Miriam Best

Year of Call: 2015

‘Miriam demonstrates exceptional emotional intelligence. Her ability to manage and support a distressed client with empathy, patience, and clear communication is particularly impressive, and she remains calm and composed throughout, building trust and providing clear, strategic advice.’
Legal 500, 2026

Practice Areas
International Children Law
Private Children Law
Public Children Law

Direct Access

Education & Qualification
- ADR Group Accredited Civil & Commercial Mediator

- BPP University – Bar Professional Training Course
- University of Exeter –LLB Hons

Overview

Miriam is a specialist family law practitioner, who is also direct access qualified. Miriam is recognised for her strong children practice across the public, private and international fields. She joined chambers in October 2018 after successful completion of her pupillage.

Solicitors frequently instruct Miriam in particularly challenging matters concerning domestic abuse particularly those involving serious sexual abuse, domestic abuse and parental alienation. Miriam has a growing specialism in complex internal & international abduction and relocation disputes. Miriam's wider expertise includes secure accommodation orders, forced marriage, recovery orders and deprivations of liberty.

In addition to her court work, Miriam volunteers at the Temple Legal Advice Clinic. She is part of the managing committee for YRES London and co-edits the quarterly 4PB Private Law Children updates.

Miriam was ranked as a leading junior in Legal 500 in both 2025 and 2024 and as a rising star in 2023.

Prior to her career at the Bar, Miriam worked as a family law senior paralegal at Stewarts, specialising in high net worth financial remedies and private children law.

Professional Memberships

Lincoln's Inn
Family Law Bar Association
Child Abduction Lawyers Association
Association of Lawyers for Children
Resolution
Women In Family Law
YRes London Committee Member

Private Children Law

Miriam appeared in the Court of Appeal in Re H-N and Others (Children) (Domestic Abuse: Finding of fact hearings) [2021] EWCA Civ 448, led by Charles Hale KC and Rebecca Foulkes. The case concerned allegations of coercive and controlling behaviour; when and how fact-finding hearings should take place and the interplay with criminal law principles. Miriam presented a Resolution seminar on the Court of Appeal judgment. Subsequently, Miriam appeared in the first reported case following the guidance in Re H-N namely Re JK (A Child) (Domestic Abuse: Finding of Fact Hearing) [2021] EWHC 1367 (Fam).

Miriam is regularly instructed in complex private law matters across all stages of proceedings including enforcement. She frequently acts in cases involving serious

allegations of domestic abuse, coercive and controlling behaviour, parental alienation and consolidation with proceedings under the Family Law Act 1996. Miriam has extensive experiences in lengthy fact-finding hearings and working with vulnerable clients and witnesses. Miriam also specialises in applications made by grandparents for contact.

International Children Law

Miriam was second junior for the father in his appeal against a refusal to summarily return the children to Mauritius (C v M (A Child) (Abduction: Representation of Child Party) [2023] EWCA Civ 1449). The case was joined with Re D (Abduction: Child's Objections: Representation of Child Party) [2023] EWCA Civ 1047. In the two judgments the Court of Appeal gave guidance on the proper role of a 'solicitor-guardian' in child abduction proceedings under the Hague Convention.

Miriam represented the father in A v B & Anor [2023] EWHC 3041 (Fam). Miriam persuaded the court to make what the Judge described as a 'highly unusual' order for the interim return of the child to Ireland, pending the final hearing of her client's application for summary return under the Hague Convention.

Miriam appears in the High Court in child abduction matters and represents parents in applications for leave to remove to Hague and non-Hague Convention countries. Miriam appeared in C v R [2022] EWHC 3588 (Fam), FJ v LT [2023] EWHC 1783 (Fam), J.W.K v D.A.W [2022] EWHC 2597 and J (A child : Hague Child Abduction Convention: Physical Chastisement and Homophobic Abuse) [2018] EWFC 85 by way of examples. Miriam also appeared in SZ v DG & PG v LG [2020] EWHC 881 (Fam) seeking permission to make an Article 21 application whilst a Section 91(14) order was in place against her client. She has also represented parties in committal applications following non-compliance with passport orders.

Public Children Law

Miriam was led by June Venters KC in a long-standing public law case, in which they represented a vulnerable mother who required the assistance of both an intermediary and interpreter. The case the Judge had to determine the remit of questioning that could be put to a child making allegations of sexual abuse: Re E (A Child: Questioning of Vulnerable Witness) [2019] EWHC 3808 (Fam). There was a lengthy fact-finding hearing (Re E (Care Proceedings: Fact Finding) [2020] EWFC 24) and welfare determination (Re E (Care Proceedings: Welfare Determination) [2021] EWFC 52), both spanning a number of weeks and a large quantity of expert evidence.

Miriam also maintains an active public law practice of her own, acting for local authorities, parents and children's guardians in proceedings involving domestic abuse, sexual abuse, substance misuse and mental health problems. She also has experience in secure

accommodation orders, forced marriage and deprivation of liberty. Miriam in particular successfully represented a mother opposing both a recovery order and deprivation of liberty order for her 17-year old vulnerable son to be placed in a residential placement. She has also assisted in training expert witnesses at the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health.

Directories

‘Miriam is always prepared. She is always willing to go the extra mile and is reassuring to vulnerable and anxious clients.’
Legal 500, 2025

‘Miriam is meticulous in her preparation and skilled in dealing with complex children’s matters, including serious allegations of domestic violence. She approaches every case with empathy. She is very thorough in her preparation of cases and an excellent advocate.’
Legal 500, 2024

‘Miriam is an excellent advocate. She is able to absorb large amounts of information quickly and get to the nub of a case. She has an empathetic approach to tricky cases, and works well with vulnerable clients. Her drafting is of the highest standard, supplements her oral advocacy to make her convincing and compelling representative for her client.’
Ranked: Tier 1
Legal 500, 2023