

## Emma Spruce

'Brilliant advocate. Makes excellent judgment calls on her feet. Respected by the Judiciary and opponents for her technical skills and likeable personality. An all round safe pair of hands.'

**Legal 500, 2024**

### Experience

Year of Call: 2017

### Practice Areas

- Financial Remedies
- International Children Law
- Private Children Law
- Public Children Law

### Direct Access

Direct Access

### Education

BPP University: Bar Professional Training Course (Very Competent)

University of Oxford: MSc Evidence Based Social Policy

University of Reading: Law and European Legal Studies in Europe (First Class Honours)

### Languages

French – working proficiency

### Profile

Emma has quickly developed a strong reputation as a specialist family barrister, representing and advising clients in relation to the issues that flow from their relationship breakdown. She has a busy practice in both financial and children matters, including cases with an international element, and is therefore well-placed to assist those in parallel financial / children proceedings.

Emma has been recognised in Legal 500 for her advocacy, judgment and technical skills, as well as her ability to put clients at ease.

She was shortlisted for the Young Barrister of the Year Award in 2021 and was ranked in the Legal 500 as a Rising Star after just three years of practice. She is the Assistant Editor of the International Family Law Journal and has been quoted in The Times.



Emma is also experienced in non-court dispute resolution. She is instructed by the Divorce Surgery, and in addition assists with mediation/roundtable negotiations and at private FDRs. Emma accepts Direct Access instructions, subject to suitability.

Before her career at the Bar, Emma was a successful oarswoman, having been victorious in the Boat Race (for Oxford) and represented Great Britain.

### **Private Children Law**

Emma has a great deal of experience in representing parents in disputes relating to their children. She is regularly instructed where there are serious allegations of domestic and/or sexual abuse such that a separate fact-finding might be required, and/or where there are other safeguarding concerns. She is regularly instructed in internal and international relocation cases, and her financial remedies specialism means she is well-placed to manage cases where there is an overlap between the two. Emma also has experience in the field of surrogacy.

### **Financial Remedies**

Emma is well experienced in assisting clients with the financial consequences of family breakdown. She has a particular interest in financial remedy cases which involve issues of mental capacity. She is firm and robust when she needs to be, but always pragmatic and maintains a commitment to seeking the right resolution for clients at the earliest stage possible of proceedings.

### **International Children Law**

Emma is regularly instructed to represent parties in international child abduction matters, both in Hague Convention and non-Hague Convention cases. She has appeared led and unled in the High Court and in the Court of Appeal and has experience in dealing with the myriad of specialist issues that occur with the cross-border movement of children.

### **Publications/Training**

She has appeared in a number of reported cases in the High Court and the Court of Appeal, including:

- Re H-N and Others (Children)(Domestic Abuse: Finding of fact hearings) [2021] EWCA Civ 448;
- A (A Child), Re (Enforcement of A Foreign Order) [2022] EWCA Civ 904;
- D v S [2023] EWCOP 8/ EWFC 23;
- Re T (Abduction: Protective Measures: Agreement to Return) [2023] EWCA Civ 1415;
- Re M (A Child) (1980 Hague Convention: Abduction: Article 13(b): Mental Health) [2023] EWHC 3164 (Fam);
- Y (disclosure to MPS) [2021] EWFC B33

### **Memberships**

FLBA

### **Directories**

‘Emma is a very effective advocate, who is brilliant at putting the client at ease.’

#### **Legal 500, 2025**

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Top Tier

#### **Legal 500, 2024**

‘Emma is confident and an excellent advocate despite being relatively junior. She deals with difficult situations in an organized and logical way.’

## Cases

06/12/2023	Re T (Abduction: Protective Measures: Agreement to Return)	Teertha Gupta KC Paul Hepher Emma Spruce Jacqueline Renton KC Mani Singh Basi	[2023] EWCA Civ 1415
20/03/2023	D v S	Emma Spruce	[2023] EWCOP 8 / [2023] EWFC 23
25/07/2022	A (A Child), Re (Enforcement of A Foreign Order)	Christopher Hames KC Henry Setright KC Emma Spruce	[2022] EWCA Civ 904
30/03/2021	Re H-N and Others (Children) (Domestic Abuse: Finding of fact hearings)	Christopher Hames KC Charlotte Baker Jo Delahunty KC Chris Barnes Charles Hale KC Adele Cameron-Douglas Rebecca Foulkes Miriam Best Teertha Gupta KC Matthew Persson Clarissa Wigoder Mark Jarman KC Michael Gration KC Barbara Mills KC Joy Brereton KC Emma Spruce	[2021] EWCA Civ 448
11/02/2021	Y (disclosure to MPS)	Lucy Cheetham Emma Spruce	[2021] EWFC B33