

Andrew Powell

“He’s able to explain complex legal concepts in an accessible way that enables clients to understand the situation. You know his papers will be beautifully prepared and that he will know absolutely everything about the case.”

Chambers & Partners 2020

Experience

Year of Call: 2008

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

University of Manchester (BSocSc Social Anthropology First Class)

University of Leeds (LLM)

BPP Law School (BVC)

Pegasus Scholarship 2013

Bedingfield Scholarship (Gray’s Inn) 2007

Mooting Finalist University of Leeds 2006

Constitutional Law Essay Prize (University of Leeds) 2005

The Professor Max Gluckman Prize (University of Manchester - Awarded for Highest First Class Degree)

Profile

Andrew is widely recognised for his expertise in cases concerning children. His practice focuses on parental disputes about arrangements for children after separation, international children law including



child abduction, and applications to relocate children to another country. He is also in demand in cases where the local authority is involved, including those with complex medical evidence and allegations of sexual abuse.

From 2016-2020 Andrew was led by Alex Verdan QC and Cleo Perry QC representing a core participant in the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (Children in the care of Lambeth Council investigation). He was also led by Cleo Perry QC representing a core participant in a second investigation, also as part of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (Child Sexual Exploitation by Organised Networks investigation).

Andrew brings a calm but knowledgeable approach to his work with parents engaged in disputes about their children. Clients find him approachable and empathetic. He has represented clients in all levels of court, and adopts a courteous but no-nonsense approach to advocacy. His case load is both domestic and international, and he is experienced in dealing with cross-jurisdictional issues, particularly in international adoption and international surrogacy cases. Andrew is also instructed in cases concerning vulnerable adults in forced marriage, stranded spouses and FGM cases.

In addition to his practice focusing on arrangements for children, Andrew has developed a specialist practice advising and representing clients on the law relating to the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008 (surrogacy, parental order applications and fertility treatment) and disputes arising from LGBTQ+ parenting arrangements. Most recently, Andrew appeared as junior counsel on behalf of the AIRE Centre in the Court of Appeal in R (Alfred McConnell) -v- The Registrar General for England and Wales and others [2020] EWCA Civ 559. The appellant sought to appeal a decision of the President of the Family Division in judicial review proceedings concerning the Registrar General's decision to register a trans man who had given birth to a child as the child's mother. In 2014, he worked in Los Angeles in a law firm specialising in surrogacy and fertility law and since his return has been acknowledged as one of the leading barristers in this area, writing surrogacy articles for Family Law Week. Andrew has experience representing, intended parents and surrogates in applications for parental orders as well as parents and fertility clinics in declaration of parentage cases. Andrew's book 'A practical guide to the law in relation to surrogacy' was published in November 2020.

Andrew has experience representing parties in cases concerning deprivation of liberty and best interests in the Court of Protection.

Andrew is also the author of the domestic adoption chapter of Rayden and Jackson on Relationship Breakdown, Finances and Children (2016 edition).

Outside work, Andrew enjoys running and cycling.

Memberships

Gray's Inn

Family Law Bar Association

Association of Lawyers for Children

South Eastern Circuit

FLBA National committee member (2011-2014)

Associate member of the American Bar Association (Family law section)

Child Abduction Lawyers Association

Directories

Children law barrister with a domestic and international practice. He is proficient in child abduction cases

and has particular expertise in surrogacy issues.

Strengths: “A charming and formidable opponent. He undertakes additional research into complex areas of the law, and goes above and beyond the requirements for each hearing.” “His knowledge of surrogacy law is utterly amazing and his passion shines through.”

Chambers & Partners, 2021

‘His knowledge of surrogacy law is second to none and he is a very personable and sensible advocate.’

Legal 500, 2021

A rising presence in the world of private law children work both domestically and abroad, who is proficient in child abduction cases. He has further particular expertise in surrogacy issues.

Strengths: “So obviously knowledgeable, and has a way of clearly demonstrating that knowledge and his legal prowess whilst still being really lovely and chatty with clients in a way that puts them at ease. He’s able to explain complex legal concepts in an accessible way that enables clients to understand the situation. You know his papers will be beautifully prepared and that he will know absolutely everything about the case.”

Chambers & Partners 2020

‘Is quick to assure worried or anxious clients and is a safe pair of hands when you have a complicated matter that needs a detailed solution.’

Legal 500, 2020

A rising presence in the world of private law children work both domestically and abroad, who is proficient in child abduction cases. He has further particular expertise in surrogacy and broader fertility issues.

Strengths: “A warm and persuasive advocate with a real passion and enthusiasm for his work, which shines through in all he does. He has a detailed knowledge and reassuring manner which clients warm to instantly.”

Chambers & Partners 2019

‘A natural and gifted advocate.’

Legal 500, 2019

A rising presence in the world of private law children work both domestically and abroad who is proficient in child abduction cases. He has further particular expertise in surrogacy and broader fertility issues.

Strengths: “His knowledge in surrogacy cases is really second to none. He’s just really personable, gets on really well with clients and is really persuasive with the judges. He’s just got this charm about him that you don’t see with barristers of his call, and is really classy.”

Chambers & Partners 2018

Cases

26/03/2021	AC v CD & Others	Ceri White Andrew Powell Alison Grief QC Rebecca Foulkes Harry Langford	[2021] EWHC 741 (Fam)
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24/06/2020	A (A Child : Surrogacy: S.54 Criteria) (2020)	Andrew Powell Lucy Logan Green	EWHC 1426 (Fam)
23/06/2020	ABC (Appellant) v Principal Reporter and another (Respondents) (Scotland) In the matter of XY (Appellant) (Scotland)	Henry Setright QC Andrew Powell Alan Inglis	[2020] UKSC 26
20/05/2020	Z (Recognition of Foreign Adoption: Refusal) (2020)	Andrew Powell	[2020] EWHC 1829 (Fam)
29/04/2020	R (Alfred McConnell) -v- The Registrar General for England and Wales and others (2020)	Andrew Powell	[2020] EWCA Civ 559 (Court of Appeal Civil division)
25/09/2019	R (on the application of TT) v The Registrar General for England and Wales and others (2019)	Andrew Powell	[2019] EWHC 2384
03/04/2019	G (Children: Intractable Dispute) (2019)	Cleo Perry QC Andrew Powell	[2019] EWCA Civ 548
21/11/2018	Re B (Adoption: Surrogacy and Parental Responsibility) (2018)	Andrew Powell	[2018] EWFC 86
20/12/2017	Re M (Children) (2017)	Jane Rayson Andrew Powell Hassan Khan	[2017] EWCA Civ 2164
30/08/2017	Egeneonu v Egeneonu (Adjournment of Committal Application) (2017)	Andrew Powell	[2017] EWHC 2451 (Fam)
28/08/2017	M v F & SM (Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008) (2017)	Andrew Powell	[2017] EWHC 2176 (Fam)
25/01/2017	A v R and Another (Declaration of Parentage) (2017)	Andrew Powell	[2017] EWHC 396 (Fam)
30/09/2016	Case V (Human Fertilisation And Embryology Act 2008) [2016]	Andrew Powell	[2016] EWHC 2356 (Fam)
29/09/2016	Re B (Foreign Surrogacy) (2016)	Andrew Powell	[2016] EWFC 77 (Fam)
23/09/2016	A (A Child : permission to permanently relocate) (2016)	Andrew Powell	[2016] EWHC 2691 (Fam)
10/06/2016	Re A, B and C (UK surrogacy expenses)	Sam King QC Andrew Powell	[2016] EWFC 33
20/05/2016	Re Z (A Child) (2016)	Teertha Gupta QC Dorothea Gartland Andrew Powell	[2016] EWHC 1191 (Fam)
10/12/2015	F v M & Others [2015]	Andrew Powell	[2015] EWHC 3601 (Fam)
16/11/2015	L (Grave risk of harm) (Children's objections) [2015]	Andrew Powell Jacqueline Renton	[2015] EWHC 3300 (Fam)

11/09/2015	In the matter of HFEA 2008 (Cases A, B, C, D, E, F, G and H Declaration of Parentage) [2015]	Dorothea Gartland Andrew Powell	[2015] EWHC 2602 (Fam)
29/07/2015	Re PG (Children) (2015)	Andrew Powell	AC9601851
30/10/2014	Re IB and EB 2014	Kate Branigan QC Andrew Powell	[2014] EWHC 369 (fam)
15/08/2014	P v (1) D (2) X (3) Y (4) Z (2014)	Teertha Gupta QC Sam King QC Hassan Khan Andrew Powell	[2014] EWHC 2355 (Fam)
06/06/2013	Re P-M [2013]	Andrew Powell	[2013] EWHC 2328 (Fam)
25/07/2012	Re C (A Child) (2012)	Andrew Powell	[2012] EWCA Civ 1281
28/05/2012	H (A Child) [2012]	Teertha Gupta QC Andrew Powell	[2012] EWCA Civ 913
06/12/2011	R v (1) A Local Authority (2) B (3) ABC (By Her Children's Guardian) (2011)	Jane Rayson Andrew Powell	[2011] EWCA Civ 1451