



PUMP COURT
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LESLIE SAMUELS KC

"Leslie is a very good advocate with huge experience in the family field. He breaks things down for clients and gets to the salient facts to cut through issues."

Chambers & Partners 2023

Call: 1989 / Silk: 2011

For enquiries please call +44 (0)20 7353 0711 or email

Leslie Samuels KC is an exceptional advocate and is held in high esteem for his expertise in children work both in public and private law cases, in financial remedies cases and in inheritance and probate disputes. He has 30 years of experience as a barrister and took Silk in 2011. In 2012 he was appointed as a Family Recorder on the South Eastern Circuit. He sits mainly at the Central Family Court in London. In 2016 he was appointed as a Deputy High Court Judge sitting as a s.9 Judge of the Family Division at the Royal Courts of Justice and across the country. He is an ADR qualified mediator and an IFLA trained arbitrator. He conducts private FDR hearings.

Within Chambers he is Head of Family and Civil.

He is ranked in the top tier in the Chambers & Partners and Legal 500 directories for 2022 and has been continuously ranked in these directories for over 10 years. A selection of the recent comments that have been made about him is as follows:

2023 Legal 500: "One of the top silks in children work, particularly in international cases. He is a first class advocate and very persuasive in court." & "*He is extremely intelligent, very calm and considered, and tactically sound.*"

2022 Legal 500: "His advocacy and legal knowledge are exceptional."

2022 Chambers and Partners: "Leslie is very experienced. He is very conscientious and thorough while also being very good at cross-examining." "He's user-friendly and down-to-earth."

2021 Legal 500: "Thorough, knowledgeable and a family lawyer through and through. A hard worker who is always on top of the papers."

2020 Chambers and Partners: "Advises on the full range of family law issues, representing clients in public and private children matters, as well as in matrimonial finance cases..."

Strengths: He's got a very good rapport with clients and very good skills as an advocate. He's also personable,

approachable and very user-friendly.”

2020 Legal 500: “He has an easy, but authoritative style with clients.”

2019 Chambers and Partners: “Solicitors really love him. His preparation is second to none and he’s got a nice manner.”

2017 Chambers and Partners: “He is highly authoritative, especially when it comes to cases concerning non-accidental injury in children.”

2016 Legal 500: “Calm, patient and thoughtful.”

2014 Chambers and Partners: “Praised for his attention to detail and his easy-going manner”. “Highly regarded in the region for his expertise in family matters across the board”.

Reported Cases:

- Re : A-M (A Child)(1980 Hague Convention) [2021] EWCA Civ 998
- I (Children: Child Assessment Order) [2020] EWCA Civ 281 (28 February 2020)
- Re K, T and U (Placement of Children with Kinship Carers Abroad) [2019] EWFC 59
- TP and TS (Children) [2019] EWHC 851
- A, B, C and D (Children) [2017] EWFC 95
- EF (a child), Re [2016] EWFC B106
- EF (a child), Re [2016] EWFC B107
- Medway Council v R & Ors (Rev 1) [2016] EWFC B104
- Re LC (A Child) (Habitual Residence) sub nom Poole Borough Council v (1) EC (2) MC (3) LC (By his Children’s Guardian) [2016] EWFC 31
- Re HA (A Child) (No.2) sub nom Bristol City Council v AA, SA and HA [2015] EWHC 1310, [2016] 1 FLR 966
- KCC v Ors (2) (Fact Finding) [2015] EWFC 93
- Re D (Non-Availability of Legal Aid) (No.2) [2015] EWFC 2, [2015] 1 FLR 1247
- Re E (A Child) (2015) LTL 8/9/2015
- Re H (A Child) [2014] EWHC 970 (Fam)
- B (A Child) [2014] EWCC B55 (Fam)
- Re A (A child) (no 1 and 2) [2013] EWCC B18, [2014] EWCC B52 (Fam)
- Re S (Children) [2014] EWCA Civ 247
- Re O (Minors) [2013] EWHC B44 (Fam)
- Re L (Interim Care Order: Prison Mother and Baby Unit) [2013] EWCA Civ 489, [2014] 1 FLR 807
- A Local Authority v DB (Mother) & Ors [2013] EWHC 4066 (Fam)
- Re S (Care and Placement Orders) [2012] EWCA Civ 847, [2013] 1 FLR 354
- In the matter of F (Children) V [2011] EWCA Civ 1765

- [Re C \(A Child\) \[2010\] EWCA Civ 89, \[2010\] 2 FCR 664.](#)
- [R \(EW and BW\) v Nottinghamshire County Council \[2009\] EWHC 915 \(admin\), \[2009\] 2 FLR 974](#)
- [Cave v Portsmouth City Council \[2008\] All ER \(D\) 313 \(May\)](#)
- [R \(L\) v Nottinghamshire County Council \[2007\] EWHC 2364 \(Admin\)](#)
- [Reading Borough Council v D & Ors \[2006\] EWHC 1465 \(Fam\)](#)
- [Southampton City College v. Randall \[2006\] IRLR 18](#)
- [A v B \(Financial Relief: Agreements\) \[2005\] EWHC 314 \(Fam\) \[2005\] 2 FLR 730](#)
- [Re P \(Adoption: Breach of Care Plan\), \[2004\] EWCA Civ 355 \[2004\] 2 FLR 1109](#)

Children Law (Public)

He undertakes complex and high profile public law children cases for parents, Local Authorities and Children's Guardians at fact-finding hearings, at welfare hearings and where there is the proposed deprivation of liberty of a child. He also represents parties at appellate level in the High Court, Court of Appeal and in the Supreme Court.

He also advises local authorities, families and children on Human Rights Act issues arising within and outside public law proceedings.

Alleged shaking injuries.

Multiple fractures including skull, rib and limb fractures.

Cases involving bone mineralisation issues such as Vitamin D deficiency, osteopenia and osteogenesis imperfecta.

Cases involving suspected Ehlers-Danlos syndrome.

Alleged sexual abuse of children.

Alleged factitious or induced illness.

Neglect, drug and alcohol issues.

Complex jurisdictional and immigration issues

Cases where authorisation is sought to deprive a child of their liberty.

Selected Cases

Alleged murder of a child.

Serious non-accidental head injuries to a child including widespread brain damage.

Alleged shaking injuries.

Multiple fractures including skull, rib and limb fractures.

Cases involving bone mineralisation issues such as Vitamin D deficiency, osteopenia and osteogenesis imperfecta.

Cases involving suspected Ehlers-Danlos syndrome.

Alleged sexual abuse of children.

Alleged fictitious or induced illness.

Neglect, drug and alcohol issues.

Complex jurisdictional and immigration issues.

Cases where authorisation is sought to deprive a child of their liberty.

Family Finance

Leslie has a substantial financial remedies practice, both as a Junior and now in Silk. His experience as a Deputy District Judge, a Recorder and now a Deputy High Court Judge hearing financial cases at the Central Family Court and the Royal Courts of Justice is invaluable in advising and representing clients in this complex area.

He conducts private FDRs and is an IFLA trained arbitrator. He is a Member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators.

Selected Cases

'Big money' cases where the asset values have exceeded £10m.

Cases where there are substantial business assets requiring an analysis of company accounts and expert valuation evidence.

Cases where the assets include substantial farm land or other inherited or pre-acquired wealth.

Cases where one or both parties have significant trust assets.

Cases involving significant taxation issues including taxation arising both abroad and within the UK.

Cases involving film partnership schemes.

Cases where there are high value pensions on one or both sides.

Cases involving the termination or capitalisation of periodical payments.

Applications under Schedule I Children Act 1989.

Children Law (Private)

He represents parents, family members and children in a range of private law disputes including applications for Child Arrangements Orders (formally known as Residence and Contact orders), Special Guardianship Orders, adoption cases, applications seeking permission to remove a child from the jurisdiction, other Specific Issue applications and Child Abduction cases.

Selected Cases

Cases involving disputes over where a child should live and the level of contact with the non-resident parent.

Applications for placement and adoption orders.

Specific Issue applications, including disputes over schooling and medical care.

Allegations of sexual or physical abuse by a parent.

Applications to remove children from the jurisdiction.

Applications where it is alleged that a parent is implacably hostile to contact.

Child abduction cases.

Inheritance, Wills & Probate

He advises and represents litigants in a wide range of probate related claims and property disputes. Leslie is an accredited ADR civil mediator and a member of the specialist inheritance mediation group.

Selected Cases

Cases involving challenges to the validity of wills including challenges on the basis of lack of capacity or want of knowledge and approval.

Claims under the Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependents) Act 1975 including claims by spouses, cohabitants, children and dependants.

Claims under the Trusts of Land and Appointment of Trustees Act 1996.

Claims for Resulting and Constructive Trusts and by way of equitable estoppel.

Judicial Review

Leslie undertakes a substantial quantity of judicial review work acting both for Claimants and Defendants in cases involving challenges to local authority and central government decision making and also challenges to autonomous bodies such as the Kennel Club, the Scouts Association and political parties. His primary area of interest in this field is in challenges relating to decision-making about or concerning children.

Selected Cases

Challenges to the lawfulness of a refusal to offer a mother and baby placement to a mother in prison.

Disputes about a local authority's assessment and planning processes for teenage children.

Disputes over whether children have been 'accommodated' by the local authority under the Children Act 1989.

Claims to ensure children are receiving proper services and support when accommodated.

Age assessment cases involving unaccompanied asylum seekers.

Disputes over S.17 Children Act duties including cases where the family has 'No Recourse to Public Funds'.

Challenges to a local authority's decision to withdraw care funding for a vulnerable adult.

A challenge to the exclusion of an elected member from a political party.

Court of Protection

Leslie acts for a wide range of litigants, including relatives and local authorities, in Court of Protection cases involving welfare disputes or where there are financial issues arising from a loss of capacity.

Alternative Dispute Resolution

Leslie is an experienced family and civil practitioner. He is an ADR trained civil mediator and an IFLA trained arbitrator.

Leslie's area of specialisation within mediation and arbitration is the resolution of family money disputes, including those involving issues arising from the breakdown of a relationship, arising from death and involving cohabitee disputes (both in life and death). He also deals with problems relating to elderly and vulnerable clients with capacity issues.

Although not a trained family mediator, Leslie can conduct mediations under the civil ADR model and by way of a 'private FDR'.

He can conduct arbitrations in a wide range of disputes including financial remedies applications, Schedule 1 applications and Inheritance Act claims.

Inquests & Inquiries

Leslie has sat in a judicial capacity since 2003. He was appointed as a QC in 2011, a Recorder in 2012 and as a Deputy High Court Judge in 2016.

Alongside his extensive judicial experience, Leslie is a qualified arbitrator and mediator. He chairs the majority of the panels established to investigate and determine external complaints and internal grievances within Chambers.

He has a specific interest in public and private inquiries. He has extensive experience of making findings of fact and investigating and reaching independent conclusions on a wide range of public and private issues. He is experienced in dealing with complex medical evidence and factual timelines which often includes handling vast quantities of evidence. He is experienced at team leadership including managing teams of junior counsel, solicitors and paralegals.

He has extensive knowledge of and experience in public law judicial review work both in an advisory capacity and representing parties in the Administrative Court.

Qualifications

- ADR Qualified Mediator
- IFLA Trained Arbitrator

- MA (Law), Cambridge University
- MA (Criminology), University of Toronto
- Connaught Scholarship, University of Toronto

Professional associations

- Family Law Bar Association (Appointed: 2010, Elected: 2013)
- Family Law Bar Association Money & Property Sub-Committee (Chair: 2011-13, 2015-)
- Western Circuit

Professional activities

- Leslie has lectured widely on children, financial remedies, judicial review and probate related issues for Chambers, for the FLBA, for the Western Circuit, and for the Family Justice Council.
- He has also recently spoken at judicial review seminars for Central Law Training and the London Boroughs Legal Alliance and has recorded training material for Cpdcast.
- Leslie is happy to provide individual training for firms of solicitors or local authorities.

Outside Interests

- Leslie enjoys his family life, sport which includes running, regular visits to the gym and being a season ticket holder at AFC Wimbledon.
- When time permits, Leslie also loves going to the theatre and cinema and gardening.