

Esme
Cairns
Call: 2022



Esme joined Chambers as a tenant in October 2024 after successfully completing pupillage. She accepts instructions across a range of Family and Court of Protection matters.

Before joining the Bar, Esme worked at the Law Commission as a Research Assistant, predominantly supporting the wills project. She also interned at JUSTICE, a human rights charity.

Esme has volunteered with Citizens Advice West Sussex, Advocate and at the Free Representation Unit. She also assisted young people in police interviews as an Appropriate Adult.

Esme currently volunteers as a supervisor with the University of Brighton Legal Clinic.

Children (Private Law)

Esme is regularly instructed in private law cases at all stages of proceedings and acts on behalf of Applicants, Respondents and Guardians.

Children (Public Law)

Esme is regularly instructed in care proceedings and acts on behalf of local authorities, parents and Guardians. She has drafted threshold documents and has also been instructed to appear in proceedings in FDAC.

Court of Protection

Esme welcomes instructions to act in the Court of Protection and has experience acting on behalf of local authorities and litigation friends, including the Official Solicitor.

Domestic Violence & Injunctions

Esme accepts instructions to represent all parties in proceedings concerning applications for Non-Molestation and Occupation Orders.

Awards

- Exhibition Scholarship, Inner Temple (2020)
- Exhibition Award, Christ's College, Cambridge (2019)
- Rebecca Flower Squire Scholarship, University of Cambridge (2018)
- De Hart Prize, Christ's College, Cambridge (2018)

Education

- The Inns of Court College of Advocacy, Bar Course, Distinction (2022)
- Christ's College, University of Cambridge, BA Law, 2:1 (2020)

Memberships

- FLBA
- Inner Temple
- JUSTICE
- CPBA

Publications

- "Ensuring effective participation: judicial guidance on the use of intermediaries in public law children proceedings" Family Law Week (May 2024)
- Contributor to the [UK Human Rights Blog](#)