

## Miriam Best

'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

### Experience

Year of Call: 2015

### Practice Areas

- Financial Remedies
- International Children Law
- Private Children Law
- Public Children Law

### Direct Access

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### Qualifications

ADR Group Accredited Civil & Commercial Mediator

### Education

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

### Profile

Miriam has a busy practice in all areas of family law. She joined chambers in October 2018 after successful completion of her pupillage under the supervision of Henry Clayton, Jacqueline Renton and Cleo Perry QC. She has experience across public, private and international children law and in financial matters.

### International

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 PG v PR [2018] EWFC 85 where she represented the respondent father in an application for the summary return of a child to Portugal. 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.

### **Private Law**

Miriam recently 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 QC 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 alongside Adele Cameron-Douglas. 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 allegations of domestic abuse, parental alienation and consolidation with proceedings under the Family Law Act 1996. She has also successfully represented a client to obtain a declaration of marital status following a Syrian marriage and subsequent divorce.

### **Public Law**

Miriam has been led by June Venters QC 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. There was a lengthy fact-finding hearing and welfare determination, 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.

### **Financial Remedies**

Miriam has frequently represented clients at all stages of financial proceedings, including but not limited to MPS applications and enforcement. She has assisted with drafting Section 25 statements and First Appointment documentation on a regular basis. Miriam has recently co-authored an article with Henry Clayton about the impact of Brexit on jurisdiction in matrimonial proceedings.

### **Previous experience**

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. She has also volunteered for family schemes and charities, including the BPP Family Legal Advice Clinic and National Centre for Domestic Violence. Through her work she has gained valuable experience assisting litigants in person and advising parties on matters relating to financial remedies, child arrangements and applications for injunctive relief under the Family Law Act 1996.

In her spare time, Miriam can be found travelling, taking photographs and attending concerts and theatre productions.

## Memberships

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

## Directories

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### 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

## Cases

|            |                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                            |
|------------|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 06/12/2023 | C v M (A Child) (Abduction: Representation of Child Party) | Ruth Kirby KC<br>Adele Cameron-Douglas<br>Miriam Best<br>Mark Jarman KC<br>Mani Singh Basi<br>Christopher Hames KC<br>Indu Kumar<br>Charlotte Baker<br>Deirdre Fottrell KC<br>Henry Setright KC<br>Harry Langford | [2023] EWCA<br>Civ 1449                    |
| 21/05/2021 | JK (A Child), Re (Domestic Abuse: Finding of Fact Hearing) | Alistair G Perkins<br>Miriam Best                                                                                                                                                                                 | [2021] EWHC<br>1367 (Fam) (21<br>May 2021) |

|            |                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                     |
|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 30/03/2021 | Re H-N and Others (Children) (Domestic Abuse: Finding of fact hearings)                     | Christopher Hames KC<br>Charlotte Baker<br>Jo Delahunty KC<br>Chris Barnes<br>Charles Hale KC<br>Adele Cameron-Douglas<br>Rebecca Foulkes<br>Miriam Best<br>Teertha Gupta KC<br>Matthew Persson<br>Clarissa Wigoder<br>Mark Jarman KC<br>Michael Gration KC<br>Barbara Mills KC<br>Joy Brereton KC<br>Emma Spruce | [2021] EWCA Civ 448 |
| 18/12/2018 | PG v PR (Hague Child Abduction Convention: Physical Chastisement & Homophobic Abuse) (2018) | Mark Jarman KC<br>Miriam Best                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | [2018] EWFC 85      |