

Chris Barnes

"Chris is an excellent all-rounder. His knowledge of the law is flawless, but it is his compassion and care with clients that is most impressive."

Chambers and Partners, 2024

Experience

Year of Call: 2008

Practice Areas

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

Direct Access

Direct Access



Family Law
Awards 2021
LexisNexis

Headline Partner

4pb Four
Paper
Buildings

SHORTLISTED FOR:
FAMILY LAW CASE OF THE YEAR

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

Directories

"He is an absolute powerhouse, who is willing to go out of his way for clients."

"He is creative in his thinking and doesn't miss an opportunity to challenge the other side's position."

"Chris is an excellent all-rounder. His knowledge of the law is flawless, but it is his compassion and care with clients that is most impressive."

Chambers and Partners, 2024

'Chris is academically sharp, thoughtful and insightful with his cases. He relishes the law and is committed to making sure it progresses to reflect society. He is excellent to work with as part of a team – pleasant yet oozing confidence.'

Legal 500, 2024

"A very bright and extremely impressive junior, who has very good client skills and is really good on the law. He's nice to work with."

"Chris is an excellent barrister, who's incredibly knowledgeable about the law and has a personable, calm and sensitive approach with clients, including very vulnerable people."

Chambers and Partners, 2023

'Chris is a very experienced and highly effective children's junior with a formidable track record of experience and success in dealing with complex, cutting-edge public law cases with an international dimension. His knowledge of the law and procedure is encyclopedic, and his intellectual agility is matched by a forceful yet pragmatic approach that makes him attractive to specialist solicitors, not least to those at local authorities and other institutional clients.'

Legal 500, 2023

"He's hard-working and absolutely dedicated to his clients." "He handles detailed, complex cases with alacrity and ease." "Chris is clever, calm, approachable and collaborative. He always responds to queries or requests for help as quickly as he can."

Recent work: Represented the local authority in an appeal concerning a child who was vaccinated while in care. The main issue was whether a local authority with a care order could vaccinate a child despite parental objections.

Chambers & Partners, 2022

'A talented junior unafraid to take on cases from which others might shy away.'

Legal 500, 2022

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: "An extraordinarily prolific advocate who appears in cases against silks unled. He has a demon brain and is a superb cross-examiner."

Recent work: Represented an appellant father in an effort to restrict disclosure to the police of information arising from family proceedings. The information concerned alleged radicalisation of a family who had returned from Syria.

Chambers & Partners, 2021

'A highly intelligent, knowledgeable barrister who is a skilled advocate.'

Legal 500, 2021

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."

Chambers & Partners 2018

Cases

21/02/2023	Re C ('Parental Alienation': Instruction of Expert) (2023)	Barbara Mills KC Charles Hale KC Joy Brereton KC Chris Barnes Charlotte Baker Frankie Shama	[2023] EWHC 345 (Fam)
10/12/2021	Griffiths v Tickle & Ors (2021)	Deirdre Fottrell KC Chris Barnes Charlotte Baker	[2021] EWCA Civ 1882
30/07/2021	Griffiths v Tickle & Ors (2021)	Chris Barnes Charlotte Baker	[2021] EWHC 3365 (Fam)

20/07/2021	Re D (Care Proceedings: 1996 Hague Convention: Article 9 Request)	Henry Setright KC Chris Barnes	[2021] EWHC 1970 (Fam)
13/05/2021	London Borough of Barnet v AG & Others (2021)	Jo Delahunty KC Chris Barnes Lucy Logan Green	[2021] EWHC 1253
30/03/2021	Re H-N and Others (Children) (Domestic Abuse: Finding of fact hearings)	Christopher Hames KC Charlotte Baker Jo Delahunty KC Chris Barnes Charles Hale KC Adele Cameron-Douglas Rebecca Foulkes Miriam Best Teertha Gupta KC Matthew Persson Clarissa Wigoder Mark Jarman KC Michael Gration KC Barbara Mills KC Joy Brereton KC Emma Spruce	[2021] EWCA Civ 448
11/03/2021	Re Z (A Child) (2nd Judgment) (Rev 1) [2021]	Andrew Powell Chris Barnes	[2021] EWHC 559 (Fam)
18/12/2020	A Local Authority v A Mother & Ors (2020)	Andrew Powell Chris Barnes Harry Langford	[2020] EWHC 3496 (Fam)
24/08/2020	(1) NP (2) JP (3) GP v (1) A LOCAL AUTHORITY (2) NN (3-5) TN, JN & AN (BY THEIR CHILDREN'S GUARDIAN) (2020)	Chris Barnes	(1) NP (2) JP (3) GP v (1) A LOCAL AUTHORITY (2) NN (3-5) TN, JN & AN (BY THEIR CHILDREN'S GUARDIAN) (2020)
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)
04/06/2020	Re B-T (A Child) (Threshold Conditions) (2020)	Alison Grief KC Chris Barnes	[2020] EWCA Civ 697
28/05/2020	A Local Authority v AG (No. 2) (2020)	Jo Delahunty KC Chris Barnes Lucy Logan Green	[2020] EWHC 1346 (Fam)

22/05/2020	Re H (A Child) (Parental Responsibility: Vaccination) (2020)	Alison Grief KC Rob Littlewood Chris Barnes Harry Langford	[2020] EWCA Civ 664
07/04/2020	London Borough of Tower Hamlets v Mother & Ors (2020)	Rob Littlewood Chris Barnes Harry Langford	[2020] EWHC 832 (Fam)
03/04/2020	Prospective adopters v LB Tower Hamlets (2020)	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)
03/03/2020	A Local Authority v AG [2020] EWFC 18	Jo Delahunty KC Chris Barnes Lucy Logan Green	[2020] EWFC 18
28/02/2020	Re I (Children: Child Assessment Order) (2020)	Chris Barnes	[2020] EWCA Civ 281
28/02/2020	I (Children: Child Assessment Order)	Amean Elgadhry Chris Barnes	[2020] EWCA Civ 281
07/02/2020	Re T (A child) (2020)	Chris Barnes	[2020] EWHC 220 (Fam)
23/01/2020	Re T (A Child) (2020)	Rob Littlewood Chris Barnes Harry Langford	[2020] EWFC 4
17/12/2019	S and T (Children: care orders) (2019)	Jo Delahunty KC Chris Barnes Private: Joanne Porter	[2019] EWHC 3851 (Fam)
20/11/2019	A City Council v A Mother & Ors	Cyrus Larizadeh KC Chris Barnes Brian Jubb Mani Singh 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 KC 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 KC Ruth Kirby KC 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 KC Chris Barnes	[2018] EWHC 1581 (Fam)
22/06/2018	A Local Authority v A Mother & Ors (Welfare)	Chris Barnes Cleo Perry KC	[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 KC Chris Barnes	
01/05/2018	Child & Family Agency of Ireland v (1) A Mother (2) A Father (3) A Local Authority (2018)	Henry Setright KC Chris Barnes	[2018] EWHC 939 (Fam)
05/03/2018	A Local Authority v A Mother & Ors (Fact-Finding)	Alison Grief KC Chris Barnes Cleo Perry KC	[2018] EWHC 2054 (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)
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 KC Chris Barnes	[2017] EWHC 692 (Fam)
21/03/2017	HB v A Local Authority and Anor (Wardship - Costs Funding Order) (2017)	Charles Hale KC Teertha Gupta KC 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 KC 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 KC Chris Barnes	[2016] EWHC 3171 (Fam)

14/10/2016	Re RA (Baby Relinquished for Adoption) (2016)	Alex Verdan KC Kate Branigan KC 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 KC Sam King KC Rebecca Foulkes Chris Barnes	[2016] EWHC 1707 (Fam)
03/03/2016	Re JL and AO 2016	Henry Setright KC Chris Barnes	[2016] EWHC 440 (Fam)
11/12/2015	Re H (A Child) [2015]	Chris Barnes	[2015] EWCA Civ 1284
21/08/2015	London Borough of Tower Hamlets v B [2015]	Deirdre Fottrell KC 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 KC Sally Bradley Chris Barnes	[2015] EWCA Civ 674
11/06/2015	Re H (Children) (2015)	Kate Branigan KC Chris Barnes	[2015] EWCA Civ 583
27/03/2015	Tower Hamlets London Borough Council v M & Others	Chris Barnes	[2015] EWHC 869 (Fam)
19/03/2015	SR (A Child: Habitual Residence) [2015]	Henry Setright KC 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)