

SARAH BRANSON

Year called 2001

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OVERVIEW

An accomplished and energetic family law barrister, Sarah specialises in acting for children, vulnerable parents and local authorities in public law proceedings. There is an international dimension to her work; she regularly handles leave to remove cases and Hague and non-Hague child abduction cases. A founder member of Coram Mediation, she is qualified to mediate in all civil disputes. She has undertaken the Bar Council specialist Vulnerable witness training and also accepts instructions on a Direct Access basis.

PRACTICE AREAS

Public Law Children

Private Law Children

International Family Law

Dispute Resolution

Court of Protection

Alternative Families

Local Authority

EXPERIENCE

Sarah Branson is a barrister with a thriving practice in public and private law, specialising in working with children, parents, and local authorities. She was recognised as leading junior when she won the Family Law Awards Junior Barrister of the Year 2018 award on her first nomination.

Her enthusiasm for child rights stems from her time as a researcher in the House of Commons. She has worked in legal protection for UNHCR in Iran and Afghanistan, as well as an English teacher in China, Japan, and Taiwan. She has vast experience in the rights of children across diverse cultures.

Sarah excels in complex and challenging cases. She is particularly adept in applying the right strategy to a case, so the client is best placed at final hearing. The speed with which she processes facts and recalls information is second to none, meaning she often has the upper hand in court.

As a bubbly and approachable people person, Sarah builds strong and respectful working relationships with clients from all walks of life. She is empathetic and takes the time to explain complex legal issues in simple language. Sarah is an expert in cases where one parent has killed another, approaching such cases from both a legal and psychotherapeutic angle, having had specialist training. This training also means Sarah can make the difficult court process as smooth as possible for her clients.

She truly understands the responsibility she bears in helping people face traumatic family issues in the courts. She fights hard for her clients, regularly going the extra mile for clients and the solicitors who instruct her.

Sarah has experience working on several reported cases in interjurisdictional work, including trafficked children and modern-day slavery, as well as situations where there are concurrent criminal proceedings.

As a member of Coram Mediation, and having successfully mediated agreements in Iran, Sarah is a firm believer in the power of the mediation process to provide the best outcomes for clients. She will make herself available out of hours and at weekends if her services are required.

Sarah has also worked on complex non-accidental injury cases including shaking baby, fictitious illness by proxy and bruising cases. In these cases, Sarah's command of the papers and forensic analysis means she can identify issues quickly and effectively.

CASES

[Y \(disclosure to MPS\) \[2021\] EWFC B33](#)

[2021] EWCA Civ 162

[X & Y & Anor \(Final Abridged Judgment\) \[2020\] EWFC B66](#)

[Hertfordshire CC v K \(Deprivation of Liberty\) \[2020\] EWHC 139 \(Fam\)](#)

[London Borough of Waltham Forest v FC & Anor \[2014\] EWFC 13](#)

[London Borough of Waltham Forest v FC & Anor \[2014\] EWFC 14](#)

LB of Barking & Dagenham v SS

[2014] EWHC 3338 (Fam)

A Local Auth v DG & Others

[2014] EWHC 63 (Fam)

RS v SS

[2013] EWHC B33 (Fam)

EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

BA (Hons) – University of Liverpool

Graduate Diploma in Law (merit) – University of Westminster

Bar vocational course (very competent) – Inns of Court School of Law, City University

Family Law Bar Association

Association of Lawyers for Children

Middle Temple

TRAINING

Sarah has undertaken the Bar Council specialist Vulnerable witness training.

Speaker on ‘The Use of Intermediaries’, a highly successful event co-hosted with a representative from Communicourt on July 14th, 2015.

LANGUAGES

Chinese – basic

Japanese – basic
