



# Charlene Henderson

## Barrister

Year of Call: 2009

**Inn of Court:** Lincoln's Inn

**Degree:** LL.B Law (Hons), University of Sussex

**Bar Vocational Course:** BPP Law School, London

**Practice Areas:** Family Law (Public and Private Law Children)

**Profile:** Charlene practices exclusively in children matters, covering all aspects of private and public children's work in the family field. Charlene began her practice in both crime and family; her mixed practice has equipped her with knowledge of the crossover between the criminal and family jurisdictions. Charlene conducted her last ever criminal case in the Court of Appeal.

Charlene has experience in representing local authorities, parents, interveners, related parties, children's guardians and competent children at all stages of care proceedings. She appears before all levels of the judiciary, including in the High Court and Court of Appeal. Her work in this field includes:

- Fact finding hearings comprising serious non-accidental injury ('shaken' baby allegations, multiple fractures and multiple bruising).
- Fact finding hearings involving sexual abuse allegations.
- Re-litigation/challenge to historic findings.
- FDAC proceedings.
- Mental illness.
- Serious domestic violence.
- Chronic neglect.

Charlene has a particular interest in handling difficult and complex cases where her clients have mental health issues or learning difficulties,

including when the client is represented by the Official Solicitor. She is a popular choice for representing young clients given her pragmatic yet sensitive approach.

She also accepts instructions to act for applicants and respondents in applications for child arrangements orders under the Children Act 1989 and for injunctions under the Family Law Act 1996.

Charlene takes a dedicated approach to all of her cases and has a reputation for representing clients with passion and conviction. She has a fierce tenacity in the courtroom and has been described as an "impressive advocate" with an "astonishing command of her case". Her knowledge, preparation and organisation of papers has been referred to as "exceptional".

### **Background:**

Upon completion of her studies at Sussex University, Charlene volunteered at the Free Representation Unit, she worked as a Freelance County Court Advocate and worked as a Convener and Lecturer of the ILEX course at Bedford College.

### **Public Access scheme:**

Charlene is able to accept instructions under the Public Access scheme.

