

Frankie Shama

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Legal 500, 2025

Experience

Year of Call: 2020

Practice Areas

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

Direct Access

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Education

City Law School: Bar Professional Training Course (BPTC) – Very Competent (2020)

BPP Law School: Graduate Diploma in Law (GDL) – Distinction (2018)

University of Oxford: English Language and Literature, BA – First Class (2015)

Profile

Frankie is a family law barrister accepting instructions in all areas of family law, with a particular focus on private and international children disputes. He has experience representing clients from first to final hearing at all levels up to and including the High Court, including in complex fact-finding hearings and multi-day final hearings. He has also appeared numerous times in the Court of Appeal. He is confident acting alone or as junior counsel.

Frankie was shortlisted for Family Law Young Barrister of the Year at the Lexis Nexis Family Law Awards in both 2022 and 2023.

Private Children Law

Frankie is regularly instructed in complex private law cases concerning child arrangements and appears at all stages of proceedings including fact finding and final hearings. He regularly undertakes work involving allegations of domestic abuse and coercive and controlling behaviour.

Frankie has particular experience in cases involving allegations of alienating behaviours having co-authored [A Practical Guide to Parental Alienation in Private and Public Law Children Cases \(Law Brief Publishing, 2022\)](#) with Sam King KC. He gives lectures and seminars on the subject and has been



involved in several cases at fact finding and final hearing stage, including cases involving children represented by r.16.4 guardians and the challenging of expert evidence. He was led by Charles Hale KC on behalf of the father in the matter of Re C ('Parental Alienation': Instruction of Expert) [2023] EWHC 345 (Fam), an appeal before the President of the Family Division, in which the court gave essential guidance on the instruction of expert psychologists within disputes involving allegations of alienating behaviours.

Frankie has experience of relocation matters, including relocation within and outside of the jurisdiction. He recently represented a mother seeking permission to relocate to Germany in the matter of D v T [2023] EWFC 285, where he successfully cross-examined the Cafcass officer involved, and obtained an order granting permission for her to relocate with the children.

Frankie was led by Alex Verdan KC in the Court of Appeal in Re G (Children) (Supervised Contact) [2023] EWCA Civ 1453 where they successfully represented the mother in a case concerning whether the trial Judge had fallen into error in requiring the father to engage in a course of psychotherapy prior to the development of unsupervised contact.

Frankie also accepts instructions in matters concerning applications for non-molestation and occupation orders under the Family Law Act 1996.

International Children Law

Frankie appears in the High Court in child abduction matters pursuant to both the 1980 Hague Convention and the Inherent Jurisdiction. He also has experience of cases involving the recognition and enforcement of foreign orders under the 1996 Hague Convention. He undertakes work at all stages of proceedings, from urgent applications to contested multi-day final hearings.

He was led by Ruth Kirby KC in the matter of NT v HT [2021] EWHC 3231, representing the applicant maternal grandparents in a decision which involved consideration of inchoate rights of custody. He also has experience of summary return proceedings involving non-Hague Convention states having successfully represented the respondent mother in the matter of WX v YZ [2021] EWHC 3725, a case concerning an application for summary return of children to Dubai, where he was led by Alex Verdan KC.

Frankie was part of the team intervening on behalf of the International Academy of Family Lawyers' (IAFL) in the appeal to the US Supreme Court in the case of Golan v Saada (No. 20-1034). He contributed to the written amicus brief for this appeal, which focused on the correct approach to Article 13(b) of the 1980 Hague Convention. He was also part of the team intervening on behalf of the IAFL in the seminal case of London Borough of Hackney v P & Ors [2023] EWCA Civ 1213, where the Court of Appeal clarified the relevant date for determining habitual residence pursuant to Article 5 of the 1996 Hague Convention.

Family Finance

Frankie undertakes work in financial remedy proceedings at all stages of proceedings including FDAs, FDRs and final hearings. He has experience in claims under section 37 of the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973, and matters involving alleged disposition of property and other assets to defeat a claim.

Frankie further represents clients in proceedings brought under Schedule 1 of the Children Act 1989.

Frankie also has experience in contested divorce proceedings. He was Junior Counsel to Charles Hale KC in the matter of Boughajdim v Hayoukane [2022] EWHC 2673. He successfully represented the petitioner wife in a decision in which Mr Justice MacDonald considered the question of whether the petitioner's divorce petition should be allowed to proceed in this jurisdiction, based on a marriage that has been recognised by the Moroccan court and registered in Morocco pursuant to legislation designed to provide

retrospective recognition of marriage in that jurisdiction.

Public Children Law

Frankie undertakes work at all stages of public law proceedings. He represents the local authority, parents and guardians alike, and has experience in matters involving allegations of physical and sexual abuse within care proceedings.

He appeared un-led, successfully representing the local authority in the Court of Appeal in Re B (A Child) [2021] EWCA Civ 1221. This case considered whether the court had struck the correct balancing exercise in refusing to dispense with the requirement that a local authority give notice of care proceedings to a father who did not have parental responsibility for the subject child.

More recently, he appeared in Re C (A Child) (Ability to Instruct Solicitor) [2023] EWCA Civ 889, representing the mother in a successful appeal to the Court of Appeal against an order to join an severely alienated child to proceedings and allow them to instruct their own solicitor in circumstances where part of the judicial consideration had derived from evidence improperly gathered during a meeting between the Judge and child.

Surrogacy

Frankie represents applicants in applications for parental orders pursuant to the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008. As part of this work and his wider practice he has experience working with LGBT parents and families.

Training/Publications

A Practical Guide to Parental Alienation in Private and Public Law Children Cases (Law Brief Publishing, 2022)

'The use of experts in private children family disputes involving allegations of parental alienation', The Barrister (April 2023)

Memberships

The Honourable Society of Gray's Inn
Family Law Bar Association
Young Legal Aid Lawyers

Testimonials

"I was thoroughly impressed with Frankie's diligence, work ethic and attention to detail ... He has exceptional instincts and an all-encompassing knowledge of the law. He has very quickly become one of my 'go-to' barristers and I cannot recommend him strongly enough."

(Partner, Tier 1 Legal 500 Firm)

Directories

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Cases

27/02/2025	Re A (A Child) (Abduction: Adjournment following Refusal of Legal Aid)	Frankie Shama	[2025] EWHC 484 (Fam)
15/11/2024	Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust v Neriman Braqi & Anor	Cleo Perry KC Frankie Shama	[2024] EWHC 2910 (Fam)
30/10/2024	R (Child Abduction: Parent's Refusal to Accompany) (Rev1)	Teertha Gupta KC Ruth Kirby KC Mani Singh Basi Frankie Shama	[2024] EWCA Civ 1296
31/07/2024	A v M & Ors	Teertha Gupta KC Christopher Hames KC Mark Jarman KC Indu Kumar Mani Singh Basi Ralph Marnham Frankie Shama Alexandra Halliday	[2024] EWHC 2020 (Fam)
31/07/2024	KC v CS	Frankie Shama	[2024] EWHC 2115 (Fam)
31/07/2024	A v M & Ors	Teertha Gupta KC Christopher Hames KC Mark Jarman KC Indu Kumar Mani Singh Basi Ralph Marnham Frankie Shama Alexandra Halliday	[2024] EWHC 2020 (Fam)
19/03/2024	R v M (Hague Convention; Withdrawal of Application and Art. 16 (Parental Responsibility))	Christopher Hames KC Mark Jarman KC Michael Gratton KC Jacqueline Renton KC Mani Singh Basi Frankie Shama	[2024] EWHC 720 (Fam)
29/02/2024	U v E	Frankie Shama	[2024] EWFC 39
11/12/2023	D v T	Frankie Shama	[2023] EWFC 286 (B)
07/12/2023	G (Children) (Supervised Contact) Re	Ruth Kirby KC Charlotte Baker Alex Verdan KC Frankie Shama	[2023] EWCA Civ 1453
19/10/2023	London Borough of Hackney v P & Ors	Henry Setright KC Jacqueline Renton KC Charlotte Baker Frankie Shama	[2023] EWCA Civ 1213
26/09/2023	D v T	Frankie Shama	[2023] EWFC 285 (B)

26/07/2023	Re C (Child: Ability to Instruct Solicitor)	Joy Brereton KC Frankie Shama	[2023] EWCA Civ 889
18/05/2023	LKM v NPM	Alex Verdán KC Ruth Kirby KC Frankie Shama	[2023] EWFC 118
18/04/2023	M (A Child: Leave to Oppose Adoption)	Rebecca Foulkes Frankie Shama	[2023] EWCA Civ 404
21/02/2023	Re C ('Parental Alienation'; Instruction of Expert)	Barbara Mills KC Charles Hale KC Joy Brereton KC Chris Barnes Charlotte Baker Frankie Shama	[2023] EWHC 345 (Fam)
04/11/2022	Laila Boughajdim v Akka (Alan) Slimane Hayoukane	Charles Hale KC Frankie Shama	[2022] EWHC 2673 (Fam)
15/07/2022	LKM v NPM (Fact Finding: Domestic Abuse: Evidence - Non-compliance with Guidance)	Frankie Shama Alex Verdán KC	[2022] EWHC 140 (Fam)
08/12/2021	WX v YZ	Alex Verdán KC Frankie Shama	[2021] EWHC 3725 (Fam)
26/11/2021	T v T & Ors	Frankie Shama Ruth Kirby KC	[2021] EWHC 3231 (Fam)
13/08/2021	B (Children), Re	Frankie Shama	[2021] EWCA Civ 1221