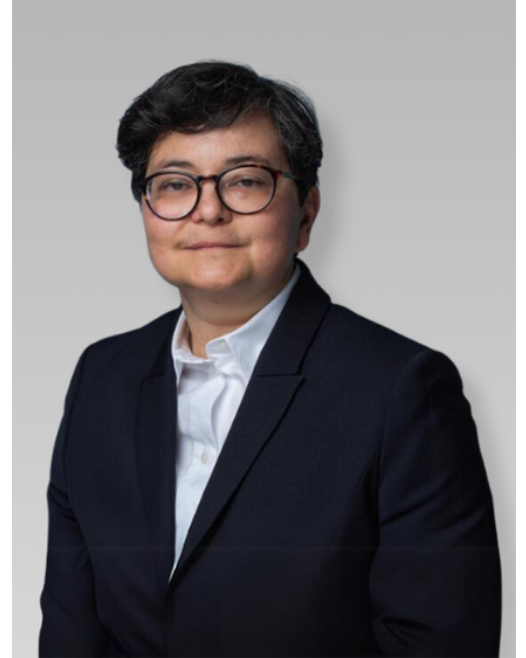


Mai-Ling Savage

“If you instruct her you are in a safe pair of hands as she has strong legal expertise and the quality of her written submissions and skeletons is high. Mai-Ling always gives her all in court.”

Chambers and Partners, 2024



Experience

Year of Call: 1998

Practice Areas

- Court of Protection - Vulnerable Adult
- Financial Remedies
- International Children Law
- Private Children Law
- Public Children Law

Direct Access

Direct Access

Education

Bachelor of Divinity, King's College London
GDL, BPP School of Law
BPTC, Inns of Court School of Law

Profile

Mai-Ling Savage is a highly regarded and experienced practitioner in Family Law, recognised by Chambers and Partners as being “Forceful and totally committed to the client.”

Mai-Ling has a robust practice in Family Law, with expertise in Court of Protection work, Children's Law (including Public, Private and International cases), care proceedings, surrogacy and assisted reproduction and matrimonial finance.

Private Children Law

Mai-Ling's practice includes residence and contact disputes, including internal and international relocation, disputes between same sex couples, fact-finding hearings and cases of parental alienation and recruitment of children against a parent by care givers. Mai-Ling has particular expertise in issues relating to surrogacy and assisted reproduction cases in which issues of legal parentage arise.

Public Children Law

Mai-Ling has particular expertise in care proceedings involving allegations of non-accidental injury with complex medical issues or disputed medical evidence, sexual abuse (including false allegations of sexual abuse), factitious illness and vulnerable adults. She also has expertise in cases involving forced marriage, FGM and radicalisation.

Examples of recent cases include fractures to an 8-week-old baby, life-limiting injuries to a 6-week-old baby, sexual abuse allegations including a paedophile ring and inter-sibling sexual abuse.

Mai-Ling has recently undertaken a number of cases involving breaches of the Human Rights Act 1998.

She frequently advises in family proceedings concerning immigration and nationality issues as well as international adoptions, transnational care and child placement arrangements.

International Children Law

Mai-Ling is experienced in cases of international abduction, and international adoption. She frequently advises in family proceedings concerning immigration and nationality issues as well as international adoptions, transnational care and child placement arrangements.

Court of Protection

Mai-Ling has an established practice acting in health and welfare cases for all parties, including health and social care bodies and individuals.

She has undertaken cases that involve best interest decisions, welfare and financial decisions and deprivations of liberty, including contested applications involving fact-finding hearings.

Mai-Ling has acted in cases involving adults with learning disabilities, adults with acquired brain injury and people with dementia, including disputes about residence or contact with family members. She is instructed by the Official Solicitor, individuals and local authorities.

Mai-Ling has particular expertise in cases where there is a crossover with family proceedings, for example, non-consensual marriage.

Mai-Ling is a member of CoPPA.

Notable Cases

ZH v HS & Ors (Application to Revoke Adoption Order) [2019] EWHC 2190 (Fam)

Application by a child's birth mother (ZH) to revoke an adoption order made in 2016 in relation to T, now aged 4.

PW and Others v Luton Borough Council [2017] EWHC 3028 (Fam)

The Legal Aid Agency was ordered to pay the claimants' increased costs which arose as a result of the LAA failing to make a decision as to the applicability of the statutory charge when it could and should have.

SW & TW (Human Rights Claim: Procedure) (No1) [2017] EWHC 450 (Fam)

Proceedings concerning two siblings and involving cross-applications for private law orders, an application by the local authority for public law orders and applications brought under section 7 of the Human Rights Act 1998 for declarations and damages. Clarified the correct procedure for HRA claims in family proceedings.

MZ v RZ Family Division [2021] EWHC 2490 (Fam) – Habitual residence; Jurisdiction; Parens patriae; Preliminary issues; Removal from jurisdiction; Return orders

Re X (Children) Court of Appeal (Civil Division) [2020] EWCA Civ 1680 – Care proceedings; Children; Conduct; Findings of fact; Non-accidental injury; Self-harm

Re H-B-S (Children) (Discharge of Interim Care Order) Court of Appeal (Civil Division) [2020] EWCA Civ 1027 Delay; Discharge; Findings of fact; Risk assessment; Risk of harm

Re A (A Child) (Surrogacy: s54 Criteria), Family law; Human rights Children’s welfare; Parental orders; Parents; Relationships; Right to respect for private and family life; Statutory interpretation; Surrogacy; Time limits

Re TS (A Child) (Application to Revoke Adoption Order: Procedure in Non-Urgency Adoption Placement) – Family law; Civil procedure; Local government, Adoption orders; Adoption proceedings; Applications; Family Procedure Rule Committee; Local authorities’ powers and duties; Notice; Parental consent; Relatives; Revocation

Memberships

Family Law Bar Association
Association of Lawyers for Children
Child Poverty Action Group
Administrative Law Bar Association
CoPPA

Testimonials

“She’s very creative in how she finds solutions.”

Chambers and Partners, 2025

“If you instruct her you are in a safe pair of hands as she has strong legal expertise and the quality of her written submissions and skeletons is high. Mai-Ling always gives her all in court.”

“She’s really good at managing client expectations and tempering her excellent advice with the compassion to make it work.”

“She’s very considered, even-tempered and measured in her approach to cases.”

Chambers and Partners, 2024

“Forceful and totally committed to the client. If she thinks something is right she stands up and fights for it.” – Chambers and Partners, 2023

“Diligent and detailed in her preparation and presentation of cases.” – Chambers and Partners, 2023

“Mai-Ling was an absolute diamond. I was very satisfied and felt at ease with her dealing with the proceedings. I would definitely recommend her. A very big thank you for her efforts.” – Direct Acces Client, May 2023

“I was really happy and impressed with Mai-Ling’s representation... I was feeling really overwhelmed and stressed and Mai-Ling really helped reassure and focus me.” – Direct Acces Client, June 2021

Cases

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)
23/05/2024	A & Ors (Case Proceedings: 1996 Hague Convention: Habitual Residence), Re	Christopher Hames KC Michael Gration KC Mai-Ling Savage Andrew Powell	[2024] EWFC 110
06/09/2021	MZ v RZ Family Division	Mai-Ling Savage	[2021] EWHC 2490 (Fam)
11/12/2020	Re X (Children) Court of Appeal (Civil Division)	Mai-Ling Savage	[2020] EWCA Civ 1680
03/08/2020	Re H-B-S (Children) (Discharge of Interim Care Order) Court of Appeal (Civil Division)	Mai-Ling Savage	[2020] EWCA Civ 1027
24/06/2020	A (A Child : Surrogacy: S.54 Criteria) (2020)	Andrew Powell Mai-Ling Savage Lucy Logan Green	EWHC 1426 (Fam)
05/03/2019	ZH v HS & Ors (Application to Revoke Adoption Order)	Deirdre Fottrell KC Mai-Ling Savage	[2019] EWHC 2190 (Fam)
06/09/2017	PW and Others v Luton Borough Council	Mai-Ling Savage	[2017] EWHC 3028 (Fam)