

Harriet Lavis

Year of Call: 2014
Email Address: harriet.lavis@3pb.co.uk
Telephone: 020 7583 8055

Overview

Family barrister Harriet Lavis joined 3PB (3 Paper Buildings) in October 2022 from a specialist family law chambers in the Southeast of England, where she has developed a broad family law practice focusing on private law children, family financial disputes and domestic violence and injunctions.

She read Law at Durham University, winning the Sidley Austin Equity Prize. Before transferring to the Bar, Harriet worked as a paralegal for Bevan Brittan, where she was seconded full-time to the Department of Health.

In her spare time Harriet enjoys yoga and singing.

Recommendations

"Harriet was extremely proactive and capable, very quickly getting to grips with the case, which has been lengthy and protracted. She was very quickly able to identify the strengths and weaknesses in the case. She was incredibly well prepared and was extremely clear, confident, and articulate in her advocacy. Another strength is Harriet's effective communication with clients, particularly those with learning difficulties. She is able to break information down and explain it to the client appropriately. I have been really impressed with Harriet and would not hesitate to instruct her. She is a well-prepared, robust, and tenacious advocate."

Legal 500 2027/Family: children and domestic abuse/South Eastern Circuit

'Harriet is immaculately prepared with her cases and you know you are in safe hands when you brief her. She will consider a case from all angles, and she is especially good with vulnerable clients and cares deeply about her work and doing the best job for those she represents.'
Legal 500 2026/Family: children and domestic abuse/South Eastern Circuit

"Harriet was amazing."
Lay client commendation to instructing solicitor

"Harriet made me feel at ease when I was obviously very anxious and nervous."
Lay client commendation to instructing solicitor

Academic qualifications

- Durham University, LLB Law

- Kaplan Law School, BPTC (Very Competent)

Scholarships

- Winner, UK Law School Mediation Competition
- National Quarter Finalist (UK), Philip C Jessup International Law Mooting Competition, University of Durham
- Sidley Austin Equity Prize, Durham University

Professional bodies

- Member of Inner Temple

Expertise

Family

Private Law Children

Harriet Lavis already has a strong family law practice focused on private law children, family finance disputes, domestic violence and injunctions. She acts regularly for parents, other family members and Guardians in private law children disputes. She has particular experience with international relocation cases and has recently given a talk on the topic. She is regularly instructed on cases involving serious allegations of abuse, intractable hostility to contact, and matters in relation to jurisdiction. Many cases have involved disputes over a child's residence. Harriet has been successful both in obtaining a transfer of residence in her client's favour and successfully resisting such applications.

Harriet Lavis has represented a wide variety of clients at all stages of private law children disputes. She acts regularly for parents, other family members and Guardians. She has recently had experience of cases involving international relocation, serious allegations of abuse, intractable hostility to contact, and matters in relation to jurisdiction.

Many cases have involved disputes over a child's residence. Harriet has been successful both in obtaining a transfer of residence in her client's favour and successfully resisting such applications.

Family Finance

Her strong practice in financial remedy disputes has seen her work at all stages of disputes as well as taking cases from first appointment to final hearing. Harriet is mindful of the potential advantages to her clients in settling a case and gives clear advice on her client's prospects where possible.

Recent cases have involved international property and assets, short marriages, third party interests, and allegations of non-disclosure. She also has considerable experience in cases involving domestic violence, representing clients from initial emergency applications through to final hearings. She has represented both applicants and respondents to domestic violence allegations. She has successfully obtained occupation orders for clients.

Domestic Violence and Injunctions

Harriet has considerable experience in cases involving domestic violence, representing clients from initial emergency applications through to final hearings.

She has represented both applicants and respondents to domestic violence allegations and is able to apply this broad range of experience to give informed advice to her clients. She has successfully obtained occupation orders for clients.