

Chris Barnes

“He’s very intelligent and has picked things up and taken cases to places you wouldn’t think they could go. He’s definitely a rising star.”

Chambers & Partners 2018

Experience

Year of Call: 2008

Practice Areas

- International Children Law
- Private Children Law
- Public Children Law

Direct Access

Direct Access

Awards



Qualifications

MA (Cantab) History

GDL

BVC

Education

St John’s College, Cambridge (2003-6)

City University (2006/7)

Inns of Court School of Law (2007/8)

Profile

Chris specialises in proceedings relating to children whether public, private or international. He is regularly instructed – both in his own right and as a led junior – by local authorities, parents, guardians and other interested parties at all levels including the Family Court, High Court and Court of Appeal.

Chris has been involved in a number of high profile cases concerning contested adoption, the relinquishment of children and risk of radicalisation and his work was recognised as Family Law Junior Barrister of the Year at the Jordan Publishing Family Law Awards 2016.



Chris' practice covers the full range of cases concerning children whether in the course of local authority initiated proceedings or in private applications. His practise encompasses cases of the utmost gravity – including sexual abuse and serious inflicted injuries – alongside those with novel or contentious legal issue. He brings his experience, sensitivity and commitment to bear in ensuring that his clients – whether parents, professionals or others – are supported and represented through the litigation process.

Chris has been at the forefront of a number of cases concerning the risk of radicalisation in a family law context and has experience of representing both local authorities and parents. He was instructed in one of the first cases to use wardship in the context of teenage girls said to be at risk of travelling to Syria. He has an extensive knowledge of the issues involved as well as experience of contested applications concerning disclosure of sensitive material and reporting restrictions.

In his work relating to adoption Chris has been instructed in a number of contentious adoption application and has been involved in long-running adoption proceedings, acting for a father seeking the rehabilitation of his daughter, heard by the President over 3-weeks following two hearings in the Court of Appeal. He has also developed a specialism in cases concerning relinquished infants where he has acted for, and advised, local authorities as well as having represented family members.

Chris is a reviewer and undertakes work for the Bar Pro Bono unit and is committed to ensuring that where his clients may be more vulnerable – by virtue of language, disability or geographical location – are properly protected and represented before the Court.

Chris writes and lectures regularly with a particular focus on public law proceedings, adoption and radicalisation.

Away from work Chris is a dedicated runner: he ran the 2016 London Marathon on behalf of St John Ambulance and is a regular parkrunner. (www.parkrun.com)

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Memberships

Honourable Society of Gray's Inn
Family Law Bar Association
Association of Lawyers for Children

Recommendations

"All the legal teams in these proceedings have worked tirelessly to ensure this hearing has remained effective. The challenges caused by the volume of disclosure and the management of ensuring only what was relevant was in the court bundle have been considerable... The local authority are to be commended for taking the necessary steps to ensure sufficient resources were available to manage this case. The court is particularly grateful to Miss Taylor and Mr Barnes for their part in the considerable logistical arrangements of this case." – Judgment from a High Court Judge following a lengthy fact-finding concerning the death of a child acting as a second Junior for the Local Authority

"The parties have all been ably represented. I understand that those who represent Mother only had funding for this final hearing confirmed last week. I am bound to say that I have been greatly assisted by counsel for Mother, whose penetrating cross examination enabled the court to hear the full detail of the Local Authority's difficulties in a way that might not otherwise have been achieved." – Judgment from a Circuit Judge following a final hearing representing a mother seeking the discharge of a care order

Directories

A well-respected junior who is increasingly well-versed in matters concerning the overlap between public law and international children issues. He has additional experience in cases involving radicalisation and also enjoys particular renown for his work in abduction cases.

Strengths: "He's highly intelligent and brilliant with clients."

Chambers & Partners 2020

'Highly intelligent and meticulous, he will not leave any stone unturned; a fearless and eloquent advocate.'

Legal 500, 2020

A well-respected junior who is increasingly well versed in matters concerning the overlap between public law and international children issues. He has experience in cases involving contested adoption and relinquished children. He enjoys particular renown for his work in radicalisation cases, and often appears in the High Court.

Strengths: "He's a very good lawyer and an excellent advocate. If there isn't an answer, he'll find one."

Recent work: Represented the local authority in proceedings concerning the risk of radicalisation with regard to a mother and baby who had just returned from Syria.

Chambers & Partners 2019

'His paperwork is exceptional.'

Legal 500, 2019

A well-respected junior who is increasingly well versed in matters concerning the overlap between public law and international children issues. He has experience in contested adoption, relinquished children and radicalisation cases.

Strengths: "He's very intelligent and has picked things up and taken cases to places you wouldn't think they could go. He's definitely a rising star."

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Cases

23/01/2020	Re T (A Child) (2020)	Rob Littlewood Chris Barnes Harry Langford	[2020] EWFC 4
20/11/2019	A City Council v A Mother & Ors	Cyrus Larizadeh QC Chris Barnes Brian Jubb Mani Basi	[2019] EWHC 3076 (Fam)
31/07/2019	M (Children) (2019)	Chris Barnes	[2019] EWCA Civ 1364
12/06/2019	Re T (A Child) (2019)	Chris Barnes	[2019] EWHC 1572 (Fam)
07/03/2019	Re Q (Child - Interim Care Order - Jurisdiction) (2019)	Chris Barnes	[2019] EWHC 512 (Fam)

14/01/2019	TAN (a child) (child death; fact finding) (2019)	Alison Grief QC Chris Barnes	[2019] EWFC B78
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 QC Ruth Kirby Chris Barnes	[2018] EWHC 1841 (Fam)
10/07/2018	Child & Family Agency (Ireland) v (1) M (2) F (3) Denbighshire County Council (4) Flintshire County Council (5) J (By his Child's guardian) (2018)	Henry Setright QC Chris Barnes	[2018] EWHC 1581 (Fam)
22/06/2018	A Local Authority v A Mother & Ors (Welfare)	Chris Barnes Cleo Perry QC	[2018] EWHC 2056 (Fam)
06/06/2018	Re IM sub nom Secretary of State for the Home Department v (1) LG (2) IM (3) JM (2018)	Ruth Kirby Chris Barnes	
01/05/2018	Child & Family Agency of Ireland v (1) A Mother (2) A Father (3) A Local Authority (2018)	Henry Setright QC Chris Barnes	[2018] EWHC 939 (Fam)
05/03/2018	A Local Authority v A Mother & Ors (Fact-Finding)	Alison Grief QC Chris Barnes Cleo Perry QC	[2018] EWHC 2054 (Fam)
08/12/2017	A Local Authority v X, Y and Z (Permission to Withdraw) (2017)	Sam King QC Chris Barnes	[2017] EWHC 3741 (Fam)
12/07/2017	W (A Child - No 4) (2017)	Chris Barnes	[2017] EWHC 1760 (Fam)
26/05/2017	A Local Authority v HB (Alleged Risk of Radicalisation and Abduction) (2017)	Private: Oliver Jones Chris Barnes	[2017] EWHC 1437 (Fam)
17/04/2017	Re W (A Child) (No 2) (2017)	Chris Barnes	[2017] EWHC 917 (Fam)
12/04/2017	Re W (A Child) (2017)	Chris Barnes	[2017] EWHC 829 (Fam)
31/03/2017	Re C (A Child) (No 2) (Application for Public Interest Immunity) (2017)	Alex Verdan QC Chris Barnes	[2017] EWHC 692 (Fam)
21/03/2017	HB v A Local Authority and Anor (Wardship - Costs Funding Order) (2017)	Charles Hale QC Teertha Gupta QC Private: Oliver Jones Chris Barnes	[2017] EWHC 524 (Fam)
06/03/2017	Re W (A Child) (2017)	Chris Barnes	[2017] EWHC 829 (Fam)
11/01/2017	Re C (A Child) (2016)	Alex Verdan QC Chris Barnes	[2016] EWHC 3171 (Fam)

08/12/2016	Re C (A CHILD) sub nom Tower Hamlets London Borough Council v (1) M (2) F (3) C (A Child by his Guardian Ad Litem) (4) Secretary Of State For The Home Department (2016)	Alex Verdan QC Chris Barnes	[2016] EWHC 3171 (Fam)
14/10/2016	Re RA (Baby Relinquished for Adoption) (2016)	Alex Verdan QC Kate Branigan QC Chris Barnes	[2016] EWFC 47
09/09/2016	Re M (Children) (2016)	Chris Barnes Jane Rayson	[2016] EWCA Civ 937
13/07/2016	London Borough Tower Hamlets v B [2016]	Alison Grief QC Sam King QC Rebecca Foulkes Chris Barnes	[2016] EWHC 1707 (Fam)
03/03/2016	Re JL and AO 2016	Henry Setright QC Chris Barnes	[2016] EWHC 440 (Fam)
11/12/2015	Re H (A Child) [2015]	Chris Barnes	[2015] EWCA Civ 1284
27/08/2015	London Borough of Tower Hamlets v B [2015]	Chris Barnes	[2015] EWHC 2491 (Fam)
20/08/2015	Re S [2015]	Chris Barnes	[2015] EWHC 4159 (Fam)
22/07/2015	Re W (Adoption Application: Reunification with Family of Origin) [2015]	Chris Barnes	[2015] EWHC 2039 (Fam)
02/07/2015	Re R (A Child) (2015)	Henry Setright QC Sally Bradley Chris Barnes	[2015] EWCA Civ 674
11/06/2015	Re H (Children) (2015)	Kate Branigan QC Chris Barnes	[2015] EWCA Civ 583
27/03/2015	Tower Hamlets London Borough Council v M & Others (2015)	Chris Barnes	[2015] EWHC 869 (Fam)
19/03/2015	SR (A Child: Habitual Residence) [2015]	Henry Setright QC Sally Bradley Chris Barnes	[2015] EWHC 742 (Fam)
03/12/2014	X (Discharge of Care Order)	Chris Barnes	[2014] EWFC B217
20/06/2014	Local Authority 1 & Others v AF (Mother) & Others [2014]	Sally Bradley Chris Barnes	[2014] EWHC 2042 (Fam)