

Nicola Frost

Year of Call: 2009

Email Address: nicola.frost@3pb.co.uk

Secure Email: nicola.frost@3paper.cjsm.net

Telephone: 0117 928 1520



Overview

Nicola Frost is a specialist family law barrister and arbitrator. Her practice encompasses financial remedies and private law children law matters, dealing with the division of finances on divorce, legal separation (following the breakdown of a civil partnership) or TOLATA issues between formerly cohabitating couples. She also assists clients when there are disputes involving children.

Nicola has won praise for her forensic attention to detail and often makes complex evidence (medical, legal or factual) appear straightforward. Nicola has a 'no stone unturned' approach to her cases and always has a total command of her papers.

Having qualified as an Arbitrator in both the Financial Remedy Scheme and Children Scheme with the Institute of Family Law Arbitrators (IFLA), Nicola is a member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIArb) and she welcomes instructions to act as the Arbitrator in divorce or children cases or to represent clients at arbitrations.

Nicola is a welfare officer in Chambers and an ardent advocate for wellbeing, and this is evident in her client care. She approaches cases with sensitivity and Nicola's clients appreciate her friendly, empathetic approach, alongside her direct advice and pragmatism. She is committed to achieving the best results for her clients and uses her strong negotiation skills to facilitate settlement, wherever possible. Where agreement is not achievable, her approach is robust, but fair.

In financial remedies work, Nicola regularly acts in cases involving business assets, trusts and international property. Nicola is a leading expert in the area of marital agreements (including pre-nuptial agreements, post-nuptial agreements or separation agreements) and is the author of a seminal book in this field: "A Practical Guide to Pre-Nuptial and Post-Nuptial Agreements". She may be involved in drafting nuptial agreements or advising upon their enforceability.

Nicola is highly experienced in international child abduction (both Hague Convention and non-Hague jurisdictions) and child relocation cases, both internal relocation and overseas. She also acts in contentious surrogacy cases.

Away from the Courtroom, Nicola sings with the Chambers Band, performing at charity events, and winning the Bristol Legal Battle of the Bands at the infamous music venue, 'The Fleece', in 2023. The annual event supports local charities. Nicola is the Chair of Governors at a Primary School and is elected as their Safeguarding Governor and SEN provision Governor.

Nicola is consistently recommended in Chambers & Partners for matrimonial finance, and the Legal 500 for both financial remedies and children work. She is a Family Law Arbitrator (both Financial and Children Schemes), a Private FDR Judge and a qualified mediator (civil and commercial law).

Recommendations

Nicola Frost is an experienced junior who is particularly well known for taking on financial remedy cases. She is skilled at dealing with pre- and post-nuptial agreements, cohabitant disputes and trusts and business issues.

Strengths: "Nicola Frost has a really good way with clients."

"Nicola Frost's research is in-depth and impressive and she is pragmatic and practical with clients and similarly in court."

"Nicola Frost is very approachable, and she has the ability to explain complex issues to clients with patience and in a manner they understand."

Nicola is an exceptional advocate. With a "no stone left unturned" approach, she lives and breathes her cases and inspires the confidence of her clients right from the start.

Chambers UK 2025/Family/Matrimonial Finance/Western Bar

Strengths: "Nicola is a persuasive advocate. She is always on top of her cases and she is well researched."

"Nicola is thorough and robust. She always goes the extra mile to prepare a strong case."

"Nicola is extremely approachable, fantastic with clients and a highly persuasive advocate."

Chambers UK 2024/Family/Matrimonial Finance/Western Bar

'Nicola's attention to detail is phenomenal, especially in her skeleton arguments and case outlines. She has an excellent manner with clients, putting them at their ease.'

Legal 500 2025/Divorce and Financial Remedy/Leading Juniors/Western Circuit

'Nicola has excellent client care. Her advice is clear and firm yet delivered sensitively and with empathy. Her preparation and advocacy are excellent.'

Legal 500 2025/Family: Children and Domestic Violence/Leading Juniors/Western Circuit

Nicola Frost is a 'go-to barrister for difficult private children law cases'. Her broad practice includes child abduction and Hague Convention cases, as well as surrogacy and intractable contract disputes.

'Nicola has an amazing ability to collate huge amounts of information down to the key points without missing anything. She approaches her cases with forensic accuracy as well as a great deal of compassion for clients. She is also incredibly robust when dealing with her opponents and with the court.'

Legal 500 2024/Family: Children and Domestic Violence/Leading Juniors/Western Circuit

'Nicola is extremely thorough and her attention to detail is impressive. She has excellent client care qualities and goes the extra mile for her clients. Nicola is a calm but very persuasive advocate.'

Legal 500 2024/Divorce and Financial Remedy/Leading Juniors/Western Circuit

'She is robust, yet engaging and empathetic with a client.'

Legal 500 2023/Child Law (Public and Private)/Leading Juniors/Western Circuit

'Nicola is tenacious and perceptive, and thorough in her preparation.'

Legal 500 2023/Divorce and Financial Remedy/Leading Juniors/Western Circuit

'She always has a total command of the papers and is a robust advocate.'

Legal 500 2022/Child Law (Public and Private)/Leading Juniors/Western Circuit

'She always has a total command of the papers and is a robust advocate.'

Legal 500 2022/Divorce and Financial Remedy/Leading Juniors/Western Circuit

"Nicola's attention to detail far exceeds any other barrister or lawyer I have ever come across!": **Solicitor, Head of Family**

"I would like to express my gratitude and admiration for the way in which Ms Frost has represented her client and for her encyclopaedic knowledge of the extensive papers and issues in this case.": **Judge (High Court), International Child**

Relocation case

"I am indebted to Ms Frost for the chronology that she prepared. I have used that chronology as the basis for what follows [in my judgment]...": **Judge (High Court), International Child Relocation case**

"I've always used another chambers but have recently instructed Nicola Frost from 3PB who was fantastic and really sorted a difficult case. I've instructed her again on another case.": **Instructing solicitor**

"I was really impressed with how understanding you were and also how direct and honest you were.": **lay client**

"My client loved Nicola because she was feisty but fair." : **Instructing solicitor**

"You did an excellent job for my client in difficult circumstances. Thank you." : **Instructing solicitor**

"I think your skeleton [argument] is beautifully written and presented." : **Opposing counsel**

"Tenacious!": **Family Court Judge**

"Your skeleton argument is excellent": **Family Court Judge**

Academic qualifications

- LL.B (Hons) (First Class) – Bristol Law School, UWE Bristol
- BVC (Very Competent) – Bristol Institute of Legal Practice, UWE Bristol
- Author of 'A Practical Guide to Pre-Nuptial and Post-Nuptial Agreements'

Scholarships

- Exhibition and Duke of Edinburgh Scholar, Inner Temple
- Keble Advanced International Advocacy Scholar, Inner Temple

Professional qualifications & appointments

- Accredited Arbitrator, Financial Remedy Scheme and Children, IFLA
- Accredited Mediator, Civil & Commercial Mediation, Bristol ADR Group
- Advocacy Trainer, Western Circuit

Professional bodies

- Member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CI Arb)
- Institute of Family Law Arbitrators (IFLA)
- Bristol Family Law Solutions
- Family Law Bar Association
- Bar Pro Bono Unit
- Inner Temple
- Western Circuit
- European Circuit

Expertise

Family

Finance/Property

Nicola Frost is highly experienced in matters involving financial remedies upon divorce under the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973, cohabitation disputes under the Trusts of Land and Appointment of Trustees Act 1996 (TOLATA) and applications involving provision for children under Schedule 1 to the Children Act 1989. Nicola also has specialist expertise in the area of prenuptial agreements and advises upon and prepares both prenuptial and postnuptial agreements. Click [here](#) to listen to Nicola's latest podcast on "[pre-nuptial agreements: are they worth it?](#)", recorded with Get Legally Speaking.

Nicola has particular experience of:

- Prenuptial agreements / postnuptial agreements
- Consent orders (enforceability, challenge, Barder events)
- Daniels v Walker applications (applying for an independent expert witness, separate from Single Joint Expert)
- Cohabitation agreements
- TOLATA claims
- Transfers of overseas property, ensuring the enforceability of orders
- Conduct, including dissipation of assets
- Maintenance pending suit / spousal maintenance
- Farming cases
- Third party interests
- Insolvency, including transaction avoidance, non disclosure, uncovering concealed assets
- Schedule 1 to the Children Act
- Enforcement applications
- Cohabitation and conversion / delivery up
- Annulment proceedings
- Business assets
- Pensions (including Forces pensions)
- Disabled adult 'child' dependants
- Freezing injunctions

Private Law Children

Nicola has an extensive private law practice and covers the spectrum of child law matters. She is particularly experienced in relationship breakdowns involving intractable contact disputes. Nicola has a special interest in surrogacy cases and has acted and advised in this niche area of private law.

Nicola has acted in cases involving allegations of domestic and sexual abuse, psychiatric disorders and issues of alcoholism and drug misuse; she deals with complex medical evidence and has conducted lengthy fact finding hearings.

In addition to general private law practice (child arrangements, specific issue and prohibited steps orders), Nicola has acted in the following types of private law cases:

- Surrogacy

- Private adoption
- Removal from the jurisdiction (including Hague Convention)
- Internal relocation cases
- Declarations of parentage
- Non-molestation / occupation proceedings
- DNA cases

Court of Protection

Nicola is fully qualified to undertake Court of Protection cases and has been instructed on behalf of the Official Solicitor.

Public Interest Immunity / Disclosure

Nicola reviews and advises upon all aspects of PII, including compliance with the Disclosure Protocol, interaction with other agencies and balancing competing public interests. Nicola has experience of dealing with complex medical evidence and, in addition to social services' records, is willing to review health departments' records.

Family Law Arbitration

Nicola Frost is a qualified Arbitrator both in the Financial Remedy Scheme and Children Scheme (IFLA) and she welcomes instructions to act as the Arbitrator – or to attend arbitrations, as a barrister, in financial remedy or children related matters.

FDR Hearing Service

Nicola is available for private remote FDR hearings. For more information on private remote FDR hearings [please click here](#).

Family Mediation

Nicola Frost is an accredited Mediator for Civil & Commercial Mediation (Bristol ADR Group).

Articles

Family law barrister and arbitrator Nicola Frost explores the benefits of arbitration as an alternative to court proceedings for the resolution of family law issues.

[View Article](#)

Nicola Frost examines if the court should automatically disregard pre-nuptial agreements that fail to adhere to the '28-Day Rule', in this article first published in Family Law.

[View Article](#)

Over 10 years on from Radmacher v Granantino, with pre-nuptial agreements still not guaranteed to be upheld in court, Nicola Frost offers her best recipe to make them binding.

[View Article](#)

3PB Family Barrister Nicola Frost provides an insightful summary of *Re: MM (A patient)* [2017] EWCA Civ 34, an appeal from the Court of Protection in which the appellant had been ordered to facilitate MM's return to this jurisdiction, the court having found (on a number of occasions) it to be in MM's best welfare interests to be cared for in the south west of England.

The parties compromised the appeal and the court was asked to approve a consent order, allowing the appeal, on the basis that (i) the order made had become otiose and (ii) it would be futile to subject the appellant to further coercive orders in the face of her continuing obduracy. Case remitted to the court of first instance for the proceedings to be concluded.

[View Article](#)

3PB Family Barrister Nicola Frost provides an insightful summary of *AB (Surrogacy: Domicile)* [2016] EWFC 63, an application for parental orders in relation to two children in which the court had to determine whether at least one of the applicants could be said to be 'domiciled' in the jurisdiction at the time of the application and at the time of making the order, as required by section 54(4)(b) of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008.

[View Article](#)