



1 CROWN OFFICE ROW

Francesca
Wiley QC
Call: 1996 QC: 2015



Francesca practises at the highest level in both private and public law Children Act and inherent jurisdiction Wardship cases where there are profoundly serious allegations against parties. She specialised in criminal law for 10 years before joining the family bar. A large part of her work involves cases where there is a need for fact-finding and consequential applications and consequences between the criminal and family jurisdictions. In particular she specialises in cases where clients or other parties have been accused of murder, attempted murder of their children or partners, sexual abuse or other serious violence and where medical and factual cross examination of the highest calibre is required. She has a particular interest in underlying medical issues for children and adults ranging from underlying genetic, bone and vascular disorders to cases where an opposing party may have profound and as yet undiagnosed personality and mental health difficulties.

She has a great deal of expertise in cases of parental alienation and recruitment of children against a parent including allegations being made by children against parents. Awarded the grade of MCI Arb by the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, Francesca is authorised to conduct arbitrations in children cases.

Francesca is qualified to undertake work through [public access](#) and is very experienced in the same.

'Is astonishingly bright, fearless and effective both in and out of court.'

Legal 500 2020

'She has the complete command of the court room and judges seem in awe of her.'

Legal 500 2019

'She has the complete command of the court room and judges seem in awe of her.'

Legal 500 2018

Children (Private Law)

Francesca has an expertise in representing parents in the most difficult and intractable private law matters, some of whom are profound victims of parental alienation. Clients have often been separated from their children for significant periods. Many are falsely accused of serious crimes against their ex partners and children and police are involved. Fact-finding when matters are in dispute is a particular speciality.

She has expertise in the most sensitive contact disputes and in cases where parents have hitherto undiagnosed mental health and personality difficulties impacting upon the litigation and the approach taken to the children.

Very high profile individuals and professionals including Doctors, Lawyers and those whose professional bodies require allegations made against them to be urgently resolved (often in order to continue to work), regularly instruct her.

Children (Public Law)

Parents, carers, Guardians and Local Authorities very regularly instruct Francesca in the most serious public law cases at High Court and Appellate level. In particular she has an expertise in cases involving very significant injuries and /or death of children in disputed circumstances as well as child sexual abuse. Often the police have not prosecuted or are awaiting charging decisions. Cases involving head injury, possible genetic and other underlying blood and bone disorders are a particular speciality, as are cases where the evidence is so complex expert cannot agree.

Arbitration

Francesca is a qualified arbitrator and brings her experience as an advocate and parent to the task of assisting parties to settle cases without resort to court. She maintains a strong emphasis on avoiding "blood letting" and assisting parties to move forward in their co-parenting relationship despite difficult separations.

Education

- Bar Qualification (1996)
- CPE Commendation (1993/1994)
- Trinity College Oxford, BA/ MA Oxon (1989/1992)

Memberships

- CI Arb

- FLBA