

MARTHA COVER

Joint Head of Chambers

Call 1979

EXPERIENCE

Martha Cover has been a child law specialist since 1990. She represents parents and children in cases of serious injury and death to a child. She has a particular interest in allegations of emotional harm where children are being brought up in unusual or false belief systems. She also specialises in international and domestic adoption, wardship, and intractable disputes between parents over contact and residence.

Martha regularly speaks and writes on children law matters. She has written for The Times and been interviewed on radio and television to discuss adoption and the wider policy issues affecting care proceedings. Since 2010 she has been one of the Chairs of the Association of Lawyers for Children, and in November 2012 she gave evidence on their behalf to the Justice Select Committee and to the House of Lords Select Committee on Adoption.

Martha has been Head of Chambers at Coram since 2010.

PRACTICE AREAS

Children

International

Human Rights

EDUCATION

BA, University of Western Ontario

LLM University of London, Queen Mary College

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Family Law Bar Association

Association of Lawyers for Children

Human Rights Lawyers Association

Liberty

Gray's Inn

TESTIMONIALS

What the Directories Say

‘(Martha) has a very strong reputation for fighting her client’s corner with tact and good humour and not giving an inch. Peers are quick to laud her commitment to pro bono work.’

Strengths: “She’s warm and engaging, and explains things in a way clients can understand. She’s incisive, and she will identify and tackle the key issues. Her fearlessness stands out.”

Chambers and Partners 2016

‘A pioneer and icon in the field’ Legal 500 2015

‘Committed, knowledgeable, authoritative and sympathetic.’ Legal 500 2014

“she is respected by the judiciary and has a clear understanding of local authorities” Chambers UK 2014

Martha Cover shows ‘exceptional sensitivity to children law issues, and has extensive experience of medical cases.’ Legal 500 2013

“...hard-working, conscientious and experienced, and does good quality work.” Chambers UK 2013

“is ‘a calm and authoritative figure with excellent legal knowledge”

Legal 500 2012

“Sources praise her as ‘superb and fantastic” Chambers UK 2012

“has a ‘prodigious work rate’ and an ‘encyclopaedic knowledge of her practice area’.” Legal 500, 2011

PUBLICATIONS

Migration and legal aid changes threaten the rights of families

Martha Cover and members of the Association of Lawyers for Children write to The Guardian on the potential threat to the rights of families on the proposed migration and changes to legal aid.

CASES

Williams v LB Hackney [2018] UKSC 37

Re N (Children) [2016] UKSC 15

Re X (A Child (No 2)) [2016] EWHC 1342 (Fam)

Re H (Children) [2015] EWCA Civ 583

Kirklees Council v Re [2014] EWHC 3182 (Fam)

A Local Authority and Others v C [2012] EWHC 1637 (Fam)

Re K (Children with Disabilities: Wardship) [2012] 2 FLR 745

A County Council v K & Ors (By the Child's Guardian HT) [2011] EWHC 1672 (Fam) Judgments (05/07/2011)

A County Council v K, C and T [2011] EWHC 1672 (Fam)

Re Haringey London Borough Council v C, E and Another Intervening [2006] EWHC 1620 (Fam) [2007] 1 FLR 1035 (Fam)

Re U (Care Proceedings: Criminal Conviction: Refusal to Give Evidence) [2006] EWHC 372 [2006] 2 FLR 690 (Fam)

Re N (Sexual Abuse Allegations: Professionals Not Abiding by Findings of Fact) [2005] 2 FLR 340

Re W and X (Wardship: Relatives Rejected as Foster Carers) [2003] EWHC 2206 (Fam) [2004] 1 FLR 415 2003 Fam Law 883

Re A (Care Proceedings: Asylum Seekers) [2003] 2 FLR 921 FD

Re N (Contact: Minor Seeking Leave to Defend and Removal of Guardian) [2003] 1FLR 652

Re M (Residence) [2002] 2 FLR 1059

Re AS (Secure Accommodation Order) 1 FLR 103 [1999] 1 FLR 103

Re A (Protection from Offenders Regulations) [1999] 1 FLR 697

Re S (Appeal from Principal Registry: Procedure) [1997] 2 FLR 856

Re W (Wardship: Discharge: Publicity) [1995] 2 FLR 466