

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
- International Children Law
- Private Children Law
- Public Children Law

Education

LLB (Soton)

Languages

French

Profile

Kate specialises in serious and complex children cases both public and private law. In particular, Kate specialises in cases involving serious physical/fatal injuries to children; fabricated/induced illness behaviour; sexual abuse (including fabricated allegations and 'false memory'); serious domestic violence; disabled parents, in particular parents with learning difficulties and serious psychiatric/psychological difficulties; intractable contact disputes and leave to remove.

For 18 years Kate was based on the Western Circuit practising in all areas of family law, in particular specialising in public law work for local authorities, parents and guardians and private client work, but also undertaking serious domestic and violent crime for both prosecution and defence.

Since moving to 4PB in 2002 and in particular since taking Silk in 2006, Kate has maintained her practice

across all aspects of children law whilst developing a particular interest in cases involving non-accidental injury (including fatal injuries), neglect and FII behaviour. Kate's cases frequently involve jurisdictional, religious and ethnic dimensions and she has developed a particular expertise in representing parents with physical and learning disabilities and serious psychiatric and psychological problems.

Kate also has a significant private law practice, having undertaken a number of important specific issue applications together with intractable contact disputes and application for leave to remove.

Kate has maintained her links with the Western Circuit, regularly presenting lectures for solicitors in-house, Resolutions and other organisations with an interest in issues relating to children law. Kate has a long-standing relationship with the Roberts Centre in Hampshire which provides family support services and staff and venues for short and long-term observed, supported and supervised contact and is a voluntary speaker for the Children's Society.

Memberships

Family Law Bar Association

Western Circuit

Inner Temple

Wessex Family Law Bar Association

FLBA Committee - 2011

FLBA Fees Sub-Committee - 2011

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

Directories

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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

'Is an exceptional barrister. She is always very well prepared with every page at her fingertips, and her meticulous advocacy is outstanding.'

Legal 500, 2021

'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

'A true pleasure to work with.'

Legal 500, 2017

'She is equally at home with a fiercely direct style as with the "iron hand in velvet glove" approach.'

Legal 500, 2016

'A well-prepared, perceptive and persuasive advocate'

Legal 500, 2015

An extremely knowledgeable and thorough advocate.'

Legal 500, 2014

Recommended as a Leading Silk in the area of Children Law

Legal 500, 2013

Recommended as a Leading Silk in the area of Children Law

Legal 500, 2012

Cases

| | | | |
|------------|---|---|------------------------|
| 26/05/2021 | Norfolk County Council v D & Anor (Fact Finding) (2021) | 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 |
| 12/02/2021 | R (Children: Control of Court Documents) | Amean Elgadhy Kate Branigan KC | [2021] EWCA Civ 162 |
| 17/06/2020 | X & Y & Anor (Final Abridged Judgment) | Amean Elgadhy Kate Branigan KC | [2020] EWFC B66 |
| 16/04/2019 | Northamptonshire County Council v AB & CD (2019) | Kate Branigan KC | [2019] EWHC 1807 (Fam) |
| 05/02/2019 | Re A (2019) | Kate Branigan KC | [2019] EWHC 612 (Fam) |
| 11/04/2018 | P (A Child), Re (2018) | Kate Branigan KC Jo Delahunty KC | [2018] EWCA Civ 720 |
| 14/10/2016 | Re RA (Baby Relinquished for Adoption) (2016) | Alex Verdian KC Kate Branigan KC Chris Barnes | [2016] EWFC 47 |
| 11/06/2015 | Re H (Children) (2015) | Kate Branigan KC Chris Barnes | [2015] EWCA Civ 583 |
| 04/03/2015 | A (A Child) [2015] | Kate Branigan KC Rex Howling KC | [2015] EWCA Civ 162-1 |
| 30/10/2014 | Re IB and EB 2014 | Kate Branigan KC Andrew Powell | [2014] EWHC 369 (fam) |

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|------------|---|--|---|
| 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) | Private: Jonathan Cohen QC Kate Branigan KC | [2003] 2 FLR 1095 |
| 13/06/2003 | Re C (Welfare of Child: Immunisation) | Private: Jonathan Cohen QC Kate Branigan KC | [2003] 2 FLR 1167 |
| 27/11/2002 | A v Times Newspapers Ltd | Private: Jonathan Cohen QC Kate Branigan KC | [2003] 1 FLR 689 |
| 27/07/1995 | Re C (Abduction: Consent) | Kate Branigan KC | [1996] 1 FLR 414 |