

Harry Langford

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Legal 500, 2025

Experience

Year of Call: 2014

Practice Areas

- Court of Protection - Vulnerable Adult
- Inquests and Inquiries
- International Children Law
- Private Children Law
- Public Children Law

Direct Access

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Education

University College London – LLM (Merit)

Nottingham Law School – Bar Professional Training Course (Very Competent)

Nottingham Trent University – LLB (First Class Honours)

Profile

Harry specialises in the law relating to children, particularly proceedings with an international element. He is regularly instructed in abduction matters, jurisdiction disputes, internal and international relocation cases, and forced marriage and FGM proceedings. He is widely recognised for his technical legal expertise at first instance and on appeal.

Harry has appeared at all levels of the family courts up to and including the Court of Appeal. He is known for his persuasive advocacy, excellent drafting and forensic cross-examination. Harry often appears against more senior counsel, and gives sensitive, pragmatic advice.

Harry joined Chambers in October 2019 following successful completion of his pupillage under the supervision of Michael Gratton, Stephen Lyon and Chris Barnes.

Harry was shortlisted for "Family Law Young Barrister of the Year" in the 2020 Family Law Awards and contributes to the international children law chapters in Rayden & Jackson.



Before joining Chambers, Harry worked at the Court of Appeal of England and Wales as the judicial assistant to Lady Justice Black DBE (as she then was) and Lord Justice Moylan, the immediate past and current Head of International Family Justice. Harry also worked as a case management lawyer in the Civil Appeals Office, providing assistance to the specialist family Lords and Lady Justices of Appeal.

During his studies, Harry undertook a traineeship in the Office of the President of the European Court of Human Rights. Harry has also worked in politics as a Parliamentary Assistant for a Birmingham MP, and as a volunteer on President Obama's 2012 re-election campaign in the key swing state of Ohio.

International

Harry appears in the High Court in child abduction matters pursuant to both the 1980 Hague Convention and the Inherent Jurisdiction. He is regularly instructed in disputes relating to jurisdiction, recognition and enforcement proceedings, international relocation cases, and forced marriage and FGM proceedings.

Harry appeared in the Court of Appeal (Moylan, Baker and Phillips LJ) in the case of *Re B* [2020] EWCA Civ 1187, [2020] 4 WLR 149 concerning third state returns under the 1980 Hague Convention

Private Children Law

Harry is regularly instructed in complex private law cases, including those relating to relocation, domestic violence, and coercive control. He also acts for both applicants and respondents in non-molestation and occupation order proceedings.

Harry regularly appears for parents in cases before the Family Court concerning the international relocation of families.

Public Children Law

Harry acts for parents, Guardians and local authorities within care proceedings in particular in cases with an international element.

He appeared as junior counsel (led by Alison Grief QC) for the local authority in *Re H (A Child) (Parental Responsibility: Vaccination)* [2020] EWCA Civ 664, [2020] 3 WLR 1049. The Court of Appeal considered the principles to be applied where a dispute arises between a local authority and parents as to whether a child subject to a care order should be vaccinated.

He also appeared as junior counsel for the Applicant local authority in *London Borough of Tower Hamlets v Mother & Ors* [2020] EWHC 832 (Fam), [2020] 3 FCR 490. The case involved the novel use of the High Court's inherent jurisdiction to restrain the publication and dissemination of confidential information that had been inadvertently disclosed within adoption proceedings.

Court of Protection

Harry accepts instructions in relation to Court of Protection matters, particularly where there is a cross over with family proceedings. He is regularly instructed in proceedings where the Official Solicitor represents the interests of a party in care and private law proceedings.

Inquests and Public Inquiries

In his public inquiry practice, Harry was instructed by the London Borough of Tower Hamlets who were a Core Participant in the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse's investigation into institutional responses to the sexual exploitation of children by organised gangs.

Publications/Training

Harry is a contributor to the chapters on international children's law in Rayden and Jackson.

Memberships

Lincoln's Inn

Family Law Bar Association

Child Abduction Lawyers Association

Directories

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Legal 50, 2025

Cases

04/03/2025	London Borough of Lambeth v M & Ors	Alison Grief KC Harry Langford	[2025] EWFC 55 (B)
17/09/2024	E v D (Child: Transfer of Proceedings Art. 9 of Hague Convention 1996)	Chris Barnes Harry Langford	[2024] EWHC 2422 (Fam)
18/07/2024	A & Ors (Care Proceedings: Inherent Jurisdiction: Order for Return to Austria), Re	Christopher Hames KC Michael Gration KC Mai-Ling Savage Harry Langford	[2024] EWFC 178
09/07/2024	E v The Child and Family Agency of Ireland & Ors	Henry Setright KC Michael Gration KC Mani Singh Basi Harry Langford	[2024] EWHC 1778
01/07/2024	M v F	Jacqueline Renton KC Harry Langford	[2024] EWHC 1689 (Fam)
26/03/2024	A Mother v A Father	Harry Langford	[2024] EWFC 123 (B)
06/03/2024	X (Children), Re (Abduction: Grave Risk: Children's Objections)	Harry Langford	[2024] EWHC 1296 (Fam)
17/01/2024	XZR (Abduction: Hague Convention (Lithuania)), Re	Harry Langford Olivia Gaunt	[2024] EWHC 64 (Fam)
16/01/2024	B v N (No. 2) (Art 7 and Transfer of Jurisdiction)	Cliona Papazian Lucy Logan Green Teertha Gupta KC Harry Langford	[2024] EWHC 17 (Fam)

06/12/2023	C v M (A Child) (Abduction: Representation of Child Party)	Ruth Kirby KC Adele Cameron-Douglas Miriam Best Mark Jarman KC Mani Singh Basi Christopher Hames KC Indu Kumar Charlotte Baker Deirdre Fottrell KC Henry Setright KC Harry Langford	[2023] EWCA Civ 1449
31/10/2023	Re S (1980 Hague Convention; Habitual Residence; Article 13)	Michael Gration KC Cliona Papazian Harry Langford	[2023] EWHC 2717 (Fam)
15/09/2023	Re D (A Child) (Abduction: Child's Objections: Representation of Child Party)	Michael Gration KC Michael Edwards Deirdre Fottrell KC Henry Setright KC Harry Langford	[2023] EWCA Civ 1047
14/06/2023	The Mother v The Father	Harry Langford	[2023] EWFC 96 (B)
18/05/2023	KM (A Child) (Welfare), Re	Henry Setright KC Sam King KC Greg Davies Harry Langford	[2023] EWFC 313
29/09/2022	Re L (Return Order: Set Aside Application)	Harry Langford	[2022] EWHC 3564 (Fam)
02/02/2022	Re KM (A Child) (Jurisdiction: Habitual Residence)	Henry Setright KC Ruth Kirby KC Harry Langford	[2022] EWFC 132
05/07/2021	K & Ors v K	Henry Setright KC Harry Langford	[2021] EWHC 1846 (Fam)
26/03/2021	AB v CD & Ors	Ceri White Andrew Powell Alison Grief KC Rebecca Foulkes Harry Langford	[2021] EWHC 741 (Fam)
18/12/2020	A Local Authority v A Mother & Ors	Andrew Powell Chris Barnes Harry Langford	[2020] EWHC 3496 (Fam)
15/09/2020	B (A Child) (Abduction: Habitual Residence)	Christopher Hames KC Harry Langford Jacqueline Renton KC Charlotte Baker	B (A Child) (Abduction: Habitual Residence)
22/05/2020	Re H (A Child) (Parental Responsibility: Vaccination)	Alison Grief KC Rob Littlewood Chris Barnes Harry Langford	[2020] EWCA Civ 664

07/04/2020	London Borough of Tower Hamlets v Mother & Ors	Rob Littlewood Chris Barnes Harry Langford	[2020] EWHC 832 (Fam)
03/04/2020	Prospective adopters v LB Tower Hamlets	Rob Littlewood Chris Barnes Harry Langford	[2020] EWFC 26
01/04/2020	Re T (A Child)	Alison Grief KC Chris Barnes Harry Langford Rob Littlewood	[2020] EWHC 220 (Fam)
23/01/2020	Re T (A Child)	Rob Littlewood Chris Barnes Harry Langford	[2020] EWFC 4