

Legal 500 UK Bar 2023 results - Family law team

Elizabeth McGrath KC	Child law (public and private)	Midlands	YES
Elizabeth McGrath KC	Divorce and financial remedy	Midlands	YES
Vanessa Meachin QC	Child law (public and private)	Midlands	Yes
Vanessa Meachin QC	Divorce and financial remedy	Midlands	Yes
Lucy Hendry KC	Child law (public and private)	Western	Yes
Adeo Fraser	Child law (public and private)	Midlands	NEW
Aimee Fox	Child law (public and private)	Midlands	yes
Aimee Fox	Divorce and financial remedy	Midlands	yes
Amy Beddis	Child law (public and private)	Midlands	yes
Amy Beddis	Divorce and financial remedy	Midlands	yes
Amy Beddis	Divorce and financial remedy	Western	NEW
Amy Lush	Child law (public and private)	Western	yes
Elisabeth Hudson	Child law (public and private)	Western	YES
Emma Griffiths	Child law (public and private)	Midlands	YES
Emma Harman	Child law (public and private)	Western	yes
Emma Southern	Child law (public and private)	Western	YES
Gemma Chapman	Child law (public and private)	Western	YES
Hamish Dunlop	Divorce and financial remedy	Western	YES
Hamish Dunlop	Divorce and financial remedy	London	YES
James Legg	Child law (public and private)	South Eastern	YES
Lawrence Messling	Child law (public and private)	Midlands	Yes
Lucy Clayton	Child law (public and private)	Midlands	NEW
Mark Elliott	Divorce and financial remedy	Western	Yes
Michael George	Divorce and financial remedy	Midlands	Yes
Nathalie Bull	Child law (public and private)	Midlands	Yes
Nathalie Bull	Divorce and financial remedy	midlands	Yes
Nicola Brown	Child law (public and private)	Midlands	NEW
Nicola Frost	Child law (public and private)	Western	Yes
Nicola Frost	Divorce and financial remedy	Western	Yes
Nicola Martin	Child law (public and private)	South Eastern	Yes
Nicola Martin	Child law (public and private)	Midlands	Yes
Oliver Thorne	Divorce and financial remedy	Western	Yes
Poonam Bhari	Child law (public and private)	London	Yes
Poonam Bhari	Child law (public and private)	Midlands	Yes
Sarah Jennings	Child law (public and private)	Western	Yes
Sarah O'Hara	Child law (public and private)	Western	Yes
Stephen Abberley	Child law (public and private)	Midlands	Yes
Steven Howard	Child law (public and private)	Western	Yes
Suzanne Coleclough	Child law (public and private)	Midlands	Yes

MIDLANDS CIRCUIT

3PB is the 'go-to chambers for family work with a good range of practitioners from junior through to silks'. **Elizabeth McGrath KC** has more than three decades' experience in family law and is 'an exceptional cross-examiner'. The team is led by the 'skilled and always thoroughly prepared'. **Vanessa Meachin KC** who handles a mix of care, adoption, matrimonial finance, and private law children's cases. **Michael George** is experienced at handling big money financial remedy cases.

Leading Silks: Child Law (Public and Private)

Elizabeth McGrath KC –3PB 'Elizabeth is tenacious and thorough in her preparation, with a canny ability to think outside the box.'

Ranked: Tier 1

Vanessa Meachin KC –3PB 'Vanessa combines excellent client care with a forensic approach to her cases. She is exceptionally thorough and committed and does not shy away from thorny and difficult issues.'

Ranked: Tier 1

Leading Silks: Divorce and Financial Remedy

Elizabeth McGrath KC –3PB 'Elizabeth is robust and empathetic. She reads the client well and tailors how she delivers her advice and guides them through the process accordingly.'

Ranked: Tier 1

Vanessa Meachin KC –3PB 'Vanessa is always a meticulously prepared advocate, ready to fight her client's case and extremely tenacious.'

Ranked: Tier 1

Leading Juniors: Child Law (Public and Private)

Lawrence Messling –3PB

Ranked: Tier 2

Nicola Martin – 3PB 'Nicola is well prepared and has good manners with clients. She identifies the issues in cases well and offers a sensible, pragmatic approach to proceedings but is robust when needed.'

Ranked: Tier 2

Nicola Brown - 3PB 'Nicola has an unrivalled ability to build rapport with vulnerable clients. She is the first choice for vulnerable clients. Her communication skills and compassion enable clients to be comfortable with her and enable clients to participate effectively in proceedings. Her written work and advocacy are very good.'

Ranked: Tier 2

Aimee Fox – 3PB 'Aimee is a tenacious advocate who will ensure that a client's case is put forward in a firm and well-structured manner. She is always impeccably prepared and will build a rapport with the client, demonstrating her knowledge whilst also being very personable.'

Ranked: Tier 2

Stephen Abberley –3PB 'Stephen has the ability to analyse a case quickly and effectively. His cross-examination is forensic and incisive. He is always helpful and goes the extra mile in serving a client's case.'

Ranked: Tier 3

Poonam Bhari –3PB

Ranked: Tier 3

Nathalie Bull –3PB 'Nathalie is always meticulous in her preparation and presentation of the case with documentation being filed on time, without prompting. She is always available to instruct solicitors to discuss matters arising from the case and to talk through options.'

Ranked: Tier 3

Suzanne Coleclough –3PB

Ranked: Tier 3

Amy Beddis – 3PB 'Amy is pragmatic, methodical and fights for clients. She puts clients at ease and makes them feel that their case is safe in their hands.'

Ranked: Tier 3

Emma Griffiths – **3PB** *‘Emma is clear and concise in her advice - robust and empathetic. She is a very safe pair of hands.’*

Ranked: Tier 3

Adeo Fraser – **3PB** *‘Adeo has built a strong and sound reputation for himself. His legal analysis, arguments, and knowledge are consistently impressive. His grasp of the issues within the case, following his meticulous preparation of cases, is plainly obvious to the client and all those in the Court room. He has the ability to instil confidence in his client through his commanding advocacy but also through his empathetic attendance on the client.’*

Ranked: Tier 3

Lucy Clayton – **3PB** *‘Lucy is able to absorb all the facts of the case, which really helps reassure the client that she knows their case in detail. She is always well prepared and confident in her cross-examination and submissions to the court.’*

Ranked: Tier 3

Leading Juniors: Divorce and Financial Remedy

Michael George – **3PB** *‘Michael is an exceptional advocate. He is well prepared and gives clear advice and guidance to clients. He is a safe pair of hands and will fight the client's corner.’*

Ranked: Tier 1

Aimee Fox – **3PB** *‘Aimee is a barrister who has excellent preparation and attention to detail and fights tirelessly for her clients. She is approachable and is responsive to instructions very promptly when required. She has an excellent rapport with clients and builds trust and confidence from the start of the case with all professionals in the case.’*

Ranked: Tier 2

Nathalie Bull – **3PB** *‘Nathalie is an extremely competent and highly skilled barrister who represents clients in an excellent way leading clients to feel confident that their matter is being expertly handled. She also balances this with empathy and support for clients that are going through very challenging personal situations.’*

Ranked: Tier 3

Amy Beddis – **3PB** *‘Amy is always well prepared for her case. She is diligent in her research and will often call to clarify any matters if something in the papers is unclear. She is excellent on her feet and is an excellent advocate who has no issue with arguing difficult cases if circumstances require.’*

Ranked: Tier 3

Testimonials

Set

‘Really good set with depth of experience from KC to able juniors. Set able to manage complex and lengthy cases.’

‘3PB is an excellent set of chambers. They also provide excellent training.’

‘The set as a whole provides an excellent service with a wealth of knowledge and high calibre barristers.’

‘A quality set of chambers with strength and depth in the quality of advocates available. Counsel is very friendly and down to earth.’

‘3PB chambers is fantastic. They always have good availability of counsel and have a very strong set.’

‘The set covers a whole range of disciplines, and every member has a very high calibre. They are generous with their training programmes for solicitors too.’

WESTERN CIRCUIT

3PB stands out for housing 'a very strong family law team'. Lucy Hendry KC is 'calm, measured and focused', 'thorough', 'has an excellent manner with clients and the court' and 'her cross examination is beautifully polite but deadly' – 'she is everything a silk should be'. Elisabeth Hudson has established strength in Children Act work, including cases involving the international movement of children. **Emma Harman** is 'a highly skilled advocate' who is 'excellent at getting to grips with difficult and complex cases'; **Steven Howard** 'is a dedicated advocate with a specialism in non-accidental injuries in care proceedings, where his advocacy is akin to that of a silk'. Family finance team head **Hamish Dunlop** is 'always exceptionally well-prepared', with an excellent track record in advising on complex matrimonial finance cases. In October 2021 Rachael Goodall was appointed to the district bench.

2021 Silks: Child Law (Public and Private)

Lucy Hendry KC – **3PB** 'Lucy sets her clients at ease, delivers realistic advice, and fights every case to its fullest potential. A ferocious advocate on her feet. Persistent and persuasive.'

Leading Juniors: Child Law (Public and Private)

Emma Harman – **3PB** 'Emma approaches every case with a professional, calm and empathetic outlook, and her attention to detail shines through in all she does. She is fastidious in achieving the best possible outcome for her clients. Her representation ensures that the client's voice is heard clearly throughout the proceedings. She provides clear and concise advice.'

Ranked: Tier 1

Elisabeth Hudson – **3PB** 'Elisabeth is organised, discerning, and has a great client manner.'

Ranked: Tier 1

Steven Howard – **3PB** 'Steven grasps every detail and nuance of a matter at an astonishing rate. His legal and technical knowledge is encyclopedic and he has a strategic mind. On his feet, he is a commanding presence. He is measured, controlled, and razor sharp in cross examination. He is superb at putting clients at ease.'

Ranked: Tier 1

Sarah O'Hara – **3PB** 'A strong advocate, with a wealth of experience, and is excellent at tackling large complex cases. She is a safe pair of hands.'

Ranked: Tier 2

Gemma Chapman – **3PB** 'Gemma is naturally tenacious; she identifies her objective and she pursues this with vigour. Her work ethic, critical analysis and case preparation is second to none. A bright star.'

Ranked: Tier 2

Emma Southern - **3PB** 'Emma is a stand-out advocate who impresses the room. She has the ear of the court.'

Ranked: Tier 3

Nicola Frost – **3PB** 'She is robust, yet engaging and empathetic with a client.'

Ranked: Tier 3

Amy Lush - **3PB** 'Amy has a wonderful rapport with clients and is able to quickly put them at ease with her friendly yet professional approach. She is extremely hardworking, and has a focused mind.'

Ranked: Tier 4

Sarah Jennings – **3PB** 'She is a shrewd operator and a thorough advocate who is robust on her feet.'

Ranked: Tier 4

Leading Juniors: Divorce and Financial Remedy

Hamish Dunlop - **3PB** 'Hamish can charm the birds from the trees. His empathy and ability to deal with emotional clients is brilliant. He is caring, kind and considerate, but can deliver firm advice robustly yet sensitively. His knowledge of the law is formidable, and his attention to detail is fabulous. It is clear that he is always prepared.'

Ranked: Tier 1

Oliver Thorne - **3PB** 'Oliver gives every case his all, and that comes through to clients and judges alike. He always fights his client's corner and is extremely dedicated. He is very hands on and his advice is always very practical. His cross-examination is particularly good - he is robust and charming in equal measure.'
Ranked: Tier 2

Mark Elliott – **3PB** 'A fearless, clever strategist who commands the courtroom.'
Ranked: Tier 2

Amy Beddis - **3PB** 'A meticulous junior. She is very calm and measured, and has a wonderful manner with clients.'
Ranked: Tier 3

Nicola Frost – **3PB** 'Nicola is tenacious and perceptive, and thorough in her preparation.'
Ranked: Tier 3

Testimonials

Set

'An excellent set of chambers with a wealth of expertise in family matters.'

'Chambers is diverse and has strength across all levels of seniority.'

'A fantastic set of very good quality barristers.'

'Very well organised and slickly run.'

'A really friendly set.'

Clerking

'3PB's clerks are always approachable and efficient and will go above and beyond to find the right advocate.'

LONDON BAR

CHILDREN LAW (INCLUDING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LAW)

Poonam Bhari – **3PB**
Ranked: Tier 4

FAMILY (INCLUDING DIVORCE AND FINANCIAL REMEDY)

Hamish Dunlop – **3PB** *'Hamish is a superb advocate. He juggles complex facts with ease and exudes confidence in court.'*
Ranked: Tier 4

SOUTH EASTERN CIRCUIT

FAMILY AND CHILDREN LAW

Leading Juniors: Child Law (Public and Private)

Nicola Martin – **3PB** *'Nicola is well prepared and has a good manner with the clients. She is good at identifying the issues and offers a pragmatic and sensible approach to proceedings and is robust when needed.'*
Ranked: Tier 1

James Legg – **3PB** *'James is excellent. He shows care and compassion to clients, clearly conveying legal issues focusing on moving matters forward.'*
Ranked: Tier 3