



# Hannah Mettam

## Barrister

Year of Call: 2006

**Inn of Court:** Inner Temple

**Degree:** LLB (Hons), 1st Class, Nottingham Trent University

**BVC:** Nottingham: Result- Very Competent

**Practice** - public law Children, and some private law children in cases where serious allegations are made.

### Listed as a leading junior in Family and Children Law in the legal 500.

Hannah is a specialist in Children Act proceedings. Her practice consists largely of public law proceedings in which she represents the full range of parties; the Local Authority, parents (including through the Official Solicitor) the children's Guardian and children who require representation separately from their Guardian. Hannah has acted in many complex cases both with and without leading counsel and has appeared in a number of high profile and interesting cases including being lead by Michelle Christie of Chambers in a medically complex case termed by Mr. Justice Keehan to be the worst example of child abuse he had ever had the misfortune to deal with in his 30 years on the Bench and at the Bar.

Hannah has particular expertise in the following areas:

- Serious injuries to children
- Complex medical cases.
- Sexual abuse including inter-familial and inter-sibling abuse.
- Care proceedings where there are concurrent criminal proceedings and/or PII issues, assisted by her early career at the Bar as a criminal practitioner.
- Proceedings in which Human Rights Act breaches are alleged.

On occasions Hannah conducts complex Private Law Children proceedings in which:-

- Allegations of abuse are raised or other allegations leading to a fact-finding exercise being required

- Parental Alienation is considered an issue
- Abduction is an issue

Hannah is popular with both professional and Lay Clients as a result of;

- Her meticulous and thorough preparation of cases.
- The quality and detail of her written work.
- Her level of client care and commitment to continuity and conferencing with clients
- Her robust and effective cross-examination techniques of witnesses, ranging from Expert and professional witnesses to lay witnesses. In Judgments Hannah's cross-examination has been termed by the Court to be "formidable," "impressive," and "powerful," making her a popular choice in cases involving fact-finding hearings.

### Reported Cases

R (Cooke) v DPP (2008) EWHC 2703 (Admin)

NCC v L & Another (2014) EWHC 4828 (Fam)

ED, Re [2015] EWFC B84 (29 May 2015)

P (A Child), Re [2018] EWCA Civ 720 (11 April 2018)

### Pro bono work

Hannah has demonstrated a genuine commitment to pro bono representation and is also willing to continue to represent clients in circumstances where funding is no longer available when this is required.

