

John Tughan KC

'He is all over the issues. He knows what you're going to ask and is able to cut through the issues. His cross-examination is succinct and does the job effectively.'

Chambers and Partners 2025

Experience

Year of Call: 1991

Year of Silk: 2015

Practice Areas

- Private Children Law
- Public Children Law

Direct Access

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Qualifications

LLB (Hons)

Education

Campbell College, Belfast

Liverpool University, LLB (Hons) 1990

Profile

John has been a care practitioner since he was called to the Bar in 1991. He is routinely instructed in the most complex cases, including fact-finding hearings, final hearings and appeals. Those cases include expert medical evidence at the most complex end of the range and John is well known as an expert cross-examiner of such experts. His client care skills and ability to work as part of a team are also well known.

John is also experienced in media management and the legal framework involved.

Those skills translate to John's Private Law practice which includes intractable disputes, client management, the interplay between private disputes and all of the fact-finding issues and allegations that can arise in such proceedings.

John has experience in Judicial Review proceedings that include issues of family law.



Publications/Training

John has written the Public Law update for Family Law Week for many years.

Memberships

Family Law Bar Association
Midland Circuit
Inner Temple

Directories

"He is all over the issues. He knows what you're going to ask and is able to cut through the issues. His cross-examination is succinct and does the job effectively."

"He prepares meticulously and is a joy to work with."

"He has an ability to dissect the facts that's combined with brilliant advocacy as well as being down to earth."

Chambers and Partners, 2025

"He is a master of his brief and always robustly puts his client's case forward."

"John Tughan prepares meticulously and is amazing on his feet."

Chambers and Partners, 2024

Has expertise in both public and private children proceedings. He possesses great experience of handling complex cases concerning abuse at the most serious end of the spectrum. Tughan is particularly effective in matters concerning allegations of fabricated illness, risk assessment and medical issues.

Strengths: "Careful, deft and a warm person to deal with, he has a searing intellect." "A tough opponent, a fantastic cross-examiner and a seriously impressive court advocate. He is also great to work with and hugely popular with clients from all walks of life."

Chambers & Partners, 2021

Has expertise in both public and private children proceedings. He possesses great experience of handling complex cases concerning abuse at the most serious end of the spectrum. Tughan is particularly effective in matters concerning allegations of fabricated illness, risk assessment and medical issues.

Strengths: "John's enthusiasm and his mature and accomplished delivery of his advocacy is addictive to watch."

Chambers & Partners 2020

Has expertise in both public and private children proceedings. He possesses great experience of handling complex cases concerning abuse and relocation matters at the most serious end of the spectrum. He is particularly effective in matters concerning allegations of fabricated illness, risk assessment and medical issues.

Strengths: "His unique selling point is his ability to deliver mesmerising, meticulously prepared, compelling and superbly executed written and oral submissions. He is calm, intelligent and approachable, and has stellar client care skills."

Chambers & Partners 2019

Has expertise in both public and private children proceedings. He possesses great experience of handling complex cases concerning abuse and relocation matters at the most serious end of the spectrum. He is

particularly good at matters concerning fabricated allegations, risk assessment and medical issues. Strengths: "He's a heavyweight in children matters who is empathetic, expert in his field, knowledgeable and powerfully persuasive."

Chambers & Partners 2018

Has expertise in both public and private children proceedings. He possesses great experience of handling complex cases concerning abuse and relocation.

Strengths: "Tenacious, hardworking and willing to push the boundaries for his clients." **Chambers & Partners 2017**

Equally adept at dealing with both public and private law children cases. His expertise includes serious physical abuse and child abduction matters. He is respected by his peers for his work ethic and tenacity.

Strengths: "He is a very capable opponent, who is a good cross-examiner and persuasive in negotiations. He's a very reasonable opponent and a good person to do business with." "Dedicated and tenacious. He will leave no stone unturned."

Chambers & Partners 2016

Deals with both public and private law proceedings, including cases of serious or fatal injury or sexual abuse, or those concerning challenging medical evidence.

Expertise: "He believes in them and will fight for them however hopeless the case seems."

Chambers & Partners 2015

Represents children, parents and local authorities, among others, in complex and high-profile care cases, and enjoys a fine reputation for his work on matters pertaining to death, injury and sexual abuse.

Expertise: "He is focused and tenacious – a real fighter and an excellent advocate."

Chambers & Partners 2014

The "charming and well-prepared" John Tughan is a well-respected specialist in care proceedings and private law matters such as contact and residence.

Chambers & Partners 2013

John Tughan "wastes no time in getting to the gist of the matter," and stands out for his impressive public law children practice. He represents children, parents, interveners and the local authorities in the most complex matters.

Chambers and Partners 2012

John Tughan, meanwhile, is highly regarded for representing local authorities in public children law proceedings.

Chambers and Partners 2011

John Tughan's advocacy is clear, persuasive and direct, and he is well liked in the profession.

Chambers and Partners 2010

John Tughan is described as a "no nonsense barrister" with public and private law proceedings at the heart of his practice.

Chambers and Partners 2009

His "firm but approachable style" and "ability to smooth the waters" has won him a loyal following of

many solicitors [Chambers & Partners 2005]. John is described as “excellent in both advocacy and substantive law.”

Chambers & Partners 2008

Cases

13/09/2024	Y, V & B (Fact-Finding: Perpetrator)	John Tughan KC	[2024] EWCA Civ 1034
21/07/2023	London Borough of Newham v A Mother & Ors	John Tughan KC	[2024] EWFC 51
28/04/2023	J (Children: Reopening Findings of Fact)	John Tughan KC	[2023] EWCA Civ 465
11/01/2023	G & H (Children: Placement for Adoption)	John Tughan KC	[2023] EWFC 31
20/09/2021	B-M (Children: Findings of Fact)	John Tughan KC	[2021] EWCA Civ 1371
22/01/2021	JB (A Child), Re (Sexual Abuse Allegations)	John Tughan KC	[2021] EWCA Civ 46
17/06/2020	SX (A Child)	Alex Verdan KC John Tughan KC Sam King KC Sally Bradley Greg Davies	[2020] EWHC 1573 (Fam)
18/05/2020	London Borough of Southwark v A Family	John Tughan KC Mani Singh Basi	[2020] EWHC 3117 (Fam)
05/05/2020	A Local Authority v Mother & Ors	Alex Verdan KC John Tughan KC Sam King KC Sally Bradley Greg Davies	[2020] EWHC 1086 (Fam)
05/05/2020	A Local Authority v Mother & Ors	Alex Verdan KC John Tughan KC Sam King KC Sally Bradley Greg Davies	[2020] EWHC 1086 (Fam)
21/11/2019	Re A (No. 2) (Children: Findings of Fact)	John Tughan KC Rebecca Foulkes	[2019] EWCA Civ 1947
25/09/2019	A (Children), Re (Rev 1)	Teertha Gupta KC John Tughan KC Cliona Papazian Jacqueline Renton KC	[2019] EWHC 2334 (Fam)
17/06/2019	M (Deprivation of Liberty in Scotland)	John Tughan KC	[2019] EWHC 1510 (Fam)
30/11/2018	A County Council v A Mother & Ors	John Tughan KC	[2018] EWHC 3283 (Fam)

16/11/2018	Re X (A Child)	John Tughan KC	[2018] EWHC 3883 (Fam)
31/08/2018	M v Derbyshire County Council & Ors	John Tughan KC	[2018] EWHC 3734 (Fam)
25/07/2018	A (Children)	John Tughan KC Rebecca Foulkes	[2018] EWCA Civ 1718
16/03/2018	Re A	John Tughan KC	[2018] EWFC B34
22/12/2017	L (A Child), Re	John Tughan KC Rebecca Foulkes	[2017] EWHC 3707 (Fam)
29/09/2017	H (A Child : Hair Strand Testing)	John Tughan KC Paul Hopher	[2017] EWFC 64
25/04/2017	Re R-T	John Tughan KC	[2017] EWFC B17
08/03/2017	SW & TW (Children : Human Rights Claim: Procedure) (Rev 1)	John Tughan KC	[2017] EWHC 450 (Fam)
06/02/2017	Camarthenshire County Council v HM & Ors	Alison Grief KC John Tughan KC Dorothea Gartland KC	[2016] EWFC 60
30/01/2017	Re SL (Permission to Vaccinate)	John Tughan KC	[2017] EWHC 125 (Fam)
04/08/2016	Medway Council v MI & Ors	John Tughan KC Private: Joanne Porter	[2016] EWFC 74
24/02/2016	Re AD & AM (Fact-Finding hearing) (Application for re-hearing)	John Tughan KC Sally Bradley Julia Townend	[2016] EWHC 326 (Fam)
04/02/2016	C (Children)	Alison Grief KC John Tughan KC	[2016] EWFC B45
17/09/2015	H v A (No.2)	John Tughan KC	[2015] EWHC 2630 (Fam)
02/09/2015	RY v Southend Borough Council	John Tughan KC Sally Bradley	[2015] EWHC 2509 (Fam)
04/08/2015	In the Matter of M (A Child)	John Tughan KC Rebecca Foulkes	[2015] EWFC 71
25/02/2015	G (A Child)	John Tughan KC	[2015] EWCA Civ 119
20/02/2015	Re G (A Child)	John Tughan KC	[2015] EWCA Civ 119
15/10/2013	Re AK and MK (Fact finding: physical injuries) (2013)	John Tughan KC	[2013] EWHC 3158 (Fam)
08/10/2012	Re L [2012]	John Tughan KC	[2012] EWHC 3069 (Fam)

01/06/2012	A Local Authority and C and D and A & B (by their Childrens Guardian)	Alex Verdan KC John Tughan KC	[2012] EWHC 1975 (Fam)
11/02/2011	A Local Authority v C (2011)	Alex Verdan KC Kate Branigan KC John Tughan KC	[2011] EWHC 231 (Fam)
08/01/2009	F and L v A Local Authority and A	John Tughan KC	[2009] EWHC 140 (Fam), [2009] 2 FLR 1312, Hedley J.
04/11/2008	R (on the application of (1) Ainsworth T (2) Thermutis T (3) S v Newham London Borough Council (2008)	John Tughan KC	[2008] EWHC 2640 (Admin); (2009) 1 FLR 311
05/03/2008	Lambeth London Borough Council (applicant) v (1) S (2) C (3) v (4) J (by his children's guardian n) (respondents) & (1) Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis (2) Secretary of State for the Home Department (intervenors) [2007]	John Tughan KC	1 FLR 152, [2006] EWHC 326 (Fam)
22/11/2007	B County Council v R (2007)	John Tughan KC	[2007] EWHC 2742 (Fam); (2008) 1 FLR 1252
13/03/2007	Re L (Special Guardianship: Surname)	John Tughan KC	2 FLR 50, CA [2007] EWCA Civ 196