in the appeal from CW v SG.

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Esther Lieu and Adam Weiss, Legal Director, The AIRE Centre, explain the ECtHR's recent decision in Raw v France which considered, amongst other matters, the enforcement of court orders and the circumstances in which a parent could represent their children in Strasbourg proceedings.

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Recommendations

Esther is a calm and composed presence in even the most high-stakes financial proceedings. A real asset on complex financial remedy cases, she consistently delivers high-quality advice.'

The `methodical` Esther Lieu is well-versed in advising on TOLATA applications and Schedule 1 claims, as well as cases involving pre and post-nuptial agreements and overseas assets.
Legal 500 2026/Divorce and Financial Remedy/Leading Juniors/Western Circuit
Esther Lieu is ranked in the **Legal 500 2026** for Family: children and domestic abuse in the Western Circuit

'Esther is able to build an excellent report with clients in extremely difficult circumstances, making them feel well-supported throughout the process. She is compassionate and approachable, as well as clear in her advice, and has excellent client care skills.'
Legal 500 2025/Divorce and Financial Remedy/Leading Juniors/Western Circuit

"None of this would have been possible without your help and support - I am thrilled with the result and will always be incredibly grateful to you."
Client

"Thank you for everything - for all the practical guidance, sound advice and the perfectionism with which you always drafted the pleadings and documents, all of which brought L to this point."
Client

"I have felt very well supported by you throughout your involvement in this case and could not have been more confident in your representation of me in the court room"
Client

"I just wanted to email to pass on my thanks as Esther has been fantastic and greatly helped with settling the financial case for the client as well a previously settling the children act case for another client as well."
Solicitor

"Esther Lieu was outstanding, she was supportive and explained my options very clearly. She was very understanding and knowledgeable."
Client

Academic qualifications

- College of Law, BPTC (Merit) 2012

- Inner Temple Exhibition Scholar 2011
- College of Law, GDL (Commendation) 2011
- University of London, MA - Human Rights (Merit) 2006
- University of Bristol, BSc – Philosophy and Psychology (2:1) 2005

Professional qualifications & appointments

- ICCA/FLBA's Vulnerable Witness Training

Professional bodies

- Family Law Bar Association (Treasurer, Western Circuit)
- Human Rights Lawyers Association
- Immigration Law Practitioners' Association (previously a Trustee)