

Sam King KC

"Sam stands out amongst her peers as a stellar advocate. Her oral advocacy is incisive and compelling. When she cross-examines lay witnesses, there is no escape when she has a particular point to make. When she cross-examines expert witnesses, it is clear that she has an excellent understanding of complex medical issues." Legal 500, 2024



Experience

Year of Call: 1990

Year of Silk: 2018

Practice Areas

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

Direct Access

Direct Access

Awards



Education

BA (Cantab)

MA (Law) Selwyn College, Cambridge University

Qualified for admission to the New York Bar 1989

Appointments

Master of the Bench, Middle Temple 2019

Profile

Sam's main area of practice is in children's law. She is regularly instructed in both private and public law cases. She represents all parties in complex cases involving allegations of sexual abuse or where there are psycho-sexual factors in issue, non-accidental injury, psychiatric ill-health, intractable contact cases and where shared residence is in issue. Sam's practice increasingly reflects her interest in the law relating to surrogacy, reproductive technologies and co-parenting arrangements.

She also appears in leave to remove applications and domestic and international adoption cases and is a member of chambers' international movement of children group. Sam has an interest in forced marriage and the children's law cases which arise in that context.

Sam often gives lectures and seminars to lawyers and other professionals. Her lectures include talks on the subject of evidence gathering in respect of sexual abuse (LexisNexis), recent developments in the area of private law (LexisNexis), adoption and placement orders (4pb and Family Law Week). She has recently given seminars on routes to parenthood under the HFEA 2008 (Resolutions London) and in respect of international adoption and surrogacy.

Memberships

Middle Temple
FLBA

Directories

'Sam stands out amongst her peers as a stellar advocate. Her oral advocacy is incisive and compelling. When she cross-examines lay witnesses, there is no escape when she has a particular point to make. When she cross-examines expert witnesses, it is clear that she has an excellent understanding of complex medical issues.'

Legal 500, 2024

"Samantha King is an excellent heavyweight children law barrister."

"A very calm and skilled advocate."

"She is an amazing silk and her presence in court is extraordinary. Her preparation is immaculate and she has the confidence and knowledge of the law you would expect from someone of her standing."

Chambers and Partners, 2024

"Samantha King is a force of nature in the courtroom, who's hard-working and brilliant in terms of cross-examination."

"A persuasive and forceful advocate, she's really respected by judges so when she speaks they pay attention, which is really important when you have a difficult case to argue."

Chambers and Partners, 2023

'A phenomenal strategist. Her knowledge of surrogacy law is unrivalled. She commands the ear of the Judges and her advocacy is razor sharp, highly persuasive and always impressive.'

Legal 500, 2022

"A born advocate who is persuasive and incredibly quick on her feet." "She's responsive, leaves no stone unturned and gives clear advice to her clients." "She is formidable and organised when acting for guardians in private law cases."

Chambers & Partners, 2022

Renowned family barrister in high demand due to her deep knowledge of public and private law cases, both at home and abroad. She exhibits strength in the most serious public law cases, including those concerning issues of alleged radicalisation and sexual abuse, and also has experience in private law issues relating to non-traditional families and surrogacy.

Strengths: “Exceptionally good with clients, robust in court, and someone who fights your case.” “She meticulously reads through all the papers and gets her head round all the detail. Her written work is excellent and she is compelling in court.” “A team player who delivers advice of an excellent standard.”

Recent work: Acted in RJ v Tigipko, representing children involved in High Court international abduction proceedings. The case concerned an application to the court for the abducting mother and maternal grandfather to be publicly named in order to secure compliance with orders requiring the return of the children from Ukraine to England.

Chambers & Partners, 2021

‘An excellent silk who is a pleasure to work with.’

Legal 500, 2021

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Strengths: “She’s so thorough, and knows her papers inside and out. Not pompous at all in her approach, she can catch witnesses off-guard and pick up on the slightest discrepancy. In any case handles she can pull out and highlight weaknesses in a really clever way.” “She is meticulous in her preparation and extremely good on medical cases. She’s got great client care skills, is excellent in cross-examination and will think outside the box.”

Chambers & Partners 2020

‘Can diffuse difficult situations well, she can make tricky points seem straightforward to lay clients and judges alike.’

Legal 500, 2020

Top Tier

Renowned family barrister in high demand due to her deep knowledge of public and private law cases, both at home and abroad. She exhibits strength in the most serious public law cases, including those concerning issues of alleged radicalisation and sexual abuse, and also has experience in private law issues relating to non-traditional families and surrogacy.

Strengths: “She’s a brilliant advocate who is really good at handling vulnerable clients in sensitive cases, whilst also being very tenacious in court.” “Her cross-examination skills are legendary, and she is equally formidable and at ease on her feet making submissions on complex issues of law.”

Chambers & Partners 2019

‘Has an excellent command of her papers.’

Legal 500, 2019

Top Tier

Renowned family junior in high demand due to her deep knowledge of public and private law cases, both at home and abroad. She exhibits strength in the most serious public law cases and private issues concerning non-traditional families and surrogacy.

Strengths: "Direct and clear in her advice." "Her cross-examination skills and eloquent submissions are second to none."

Chambers & Partners 2018
Band 1

'She is a strong lawyer and an excellent advocate.'

Legal 500, 2017

Renowned family junior in high demand due to her deep knowledge of public and private law cases, both at home and abroad. She exhibits strength in public law cases concerning non-traditional families and surrogacy.

Strengths: "She is widely known as the best advocate around in children cases. Her cross-examination skills and eloquent submissions are second to none. She is direct and clear in her advice but caring and empathetic towards her clients."

Chambers & Partners 2017 - Band 1

A sexual abuse case expert.

Legal 500, 2016

Highly regarded for her willingness to take on the most challenging cases in both the public and private children law sphere. She has particular expertise in cases with complex medical issues and those concerning alternative family structures.

Strengths: "She holds enormous gravitas in court and is a superb advocate." "She's extremely good, very energetic, committed and knowledgeable about the law."

Chambers & Partners 2016 - Band 1

'A first-class advocate.'

The Legal 500, 2015

Tackles a broad range of public and private law children work, including cases involving complex issues of surrogacy, non-accidental injury and the examination of complicated matters of medical evidence.

Expertise: "She has a confident and reassuring manner." "She has a wonderful hands-on approach to cases, and is a joy to work with."

Chambers & Partners - Band 1

Sam King - 'A delight to work with, and a formidable advocate.'

The Legal 500, 2014

Draws much praise for her work in complex care cases, including those matters concerning sexual abuse and parents/children with mental health problems.

Expertise: "Outstanding. She's a brilliant advocate, who is incredibly bright and good at handling clients. She is just your dream counsel."

Chambers & Partners 2014
Ranked in Band 1

Sam King Provides 'clear and focused advice'.

Recommended as a Leading Family Junior in the area of Children Law

Legal 500, 2013

The “incisive and pragmatic” Samantha King has a tremendous reputation in children law matters involving care and medical dimensions. Sources suggest that she is a “very accomplished practitioner” who can “make a hopeless case appear to have merit.”

Chambers and Partners 2013

Ranked Band 1

Sam King, who is ‘pre-eminent in the field of public law’.

The Legal 500, 2012

Outstanding performer, Samantha King, who handles a wide range of children matters, both public and private. Sources describe her as a “very smart and impressive advocate who is passionate, experienced and tenacious.”

Chambers and Partners 2012

Ranked Band 1

Sam King is ‘outstanding’.

The Legal 500, 2011

Samantha King represents the full range of parties in public children law. She is praised for her “solid understanding of medical detail and her intuitive feel for strategy.”

Chambers and Partners 2011

Ranked Band 1

Samantha King, who frequently acts for local authorities in care cases.

Chambers and Partners 2010

Sam King is ‘outstanding’, ‘especially in public law’.

Legal 500, 2010

Samantha King has been around the block in relation to both private and public law children cases, and is recognised for her exemplary work in care proceedings.

Chambers and Partners 2009

Chambers and Partners say Sam is “experienced and extremely competent” in child care cases. “Really getting into the papers” and “good with difficult clients,” she also has an interest in international child abduction matters.

Cases

29/06/2021	A Local Authority v (1) M (2) F and (3) A and (4) B (by their guardian)	Sam King KC	[2021] EWFC 10
05/03/2021	AB v CD	Michael Edwards Jacqueline Renton Sam King KC	[2021] EWFC 38
16/09/2020	G (A Child: Child Abduction) [2020]	Henry Setright KC Michael Gration KC Sam King KC Charlotte Baker	[2020] EWCA Civ 1185

10/07/2020	Z (A Child) (DOLS: Lack of Secure Placement) [2020] EWHC 1827 (Fam)	Chris Stevenson Sam King KC Chris Barnes	[2020] EWHC 1827 (Fam)
10/07/2020	Z (A Child : DOLS: Lack of Secure Placement) (2020)	Dorothea Gartland KC Chris Barnes Sam King KC	[2020] EWHC 1827 (Fam)
17/06/2020	SX (A Child) (2020)	Alex Verdan KC John Tughan KC Sam King KC Sally Bradley Greg Davies	[2020] EWHC 1573 (Fam)
05/05/2020	A Local Authority v Mother & Ors (2020)	Alex Verdan KC John Tughan KC Sam King KC Sally Bradley Greg Davies	[2020] EWHC 1086 (Fam)
20/12/2019	C (A Child) (Special Guardianship Order) (2019)	Charlotte Baker Sam King KC	[2019] EWCA Civ 2281
15/11/2019	Re I-L (Children) (1996 Hague Child Protection Convention: Inherent Jurisdiction) [2019]	Sam King KC Jacqueline Renton	
15/11/2019	I-L (Children) (1996 Hague Child Protection Convention : Inherent Jurisdiction)	Deirdre Fottrell KC Sam King KC Jacqueline Renton	[2019] EWCA Civ 1956
02/07/2019	AB v CD & C (2019)	Alex Verdan KC Sam King KC Jacqueline Renton Michael Edwards	[2019] EWHC 1695 (Fam)
09/05/2019	A Local Authority v A Mother & Ors (2019)	Sam King KC	[2019] EWCA Civ 799
16/04/2019	LR v (1) a local authority (2) a mother (3) a father (4) RP (by her children's guardian) (2019)	Sam King KC Private: Oliver Jones	[2019] EWCA Civ 680
27/03/2019	RJ v Tigipko (2019)	Michael Gration KC Sam King KC Ruth Kirby KC Mark Jarman KC	[2019] EWHC 448 (Fam)
19/07/2018	A Local Authority v (1) A Mother (2) A Father (3) A, B, C, D & E (By their Children's guardian) (2018)	Sam King KC Ruth Kirby KC Chris Barnes	[2018] EWHC 1841 (Fam)
08/12/2017	A Local Authority v X, Y and Z (Permission to Withdraw) (2017)	Sam King KC Chris Barnes	[2017] EWHC 3741 (Fam)

13/07/2016	London Borough Tower Hamlets v B [2016]	Alison Grief KC Sam King KC Rebecca Foulkes Chris Barnes	[2016] EWHC 1707 (Fam)
10/06/2016	Re A, B and C (UK surrogacy expenses)	Sam King KC Andrew Powell	[2016] EWFC 33
02/09/2015	G (Children) (2015)	Sam King KC	AC9601870
10/03/2015	MG and JG v JF [2015]	Sam King KC	[2015] EWHC 564 (Fam)
13/01/2015	Re S (A Child) (Habitual Residence & Child's Objections) (Brazil) (2015)	Henry Setright KC Sam King KC	[2015] EWCA Civ 2
04/09/2014	AVH v (1) SI (2) SIV (By Her Guardian Judith Bennett-Hernandez) (2014)	Sam King KC	[2014] EWHC 2938 (Fam)
15/08/2014	P v (1) D (2) X (3) Y (4) Z (2014)	Teertha Gupta KC Sam King KC Private: Hassan Khan Andrew Powell	[2014] EWHC 2355 (Fam)
06/02/2014	Re P (Findings of Fact) (2014)	Sam King KC	[2014] EWCA Civ 89
07/08/2013	IA (A Child) [2013]	Jane Rayson Sam King KC	[2013] EWHC 2499 (Fam)
05/07/2013	Hertfordshire County Council v H [2013]	Alex Verdan KC Sam King KC Alison Grief KC	[2013] EWHC 4049 (Fam)
05/07/2013	M (2013)	Sam King KC Matthew Persson	2013 EWHC 1901 (Fam)
05/05/2013	Re C (A Child) [2013]	Sam King KC	[2013] EWHC 2413 (Fam)
31/01/2013	Re G (A Minor); Re Z (A Minor) [2013] EWHC 134 (Fam)	Sam King KC	[2013] EWHC 134 (Fam)
12/12/2012	W (A Child) [2012]	Sam King KC	[2012] EWCA Civ 1828
01/12/2010	T v T (2010)	Alex Verdan KC Sam King KC	[2010] EWCA Civ 1366
02/02/1999	Re D-R (Adult: Contact) (1999)	Sam King KC	(1999) 1 FLR 1161 : Times, February 8, 1999
19/11/1997	Re M (A Minor) (Adoption or Residence Order) (1997)	Sam King KC	(1998) 1 FLR 570
21/07/1993	Re G (Minors) (Interim Care Order) (1993)	Sam King KC	(1993) 2 FCR 557 : (1993) Fam Law 672 : Times, August 2, 1993