



Joanna Cross

1981-1984 – University of St. Andrews
1984 – B.Sc. (Medical Science)
1984-1987 – University of Manchester
1987 – M.B.Ch.B.
1990-1991 – City University, London
1991 – Diploma in Law
1991-1992 – Inns of Court School of Law

1992 – Called Lincoln's Inn

Legal Experience

Came to the Bar in Leeds as an independent practitioner in 1992 and completed a pupillage in 1993. Practice in all aspects of Family law and act for the GMC.

Areas of Practice:

Family Law

Is experienced in the management of Public and Private Law cases concerning children. Appears in Public and Private Law cases in the High Court and County Court and represents the Official Solicitor.

Has experience in ancillary relief including section 37 proceedings and appeals and in contested divorce including instruction by the Queen's Proctor.

Public Law

Represents parties at all stages of care proceedings including:

- Emergency protection orders
- Applications for assessment under s.38(6) Education Act 1989
- Finding of fact hearings
- Applications to discharge
- Applications for secure accommodation
- Applications for freeing and adoption

Private Law

Represents parties in disputes over all issues of private family law including:

- Residence and contact orders
- Parental responsibility orders
- Prohibited step orders
- Specific issue orders
- Leave to remove a child from jurisdiction, and
- Medical treatment orders

Acts for those involved in domestic injunction applications and the enforcement of domestic injunctions by committal proceedings.

Represents parties involved in proceedings arising out of the abduction of a child including actions under the Hague Convention and actions for recovery of a child.

Ancillary Relief

Represents parties at Financial Dispute Resolution and Final Hearing. Advises in conference before offers of settlement and acts in applications involving third parties such as those under S.37 Matrimonial Causes Act 1975.

Cases of Importance

Public Law:

- Infant injuries including shaking, attempted drowning, death of a child and injury resulting in significant disability
- Sexual abuse within the family and involving a paedophile ring
- Internet child pornography
- Parents with learning disabilities
- Parents with mental illness
- Representation of grandparents
- Separate representation of older children in care proceedings

Private Law:

- Severe and systematic domestic violence
- Cultural and racial issues including racism
- Representation of grandparents and other members of the extended family
- Abduction and removal from the jurisdiction
- Cases involving s.9(5) appointment of Guardian for the child

Ancillary Relief

- Conduct issues involving domestic violence and dishonesty

- S.37 applications where attempts have been made to dispose of matrimonial assets
- Proceeds of Crime

Previous Experience

Before coming to the Bar was employed for 3 years as a junior doctor in General and Chest Medicine, Oncology and Obstetrics and Gynaecology.

Has found that experience in the medical profession is invaluable in the assimilation of medical notes, the comprehension of medical reports and in direct involvement with medical expert witnesses.

Additional Information

Member of Specialist Associations: Family Law Bar Association

Member of the local FLBA committee helping to organise teaching seminars
Speaks regularly at events on family law organised by chambers