



PARK
SQUARE

BARRISTERS

James Hargan

Call: 1990

Children Law

Ranked in Tier 1 for Family and Children Law – The Legal 500 (2019)

“Incisive and client focused.” – The Legal 500 (2019)

“Very experienced in cases of non-accidental injuries to children.” – The Legal 500 (2017)

“Recommended for public law children cases.” – The Legal 500 (2016)

“He is just so intelligent and analytical. He has a forensic skill for unpicking documents, seeing things that others overlook. He is supremely intelligent.” – Chambers and Partners (2016)

“Very detailed in his approach to a case; his preparation is excellent.” – The Legal 500 (2015)

James Hargan is a skilled and formidable advocate with considerable and wide-ranging experience acquired over 20 years in practice. He has very substantial experience in all courts up to the level of the Court of Appeal, particularly in matters before the High Court, and regularly appears against leading counsel.

He practises exclusively in civil (family, non-family and Court of Protection) work, where he has an enviable reputation for meticulous preparation and in-depth case knowledge, skilled drafting, and a polished performance in court. He is a strategic thinker with a fine eye for detail, and a trusted performer known for his sound advice and approachability.

“Highly experienced counsel with excellent technical skills and the ability to reassure clients in difficult and challenging circumstances.”- Chambers and Partners (2017)

“A strategic thinker and trusted performer, known for his approachability, sound advice and polished performance in court”.

Child injury & death

James has a particular specialism and expertise in cases concerning serious non-accidental injuries to children, and child deaths, and is very experienced in dealing with cases featuring complex medical evidence from a range of medical and scientific disciplines, including in relation to mental health issues. He regularly acts for children, local authorities, and parents. He has a particular interest in cases turning on paediatric neuro-radiology.

Lecturing



Education:

1988 University of the West Midlands, LLB (Hons)

1989 Inns of Court School of Law, Bar Finals

Career:

1990 After pupillage, tenant at 10/11 Grays Inn Square, London

1991 Tenant at 32 Park Square, Leeds (later 30 Park Square & Sovereign Chambers)

2004 Tenant at Sovereign Chambers

2009-2012 Joint Head of family team at Sovereign Chambers

2012 Deputy Head of Sovereign Chambers

2015 Sovereign Chambers becomes Park Square Barristers

He regularly delivers lectures to other practitioners on current legal developments in family law. James also delivers seminars for local-authority social-services professionals and solicitors on topics including complex-case preparation and court skills.

Approach

James is highly IT literate and very adaptable in his work practices. He is happy to assist by telephone and email, and offers flexible conferencing and site-visit arrangements to suit lay clients and instructing solicitors.

Notable cases

-
- Re B (A Minor)(Secure Accommodation) [1994] 2 FLR 707 – Divisional Court

 - A-G's Ref No 4043 of [1997](#) [[1997](#)] EWCA Crim 3207 – Court of Appeal Criminal Division

 - Arshid Hussain, R -v-, [1999] EWCA Crim 827 – Court of Appeal Criminal Division

 - Re F (Adoption: Freeing Order) [2000] 2 FLR 505 – Court of Appeal, Civil Division

 - Gough & Smith -v- Chief Constable Derbys & Ors [2001] EWHC Admin 554 – Administrative Court

 - Re F (a child) [2006] EWCA Civ 1426 – Court of Appeal, Civil Division

 - Re M (Care; Disclosure to Police) [2008] 2FLR 390 – High Court, Family Division.
-

Contact James' clerks

[Claudine Cooper](#) on [0113 202 8604](#)

[Paul Foster](#) on [0113 213 5209](#)

Regulatory & Public

James has over 25 years experience in work involving the factual and forensic investigation of serious injuries to children, and infant death. That experience and specialism has been extensively deployed in the Family Court, routinely at High Court level and against Leading Counsel.

More recently in the Coroner's court, where James sits as an Assistant Coroner. Whilst remaining approachable and accessible to clients, James' court work, both written and oral, is focused and analytical, and he is a confident and formidable cross-examiner of experts.

Contact James' clerk

[Madeleine Gray](#) on [0113 202 8603](#)

Court of Protection & Adult Care

James Hargan *'He shows great attention to detail and a high level of client care'* – Legal 500 (2014)

James Hargan is a formidable and highly skilled advocate. His 20 years in practice provide him with a wealth of experience across a wide range of legal areas, as well as substantial experience in all courts up to the level of the Court of Appeal. He is especially experienced in matters coming before the High Court, and regularly appears against leading counsel.

He practises exclusively in family, civil and Court of Protection work, and has earned an enviable reputation for meticulous preparation and in-depth case knowledge, skilled drafting, and a polished performance in court. He is widely recognised as a trusted performer, known for his sound advice and approachability. He puts clients at ease.

Mental health/capacity

James is highly experienced in dealing with cases featuring mental health/capacity issues. He has particular expertise in cases concerning serious non-accidental injuries to children, and child deaths, and handles cases involving complex medical evidence from a wide range of medical and scientific disciplines.

Lecturing

He regularly lectures to other legal practitioners on developments in family law and non-family civil litigation. He also offers training to social-services professionals and solicitors in local authorities, covering topics such as the preparation of complex cases and courtroom skills.

Approach

James is happy to assist by email and telephone, and is flexible about arranging site visits and conferences to suit lay clients and instructing solicitors. He is IT literate and very adaptable in his working practices.

A strategic thinker and trusted performer, known for his approachability, sound advice and polished performance in court

Contact his clerk

[Claudine Cooper](#) on [0113 202 8604](#)

[Paul Foster](#) on [0113 213 5209](#)