

Kate Branigan KC

'Kate is an exceptional barrister. Her strength lies in her encyclopedic knowledge of the law and medicine, with her empathetic approach to her clients. She is excellent at mastering the most difficult cases and has every page of her papers at her fingertips. Her advocacy is a masterclass in cross-examination.'

Legal 500, 2024

Experience

Year of Call: 1985

Year of Silk: 2006

Practice Areas

- Court of Protection - Vulnerable Adult
- Public Children Law

Education

LLB (Soton)

Languages

French

Profile

Kate's practice covers the full range of public law children work and with over 18 years in Silk she has developed a skill base which covers all forms of non-accidental injury, fabricated or induced illness behaviours, domestic abuse and sexual abuse. Kate represents parents with wide-ranging challenges, with a particular interest in learning disabilities, and has been commended on her ability to manage parents who struggle with the adversarial process. She has significant experience in dealing with parents who need assistance through interpreters and cases where the cultural expectations and norms are different from those commonly encountered and parents who are vulnerable for a range of reasons. Kate seeks to make complex medical issues accessible for parents and to show how the 'pieces in the jigsaw' fit together so that parents can understand what is being alleged and why and how the fine detail can make the difference between a child returning home or not. Kate is regularly instructed in cases involving the death of a child where client care is complicated by bereavement and where the proceedings are taking place against a backdrop of parallel criminal proceedings, often with parents who are remanded in custody and with whom preparation and conference time is limited. Kate places a high



priority on client care skills and meticulous preparation, seeking to ensure that every client is able to engage fully with proceedings likely to have a far-reaching impact on their private and family life.

Memberships

Family Law Bar Association

Western Circuit

Inner Temple

FLBA Committee – 2011 – 2017

FLBA Fees Sub-Committee – 2011

FLBA Training, Diversity and Social Mobility Sub-Committee – 2011

Directories

“Extremely well prepared and thorough, and she deals with the most difficult and complex cases. Formidable with her cross-examination! Very approachable and communicates well with the clients.”

Chambers and Partners, 2025

“Kate is an exceptional barrister. Her strength lies in her encyclopedic knowledge of the law and medicine, with her empathetic approach to her clients. She is excellent at mastering the most difficult cases and has every page of her papers at her fingertips. Her advocacy is a masterclass in cross-examination.”

Legal 500, 2024

“Her client care skills are excellent – she can get information nobody else could and clients always feel looked after by her.”

“Always handles her cases pragmatically and ethically.”

Chambers and Partners, 2024

‘A consummate professional who combines a razor-sharp intellect with a graceful, sensitive and kind manner. She has a natural ability to put her lay clients at ease.’

Legal 500, 2022

‘Kate is just a class act – from forensically detailed cross examination of expert medical witnesses to intuitive, empathetic exploration with a vulnerable witness, she can turn her hand to anything.’

Legal 500, 2023

‘Unflappable when under even extreme pressure.’

Legal 500, 2020

‘Her humanity and warmth shine through in her client care.’

Legal 500, 2019

‘She is equally at home with a fiercely direct style as with the “iron hand in velvet glove” approach.’

Legal 500, 2016

Recommended as a Leading Silk in the area of Children Law

Legal 500, 2012

Recommended as a Leading Silk in the area of Children Law **Chambers and Partners since 2022.**

Cases

26/05/2021	Norfolk County Council v D & Anor (Fact Finding)	Jo Delahunty KC Kate Branigan KC Baljinder Bath	[2021] EWFC 11
12/02/2021	R (Children: Control of Court Documents)	Kate Branigan KC	[2021] EWCA Civ 162
17/06/2020	X & Y & Anor (Final Abridged Judgment)	Amean Elgadhy Kate Branigan KC Ciara Coleman	[2020] EWFC B66
16/04/2019	Northamptonshire County Council v AB & CD	Kate Branigan KC	[2019] EWHC 1807 (Fam)
05/02/2019	VB v JD & Ors	Kate Branigan KC	[2019] EWHC 612 (Fam)
11/04/2018	Re P (A Child)	Kate Branigan KC Jo Delahunty KC	[2018] EWCA Civ 720
01/12/2017	Kent County Council v A, M & Ors (Hair strand testing)	Kate Branigan KC Joanne Brown KC	[2017] EWFC B104
14/10/2016	Re RA (Baby Relinquished for Adoption)	Alex Verdan KC Kate Branigan KC Chris Barnes	[2016] EWFC 47
11/06/2015	Re H (Children)	Kate Branigan KC Chris Barnes	[2015] EWCA Civ 583
04/03/2015	Re A (A Child)	Kate Branigan KC Rex Howling KC	[2015] EWCA Civ 162
30/10/2014	Re IB and EB 2014	Kate Branigan KC Andrew Powell	[2014] EWHC 369 (fam)
15/07/2014	M & Others v Suffolk County Council [2014]	Kate Branigan KC	[2014] EWCA Civ 942
27/06/2014	Re J (A Child) (2014)	Kate Branigan KC	[2014] EWCA Civ 875
19/12/2013	Re O (A Child) (2013)	Kate Branigan KC	AC9401456
04/05/2012	A London Borough v M [2012]	Kate Branigan KC Alison Grief KC	awaiting FLR reporting
08/03/2011	Re L-R (Children) (2011)	Kate Branigan KC	[2011] EWCA Civ 1034
11/02/2011	A Local Authority v C (2011)	Alex Verdan KC Kate Branigan KC John Tughan KC	[2011] EWHC 231 (Fam)
15/06/2010	Re F (Children) (2010)	Kate Branigan KC Brian Jubb	[2010] 2 FLR 1455 : [2010] Fam Law 1053 : [2010] EWCA Civ 826
03/03/2010	W (Children)	Kate Branigan KC	[2010] UKSC 12

02/11/2009	Re M (A Child) (2009)	Kate Branigan KC	[2009] EWCA Civ 1385 : [2010] Fam Law 452
20/08/2009	Re L (A Child) (2009)	Kate Branigan KC	[2010] 2 FLR 188 : [2010] Fam Law 132 : (2009) 106(34) LSG 16 : [2009] EWCA Civ 1239
30/07/2008	Re A (Joint Residence: Parental Responsibility)	Kate Branigan KC Barbara Mills KC	[2008] 2 FLR 1593
14/08/2007	Re A, HA v MB (Brussels II Revised: Article (11)7 Application) (2007)	Private: Marcus Scott-Manderson QC Kate Branigan KC Private: David Williams QC	[2007] EWHC 2016, [2008] 1 FLR 289 : Times, November 2, 2007
16/12/2005	N v N and F Trust	Kate Branigan KC	[2006] 1 FLR 856
13/05/2004	B v B (Residence: Condition Limiting Geographic Area)	Kate Branigan KC	[2004] 2 FLR 979
30/07/2003	Re C (Welfare of Child: Immunisation)	Kate Branigan KC	[2003] 2 FLR 1095
13/06/2003	Re C (Welfare of Child: Immunisation)	Kate Branigan KC	[2003] 2 FLR 1167
27/11/2002	A v Times Newspapers Ltd	Kate Branigan KC	[2003] 1 FLR 689
27/07/1995	Re C (Abduction: Consent)	Kate Branigan KC	[1996] 1 FLR 414