

# Legal 500 UK Bar 2024 results - Family law team

## Group rankings

- The Legal 500 has promoted our team to **Tier 1** for
  - Midlands - Family: children and domestic violence
  - Midlands - Family: divorce and financial remedy
  - Western - Family: children and domestic violence
- Our Family: divorce and financial remedy team is ranked **Tier 2** in Western
- Our Family: children and domestic violence team is ranked **Tier 3** in South Eastern

Barristers ranked in Legal 500	Legal 500 section	Bar	2024	
Elizabeth McGrath KC	Family: children and domestic violence	Midlands	yes	Silk
Elizabeth McGrath KC	Divorce and financial remedy	Midlands	yes	Silk
Lucy Hendry KC	Family: children and domestic violence	Western	yes	Silk
Lucy Hendry KC	Family: children and domestic violence	Midlands	yes - NEW	Silk
Vanessa Meachin KC	Family: children and domestic violence	Midlands	yes	Silk
Vanessa Meachin KC	Divorce and financial remedy	Midlands	yes	Silk
Adeo Fraser	Family: children and domestic violence	Midlands	yes	Junior
Aimee Fox	Family: children and domestic violence	Midlands	yes	Junior
Aimee Fox	Divorce and financial remedy	Midlands	yes	Junior
Amy Beddis	Family: children and domestic violence	Midlands	yes	Junior
Amy Beddis	Divorce and financial remedy	Midlands	yes	Junior
Amy Beddis	Divorce and financial remedy	Western	yes	Junior
Amy Lush	Family: children and domestic violence	Western	yes	Junior
Andrew Duncan	Family: children and domestic violence	Midlands	yes - NEW	Junior
Elaine Strachan	Family: children and domestic violence	South Eastern	yes - NEW	Junior
Elaine Strachan	Divorce and financial remedy	South Eastern	yes - NEW	Junior
Eleanor Marsh	Family: children and domestic violence	Midlands	yes - NEW	Rising star
Elizabeth Hudson	Family: children and domestic violence	Western	yes	Junior
Emma Griffiths	Family: children and domestic violence	Midlands	yes	Junior
Emma Griffiths	Family: children and domestic violence	South Eastern	yes - NEW	Junior
Emma Harman	Family: children and domestic violence	Western	yes	Junior
Emma Southern	Family: children and domestic violence	Western	yes	Junior
Gemma Chapman	Family: children and domestic violence	Western	yes	Junior
Hamish Dunlop	Divorce and financial remedy	Western	yes	Junior
Hamish Dunlop	Divorce and financial remedy	London	yes	Junior
James Legg	Family: children and domestic violence	South Eastern	yes	Junior
James Legg	Divorce and financial remedy	South Eastern	yes - NEW	Junior
Laura Scott	Family: children and domestic violence	Midlands	yes - NEW	Junior

Lawrence Messling	Family: children and domestic violence	Midlands	yes	Junior
Lucy Clayton	Family: children and domestic violence	Midlands	yes	Junior
Luke Nelson	Divorce and financial remedy	Midlands	yes - NEW	Rising star
Mark Elliott	Divorce and financial remedy	Western	yes	Junior
Michael George	Divorce and financial remedy	Midlands	yes	Junior
Nathalie Bull	Family: children and domestic violence	Midlands	yes	Junior
Nathalie Bull	Divorce and financial remedy	midlands	yes	Junior
Nicola Brown	Family: children and domestic violence	Midlands	yes	Junior
Nicola Frost	Family: children and domestic violence	Western	yes	Junior
Nicola Frost	Divorce and financial remedy	Western	yes	Junior
Nicola Martin	Family: children and domestic violence	South Eastern	yes	Junior
Nicola Martin	Family: children and domestic violence	Midlands	yes	Junior
Oliver Thorne	Divorce and financial remedy	Western	yes	Junior
Poonam Bhari	Family: children and domestic violence	London	yes	Junior
Poonam Bhari	Family: children and domestic violence	Midlands	yes	Junior
Rachel Bloxwich	Divorce and financial remedy	Midlands	yes - NEW	Junior
Sam Pentony	Family: children and domestic violence	Midlands	yes - NEW	Rising star
Sam Pentony	Family: children and domestic violence	South Eastern	yes - NEW	Rising star
Sarah Jennings	Family: children and domestic violence	Western	yes	Junior
Sarah O'Hara	Family: children and domestic violence	Western	yes	Junior
Stephen Abberley	Family: children and domestic violence	Midlands	yes	Junior
Steven Howard	Family: children and domestic violence	Western	yes	Junior
Suzanne Coleclough	Family: children and domestic violence	Midlands	yes	Junior

# MIDLANDS CIRCUIT

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## MIDLAND CIRCUIT > FAMILY: CHILDREN AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TIER 1

With physical presences in Birmingham and across the southern half of England, **3PB** is a 'very professional, approachable and friendly set' that offers advice on all aspects of children law. **Elizabeth McGrath KC** is a 'fearless advocate' who handles public law cases, including ones with international elements. **Vanessa Meachin KC** is a 'passionate advocate' who handles a mix of care, adoption, and private law children matters, while **Aimee Fox** is described as a 'thorough and well-prepared advocate who has an excellent manner with clients' and specialises in private law proceedings involving children in vulnerable circumstances or with special educational needs – the latter crossing over with her education law practice.

### Rising stars

**Eleanor Marsh – 3PB** 'Eleanor is professional and diligent and can establish strong trust with the clients. She is meticulous in her detail and can articulate her advocacy in a compelling and structured manner.'

Ranked: Tier 1

**Sam Pentony – 3PB** 'Sam is a very confident advocate and will fiercely fight for his clients.'

Ranked: Tier 1

### Leading Silks

**Elizabeth McGrath KC – 3PB** 'Elizabeth is a tenacious and confident advocate. Her attention to detail is meticulous.'

Ranked: Tier 1

**Vanessa Meachin KC – 3PB** 'Vanessa is an outstanding advocate with a confident and calm approach to extremely challenging cases. Her ability to get straight to the key points in complex matters demonstrates her extensive skill.'

Ranked: Tier 1

**Lucy Hendry KC – 3PB** 'Lucy is an outstanding advocate. Her preparation is impeccable, and she is incredibly good with clients.'

Ranked: Tier 1

## Leading Juniors

**Nicola Brown – 3PB** *‘Nicola is well-organised and is good with clients.’*

Ranked: Tier 2

**Nicola Martin – 3PB** *‘Nicola is well prepared and has a great manners with clients.’*

Ranked: Tier 2

**Lawrence Messling – 3PB**

Ranked: Tier 2

**Aimee Fox – 3PB** *‘Aimee is thorough, well-prepared and has an excellent manner with clients. She builds trust and confidence by understanding and appreciating clients’ needs and concerns. She has excellent knowledge and understanding of each case.’*

Ranked: Tier 2

**Adeo Fraser – 3PB** *‘Adeo is well-regarded and an experienced and commanding advocate. His meticulous preparation outside of court enables him to have a clear grasp of the legal and practical issues to be determined. He is calm and reassuring yet appropriately robust and responsive, both in and outside of the courtroom.’*

Ranked: Tier 3

**Stephen Abberley – 3PB** *‘Stephen is very knowledgeable on the medical side. He is robust and willing to challenge experts and court decisions alike.’*

Ranked: Tier 3

**Amy Beddis – 3PB** *‘Amy always has the client’s best interests at heart. She is a delight to work with and will go over and above to assist.’*

Ranked: Tier 3

**Poonam Bhari – 3PB** *‘Poonam has a great eye for detail. She is empathetic with her clients and strikes up a rapport with them. She is particularly in demand in dealing with clients with vulnerabilities.’*

Ranked: Tier 3

**Nathalie Bull – 3PB** *‘Nathalie is well-prepared and takes a forensic approach to cases. She is a very calm advocate and a skilled negotiator.’*

Ranked: Tier 3

**Lucy Clayton – 3PB** *‘Lucy is a robust and outcome-focused advocate. She gives clear and coherent advice to lay and professional clients that has a positive end outcome in mind.’*

Ranked: Tier 3

**Suzanne Coleclough – 3PB** 'Suzanne is a strong, professional and competent advocate.'

Ranked: Tier 3

**Emma Griffiths – 3PB**

Ranked: Tier 3

Andrew Duncan - **3PB** 'Andrew has meticulous attention to detail, excellent communication with instructing solicitors and excellent client care skills.'

Ranked: Tier 3

**Laura Scott – 3PB** 'Laura has wisdom and knowledge and high emotional intelligence. She is supportive yet controlling and puts situations into perspective. Her preparation is first class, and she pays attention to detail.'

Ranked: Tier 3

## Testimonials

'The clerks at 3PB are always very helpful and prompt in responding to any queries. Ian Charlton is a stand-out member of the team.'

'Isabelle Lee and Ian Charlton are helpful, quick to respond and keen to accommodate continuity of counsel wherever possible.'

'3PB is an excellent chamber with a very strong team of barristers with good strength in depth.'

'3PB are an excellent set, prepared to accommodate urgent or specific requests as far as possible.'

'Excellent chambers who will go above and beyond to accommodate urgent or specific requests in a polite and friendly manner.'

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## MIDLAND CIRCUIT > FAMILY: DIVORCE AND FINANCIAL REMEDY TIER 1

**3PB** is a 'solid chambers with good barristers' handling a wide range of matters within areas of financial remedy litigation. **Vanessa Meachin KC** heads the practice and regularly assists clients in complex matrimonial finance matters,

while **Michael George** is praised for being *'proficient in all aspects of financial remedy proceedings with his knowledge of the law and practice second to none'*. *'Fierce and robust advocate'* **Aimee Fox** is another notable name for matrimonial finance work in chambers.

## Rising stars

**Luke Nelson – 3PB** *'Luke is straight-talking and exactly what most clients need to keep them focused on their approach to resolving matters. He is careful with his words and always well-prepared.'*

Ranked: Tier 1

## Leading Silks

**Elizabeth McGrath KC – 3PB**

Ranked: Tier 1

**Vanessa Meachin KC – 3PB**

Ranked: Tier 1

## Leading Juniors

**Michael George – 3PB** *'Michael is a leading junior in this area of work. He understands his subject inside and out. He routinely speaks at seminars concerning complex areas, including pensions. He is collegiate and constructive.'*

Ranked: Tier 1

**Aimee Fox – 3PB** *'Aimee is thorough and well-prepared. She is conscientious and has a very good eye for detail. She has a very good rapport with clients. She can identify relevant issues quickly and offer clear, realistic, and structured advice.'*

Ranked: Tier 2

**Amy Beddis – 3PB** *'Amy is an excellent advocate. Her analytical skills concerning finances are brilliant. She has an excellent bedside manner, which is invaluable when the client feels at their most vulnerable.'*

Ranked: Tier 3

**Nathalie Bull – 3PB** *'Nathalie prepares submissions extremely well. Her communication is strong with lay clients and solicitors.'*

Ranked: Tier 3

**Rachel Bloxwich – 3PB** *'Rachel is thorough and well prepared. She is proactive and always willing to offer assistance and advice, not just in the lead-up to court hearings. She is very well-organised, and documents are always filed in good time. Her preparation and attention to detail are excellent.'*

Ranked: Tier 3

## Testimonials

*'Dan Tidman, Patrick Steptoe and Patrick Robson are faultless clerks.'*

*'Ian Charlton and his team offer a hands-on approach.'*

*'3PB is a strong set of very knowledgeable and confident barristers. They will always go above and beyond to try and find someone available for cases.'*

*'3PB is a go-to chamber. It offers barristers with a huge breadth of expertise. Barristers are approachable and client-focused.'*

*'3PB is the leading set in Birmingham. It has a huge amount of experience across many areas of law, particularly family law.'*

# WESTERN CIRCUIT

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## WESTERN CIRCUIT > FAMILY: CHILDREN AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TIER 1

**3PB's** 'very well-rounded set' of family law barristers is a 'go-to' on the Western Circuit. Lucy Hendry KC, who represents lay parties, subject children, intervenors, and guardians in factually and medically complex cases, is widely considered a 'top-class advocate' for both public and private children law cases, while **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. Former circuit judge **Martin Dancey** joined chambers as an associate member in January 2023 - he is active as an ADR evaluator.

### Leading Silks

**Lucy Hendry KC – 3PB** *'Lucy is without doubt one of the best silks around. She has huge depth of knowledge and outclasses her opponent every time. She is wonderful with clients and an inspiration to us all. Her advocacy skills are finely honed and she cuts through the issues with precision.'*

Ranked: Tier 1

### Leading Juniors

**Emma Harman – 3PB** *'Emma has an encyclopedic knowledge when it comes to child arrangement orders in domestic abuse contexts. She offers creativity for clients and sees subtle features in coercive control cases that many can't. Her judgment is spot on and her advocacy is a work of art. She has a very quick wit and navigates her way through the most difficult of cases with great humour and warmth.'*

Ranked: Tier 1

**Steven Howard – 3PB** *'Steven is exceptional. He is very thorough, has attention to detail that is unmatched and is highly respected by the judiciary. He deals with highly complex cases with great care and attention and his advocacy skills are of the highest standard.'*

Ranked: Tier 1

**Elisabeth Hudson – 3PB** *'Elisabeth is able to put clients at ease and strike a rapport with them. She understands cases to a very high level and this is clear in*



*the advice she gives, the quality of her position statements and skeleton arguments, and also her advocacy.'*

Ranked: Tier 1

**Gemma Chapman – 3PB** *'Gemma is a bold and fearless advocate. She prepares cases thoroughly and is dogged in pursuit of the necessary disclosure. She has a good knowledge of local judges and exercises judgment effectively in her representations to the court.'*

Ranked: Tier 2

**Sarah O'Hara – 3PB** *'Sarah is a strong advocate with a deep empathy for her clients. She is always well-prepared and efficient and able to get to the heart of cases.'*

Ranked: Tier 2

**Nicola Frost – 3PB** *'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.'*

Ranked: Tier 2

**Emma Southern – 3PB** *'Emma is thorough in her preparation and absolutely excellent in managing clients' expectations in a confident, realistic yet empathetic way. In the court room she puts her thoughts together concisely but with force and is always effective in putting the best position forward for her client.'*

Ranked: Tier 3

**Sarah Jennings – 3PB**

Ranked: Tier 4

**Amy Lush – 3PB** *'Amy is thorough and always very well-prepared. Her attention to detail means that her advocacy is of a very high standard.'*

Ranked: Tier 4

## Testimonials

*'Sarah Jenking is delightful to deal with. She has a great relationship with Bournemouth family court and will go out of her way to be accommodating.'*

*'Lee Giles is always fantastic to speak to. He is always friendly, quick to respond and very knowledgeable.'*

*'The service of the clerks is excellent and they are polite, efficient, most helpful and always friendly. They will bend over backwards to help fit the requested and most suitable counsel for the instructions. All clerks are equally helpful but particularly Rob Leonard, Stuart Pringle and Sarah Jenkin.'*

*'A fabulous chambers with great selection of barristers for all types of matters.'*

*'3PB Chambers is an amazing set of chambers: friendly, efficient and very well respected as an outstanding set both locally and nationally.'*

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## WESTERN CIRCUIT > FAMILY: DIVORCE AND FINANCIAL REMEDY TIER 2

**3PB** is widely praised as an 'exceptional set' that houses a 'broad range of counsel' specialising in all areas of family law. **Hamish Dunlop**, with particular expertise in cases involving family businesses and inherited wealth, has a 'very persuasive manner in court'. **Amy Beddis** has an 'eye for detail', while **Oliver Thorne** 'is great on his feet and a whizz with numbers'.

### Leading Juniors

**Hamish Dunlop – 3PB** *'Hamish is well-prepared, takes a pragmatic approach and his delivery is always spot on. He is a smooth operator and a real star in his field.'*  
Ranked: Tier 1

**Mark Elliott – 3PB** *'Mark is a strategic genius who leaves no stone unturned. He is also utterly devastating in cross-examination.'*  
Ranked: Tier 2

**Oliver Thorne – 3PB** *'Oliver is a force to be reckoned with in hearings. He is well-prepared and his knowledge shines through very clearly. Oliver has always been very pragmatic, delivering information clearly and sensitively where needed. He can easily cut through a number of issues to the relevant crux of the case.'*  
Ranked: Tier 2

**Amy Beddis – 3PB** *'Amy is a fantastic financial remedy barrister who can handle cases above her year of call. She is a safe pair of hands; calm and*

*sensible under pressure. She cuts through the noise of a case to focus on what is important to clients and to the court.'*

Ranked: Tier 3

**Nicola Frost – 3PB** *'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.'*

Ranked: Tier 3

## **Testimonials**

*'Sarah Jenking and Robert Leonard are first rate. Both clerks are understand clients' needs and budgets and know their set so well they can be given a case background and suggest counsel that fits the client perfectly.'*

*'Rob Leonard is amazing and nothing is too much trouble.'*

*'Ian Charlton and his team offer a hands-on approach where special requests are never too much trouble. He goes above and beyond to provide a Rolls-Royce service and is a real credit to his chambers and the profession in general.'*

*'3PB is an exceptional set to work with, with a wide variety of counsel offering different levels of experience.'*

*'3PB is a class act all round. They have a wide range of experience and styles. Their brunch training through Covid and since has been invaluable.'*

*'3PB has a broad range of counswl in all areas of family law. The family law brunch webinars are very relevant and an excellent source of updates on the law.'*

*'The go-to set for all-round family work.'*

# LONDON BAR

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## LONDON BAR > CHILDREN LAW (INCLUDING PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LAW)

### Leading Juniors

**Poonam Bhari – 3PB** *'Poonam is pragmatic, methodical, and sympathetic and fights for clients. She puts clients at ease and makes them feel that they are being listened to.'*

Ranked: Tier 3

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## LONDON BAR > FAMILY (INCLUDING DIVORCE AND FINANCIAL REMEDY)

### Leading Juniors

**Hamish Dunlop – 3PB** *'Hamish is a strong advocate who is entirely comfortable in front of any judge at any level. He is persuasive and authoritative, and his gravitas earns him the respect of the bench and opponents alike.'*

Ranked: Tier 4

# SOUTH EASTERN CIRCUIT

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## SOUTH EASTERN CIRCUIT > FAMILY: CHILDREN AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TIER 3

**3PB** is home to specialist practitioners across the spectrum of this area, including care proceedings and private child law. **Nicola Martin** is recommended for complex care cases, while **James Legg** garners praise for having a ‘fantastic eye for detail and the issues which matter in cases’.

### Rising stars

**Sam Pentony – 3PB** ‘Sam can get to grips with a case quickly and provide constructive advice delivered in a way the client fully understands. He is always well-prepared and has impressive advocacy skills. He will go the extra mile to try and get the best outcome for a client wherever possible.’

Ranked: Tier 1

### Leading Juniors

**Nicola Martin – 3PB** ‘Nicola is a tenacious advocate. She responds quickly to all queries and is happy to chat through cases where necessary. She is highly professional and able to advise on case strategy where necessary.’

Ranked: Tier 1

**James Legg – 3PB** ‘James is very knowledgeable, and clients feel easy around him. He fights the client’s case.’

Ranked: Tier 3

**Emma Griffiths – 3PB** ‘Emma is a conscientious, hard-working and extremely able barrister. Her preparation for cases is detailed but focused on the core issues. Her work enables cases to run efficiently but effectively for the client.’

Ranked: Tier 5

**Elaine Strachan – 3PB** ‘Elaine is thorough and efficient with her preparation. Her advice is always realistic and clear. She is sympathetic to clients and will always fight the client’s case. She creates constructive ways to deal with matters and is a highly professional advocate.’

Ranked: Tier 5

## Testimonials

*'Dan Tidman is proactive in trying to help find the right counsel for the case.'*

*'Patrick Robson and Patrick Steptoe deserve a special mention. All around, the clerking team remains very hard to equal.'*

*'3PB is a go-to chamber with a good selection of counsels who are very knowledgeable, capable and personable.'*

*'3PB is an excellent family set with widespread expertise and knowledge.'*

*'3PB is a very strong set with strong counsel in this area. It makes a tremendous effort to find counsel if a hearing is at short notice.'*

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## SOUTH EASTERN CIRCUIT > FAMILY: DIVORCE AND FINANCIAL REMEDY

### Leading Juniors

**Elaine Strachan – 3PB** *'Elaine is a completely safe pair of hands. Her preparation is always immaculate, and her drafting of documents is faultless.'*

Ranked: Tier 4

**James Francis Legg – 3PB** *'James is a talented advocate who can quickly digest his brief and deliver in court. His submissions are pithy, and he is unapologetically confident during negotiations.'*

Ranked: Tier 4

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