

SET OVERVIEW: Harcourt Chambers is 'the number 1 set for children work, both domestic and international', which offers 'a wide choice of very high-calibre advocates providing clear and accurate advice and great advocacy'. When it comes to family law, the set has 'a number of first-class barristers whose rates are more reasonable than some chambers which are better known for finance work'. Chambers has a 'very organised and approachable' Oxford office. In recent news, Francis Judd QC has been elevated to the Family Division of the High Court and Victoria Flowers has joined from Field Court Chambers. The clerks are seen as 'friendly, hardworking, and go out of their way to assist instructing solicitors'. Simon Boutwood is the chambers director, Judith Partington the senior practice manager in Oxford, and Matthew Molloy the senior practice manager in London. *Offices in: London and Oxford*

CHILDREN LAW (INCLUDING PUBLIC & PRIVATE LAW)

Harcourt Chambers is a 'first-rate set of chambers with great strength in depth, a very good range of barristers at different levels of call, from hugely experienced QCs to extremely talented juniors, meaning that it will always have a barrister who fits the needs of the case.' The set 'has quickly risen to form a strong identity, commanding respect and oozing experience.' Among the 'huge pool of high calibre children barristers' is **Edward Devereux QC** who in a recent highlight led the successful appeal against a first instance decision to return a child to a third state pursuant to the 1980 Hague Convention. **Jonathan Sampson** is a new silk appointment, further strengthening chambers at the senior end, while the future of the set looks bright with impressive rising stars **Dr Rob George** and **Edward Bennett**. Ranked: Tier 3

Leading Silks

Nick Goodwin QC - 'Is very thorough, forensic in his approach to cases.' Ranked: Tier 3

Damian Garrido QC - 'His advocacy is measured and certain, and leaves the listener entirely convinced of his argument. He is incredibly effective, and clients feel completely reassured.' Ranked: Tier 3

Edward Devereux QC - 'One of the most impressive advocates at the family bar, commanding respect from judges and opponents alike. A fearless cross-examiner with a penchant for seeing cases in a way that few others do, which more often than not find favour with judges.' Ranked: Tier 2

2020 Silks

Jonathan Sampson QC - 'Is a masterful advocate. His calm and confident manner wins over clients and judges. He takes difficult points and runs them successfully.'

Leading Juniors

Mehvish Chaudhry - 'Combines exceptional client care skills with an in-depth knowledge of the law and has the respect of the High Court bench.' Ranked: Tier 3

Emily Rayner - 'A wonderful advocate who is always immaculately prepared and injects a much-needed level of reassuring calm in any matter.' Ranked: Tier 4

Edward Bennett - 'Is widely respected for the depth of his knowledge and the passion he has for his work. A dream to work with, with immaculate written work, is always prepared.' Ranked: Rising Stars

Dr Rob George - 'A hugely experienced head on young shoulders, and a phenomenal advocate. A real one to watch as a future heavyweight. You can already throw him to the lions against QC's and other senior opponents, safe in the knowledge that he will rise to the challenge with passion and strength.' Ranked: Rising Stars

FAMILY LAW (INCLUDING DIVORCE AND FINANCIAL REMEDY)

Leading Juniors

Fiona Hay - 'Fiona is strong, fair, compassionate and kind. These are valuable qualities in the legal field. Her knowledge is unsurpassed and her approach to cases always client focused and sensible.' Ranked: Tier 4

Suzanne Syme - 'Has an excellent manner with clients and quickly establishes a rapport and confidence. She is always thoroughly prepared for conferences and hearings alike.' Ranked: Tier 4

Jane Campbell - 'Jane is a force to be reckoned with on her feet. Her approach to cases is measured yet robust when necessary and this endears her to clients and judiciary alike.' Ranked: Tier 4

Michael Gleeson - 'Is meticulous in his preparation and a formidable advocate. He has an enviable ability to appeal to the full spectrum of clients and he is a pleasure to instruct.' Ranked: Tier 4

SOUTH EASTERN - FAMILY & CHILD LAW

'A formidable set armed with fantastic advocates', **Harcourt Chambers** is a specialist family set with barristers available at all levels of call. Members of chambers, which is based in both London and Oxford (where it has 'a good strength of knowledge across its members and gets involved in the local community'), are instructed across the piece, including private law children issues with international elements, as well as complex family finance matters ('a go-to chambers for money cases' according to one solicitor) and public law child work for both parents and local authorities. **Jonathan Sampson QC** is a 2020 silk appointment, joining top end that includes the likes of **Damian Garrido QC** and **John Vater QC**, with the set featuring a strong junior bench including **Jane Campbell**, **Simon Miller** and **Sara Granshaw** for child law matters, and Fiona Hay, a notable senior junior for family finance. Ranked: Tier 1

Child Law (Public and Private)

Leading Silks

Nick Goodwin QC - *'He is a tenacious and meticulous counsel with superb knowledge of children and family law.'* Ranked: Tier 1

John Vater QC - *'A brilliant cross-examiner who is superb at putting the client at ease.'* Ranked: Tier 1

Damian Garrido QC - *'He always prepares meticulously and is as measured as well as forceful advocate.'* Ranked: Tier 1

Aidan Vine QC - *'He is an accomplished and effective advocate, with a measured style that many judges like, and with recognised expertise in children cases with human rights or jurisdictional issues.'* Ranked: Tier 1

2020 Silks

Jonathan Sampson QC - *'Always an impressive advocate with excellent client care.'*

Leading Juniors

Sara Granshaw - *'Her advocacy and advice are consistently very high quality.'* Ranked: Tier 1

Douglas Allen - *'He is very grounded, pragmatic and down to earth enabling clients to relax and feel comfortable assured they are in a safe pair of hands whether that be in respect of children or financial cases.'* Ranked: Tier 2

Simon Miller - *'He is a very experienced and eloquent advocate.'* Ranked: Tier 1

Cecilia Barrett - *'She is fantastic with clients, balancing firm advice with a great understanding and empathetic manner.'* Ranked: Tier 2

Edward Kirkwood - *'Edward is a strong and fearless advocate who is able to take on any case, regardless of its complexity and has the confidence of the court, solicitors and clients.'* Ranked: Tier 2

Jason Green - *'When fully on fire Jason is second to none.'* Ranked: Tier 2

Alex Forbes - *'Can focus on the core issues immediately and has strong command in the court room.'* Ranked: Tier 2

Emily Rayner - *'She is a rising star in the family field and is very adept at technology.'* Ranked: Tier 2

Martha Gray - *'Organised, thorough and very personable: always a pleasure to work with.'* Ranked: Tier 4

Divorce and Financial Remedy

Fiona Hay - *'She has an unrivalled knack of expressing an opinion at the outset in terms of the eventual outcome, and being right.'* Ranked: Tier 1

Jane Campbell - *'She is a force to be reckoned with.'* Ranked: Tier 1

Louise Potter - *'She is reliable without fail and has a fantastic manner with clients.'* Ranked: Tier 2

Douglas Allen - *'He is very grounded, pragmatic and down to earth enabling clients to relax and feel comfortable assured they are in a safe pair of hands whether that be in respect of children or financial cases.'* Ranked: Tier 2

Cecilia Barrett - *'She is fantastic with clients, balancing firm advice with a great understanding and empathetic manner.'* Ranked: Tier 2

Jason Green - *'When fully on fire Jason is second to none.'* Ranked: Tier 2

Julia Shillingford - *'Julia is a tenacious, focused, and wise advocate. She is a constructive, but firm, opponent: she takes neither bad points nor prisoners.'* Ranked: Tier 4

Emily Rayner - *'She is a rising star in the family field and is very adept at technology.'* Ranked: Tier 2

David Marusza - *'His preparation is detailed and he strenuously puts forward his clients cases in court, clearly and succinctly.'* Ranked: Tier 4

MIDLANDS - FAMILY & CHILD LAW

Child Law (Public and Private)

Leading Silks

John Vater QC of **Harcourt Chambers** frequently appears in serious care cases in the Midlands, with recent work having included child deaths and allegations of sexual abuse. *'A fighter who is well-prepared and fearless in court.'* Ranked: Tier 1