

Hester Calder

Call: 2019

"Thank you to Hester who was with me today. She helped me a lot to keep calm and walked me through everything."

LAY CLIENT



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Hester Calder is a highly skilled barrister with a split practice in both Criminal and Family Law, bringing extensive experience across a range of complex matters in both areas. Throughout her career, Hester has been dual-practising, representing clients in both the Crown Court and Family Court. She is known for her compassionate approach, particularly in family law, while maintaining a robust, tenacious representation in criminal cases.

Criminal Law

Before her call to the bar, Hester gained invaluable experience as a Case Worker, managing her own caseload and representing clients in youth and vulnerable client matters. Her **criminal law** practice spans a broad spectrum of offences, from theft to murder, including multi-handed cases. Hester has been involved in some of the UK's most high-profile criminal cases, including the country's largest-ever modern slavery prosecution and various high-profile murder cases.

In addition to her hands-on experience, Hester completed an LLM in Criminal Justice & Family Law, covering both domestic and international aspects. She has also contributed legal insights to Lexis PSL on road traffic offences, further showcasing her expertise.

Family Law

In family law, Hester has developed a comprehensive practice in **Private Law Children** proceedings, handling complex and often highly sensitive matters, including serious allegations of abuse. Her clients appreciate her empathetic and supportive approach, which is a key factor in her reputation for securing favourable outcomes in emotionally charged cases.

Hester is also growing her practice in **Public Law Children** proceedings, developing expertise in cases involving local authorities, children's guardians, and the complexities of care orders and removal applications.

Expertise

Criminal

Cases

R v AB (Defending)

Secured acquittal for a client charged with Controlling & Coercive Behaviour.

R v AC (Defending)

Defendant deemed unfit to plead. Secured a "did not do the act" verdict on 4 out of 9 charges on the indictment, including breach of a Restraining Order.

R v SJ (Prosecuting)

Secured a conviction for dangerous driving.

R v BG (Prosecuting)

Successfully prosecuted a case involving Controlling & Coercive Behaviour and Assault ABH in a domestic violence context.

Children Law (Private)

Cases

CD v FQ

(Final Hearing) Secured a live-with order for the mother and indirect contact after findings of serious domestic violence.

KB v CD

(Urgent Hearing) Secured the immediate return of the child to the mother after the father made unfounded allegations.

LL v JB - (FHDRA)

(FHDRA) Secured an interim live-with order for the father, with contact for the mother in a supervised contact centre. Also obtained a successful application for a Part 25 expert psychological report.

DR v JF

(Fact-finding) Represented the respondent mother in a case involving serious allegations of sexual assault and physical assault on a child. Findings made in the mother's favour.

LM v AH

(Fact-finding) Represented the respondent father in allegations of sexual assault against his 9-year-old daughter.

JB v LB

(Throughout Proceedings) Represented the applicant father in securing the return of his child to mainstream education after the mother had home-schooled without consent.

MK v HI

(Fact-finding) Represented the respondent mother in a case involving serious allegations of domestic abuse and multi-lingual considerations.

Children Law (Public)

Cases

Banes CS's v RH v OE & Children through their CG (CMH)

Represented the children's guardian in a local authority application to remove children after the expiry of Reg 24. Successfully argued the application for an Interim Care Order.

Qualifications

- BPTC at BPP University – Very Competent
- LLM Masters in Criminal Justice, Family and Social Welfare at University College London (UCL)
- LLB (Hons) degree in Law with Criminology – First Class Honours

Professional Associations

- Middle Temple

Publications

- **Greater sentencing powers for magistrates – a solution to the backlog?**
- The Whole Life Order: Have the Floodgates been Opened?