

Sally Bradley

'Sally has excellent forensic analysis of the evidence and the relevant law. She is hard-working and thoughtful, with great communication skills. She has the ear of the judge and is eloquent but down-to-earth, sensible yet creative, and judges respond to her very well.'

Legal 500, 2024

Experience

Year of Call: 1989

Practice Areas

- Court of Protection - Vulnerable Adult
- Direct Access
- Private Children Law
- Public Children Law

Dispute Resolution

- Collaborative Law
- Mediation
- Private FDR and Early Neutral Evaluation

Direct Access

Direct Access



Education

BA (Hons) French Birmingham University
Certificate of Deaf Education
CPE (Central London)

Languages

French, German



Appointments

Family Law Bar Association Committee 2007-2010

Profile

Sally's principal focus is cases involving children and vulnerable adults. She is regularly instructed in complex care proceedings where there are parallel criminal proceedings, and an unusual expert component

She is regularly instructed by local authorities, parents, and children's guardians in the most serious medical cases involving non accidental injuries, fatalities, fabricated illness as well as cases involving human trafficking, and serious sexual, physical and emotional abuse.

Sally has been instructed in two (reported) cases involving allegations of factitious and induced illness.

Sally is also instructed in private law cases involving child protection, mental health, intractable contact disputes in families where there is a non-traditional structure or co-parenting arrangement or serious allegations of coercive control. She is in a unique position in that up to 2006 her practice was split equally between crime (sexual assault) and family, thereby equipping her with all the necessary forensic skills and in-depth advocacy experience, which she employs to maximum effect in the family court.

Her Court of Protection practice consists of health and welfare cases with a particular focus on medical treatment disputes including proposed withdrawal of treatment.

Sally has developed a recognised expertise in cases brought under the Inherent Jurisdiction concerning vulnerable adults who have been coercively controlled or emotionally exploited by a family member or friend. She recently represented a young adult whose sister's treatment programme was frustrated by a family member opposed to conventional medicine

She represented a father in a case where the mother was refusing radiotherapy for their son and had gone into hiding with the child to evade treatment.

Court of Protection

Sally specialises in a range of Court of Protection matters including deprivation of liberty cases, Section 21A applications and cases dealing with complex care packages.

She is regularly instructed in emergency applications, cases with issues in respect of local authorities' safeguarding duties and contested hearings on issues regarding the appointment of deputies

She regularly acts for local authorities, family members, NHS Trusts and litigation friends.

Sally has considerable expertise in complex family disputes involving care and residence for adults who lack capacity.

Private Children Law

Sally has a strong private law practice. She is renowned for her sensitive handling of vulnerable clients in cases of coercive control, domestic abuse and parental manipulation of children where a parent is

suffering from serious psychiatric or psychological issues.

She has extensive experience of contested residence disputes involving relocation

Sally is recognised for her sharp, strategic and tactical approach to cases. She has an extensive knowledge of mental health and medical issues and is known for her highly focused forensic and cross examination skills.

Public Children Law

Sally is instructed in care proceedings and complex adoption cases.

She was instructed in a long running reported adoption case in which she succeeded in revoking an adoption order for two sisters on the cusp of adulthood.

Sally regularly advises local authorities on evidence gathering and disclosure in complex care cases, procedure where the care plan is placement outside the jurisdiction and general planning, policy and procedure.

Sally has a sharp eye for detail and is particularly skilled and experienced at perusing, assessing, collating and condensing extensive medical records and digital material into a more accessible format.

Memberships

Family Law Bar Association
Association of Lawyers for Children
Criminal Bar Association
Liberty
Affiliate Member of Resolution

Directories

"Sally brings something different to the Bar. She is calm and considered. Her knowledge of the law is excellent, but she also uses other skills to make clients feel comfortable and listened to."

Chambers and Partners, 2025

'Sally's advocacy is exceptional. A junior with great flair.'

Legal 500, 2025

"She is a fantastic barrister, who is sensitive to her client's needs, empathetic and a pleasure to instruct."

"She leaves no stone unturned when challenging the evidence, and is a force to be reckoned with on her feet."

"Lovely to spend time with as she carefully and effectively plots her case."

Chambers and Partners, 2024

'Sally has excellent forensic analysis of the evidence and the relevant law. She is hard-working and thoughtful, with great communication skills. She has the ear of the judge and is eloquent but down-to-earth, sensible yet creative, and judges respond to her very well.'

Legal 500, 2024

"Likeable, friendly and someone with a good knowledge of the law, she's well prepared and always

available for a chat about a case whether it is one she's been instructed on or not."

"She's brilliant with clients - fair but firm, she makes them feel understood and listened to. She's calm and clear in court too."

Chambers and Partners, 2023

'Sally has an in depth knowledge of the law, and her preparation is extremely thorough, and the quality of her written documents is superb. She is approachable and always relates to clients well. Her advocacy is brilliant.'

Legal 500, 2023

"An experienced senior junior who is approachable and well liked by clients. She can handle all levels of work." "She works incredibly hard and deals with clients in an empathetic way." "She does not shy away from asking difficult questions and probing the evidence in fact-finding matters."

Chambers & Partners, 2022

Sally is a phenomenal advocate. Incisive, incredibly intelligent and tremendous in court, she also demonstrates superb client care.'

Legal 500, 2022

Specialises in complex public law children issues involving serious abuse and injury. She acts on behalf of parents, children and local authorities and has particular experience in matters with concurrent criminal proceedings, having previously practised criminal law herself.

Strengths: "Sally is a compassionate and focused advocate." "Humble and accessible, she deals with the most complicated cases." "Experienced, confident and has a good sense of humour, which is important in this line of work."

Chambers & Partners, 2021

'Has an unshakable calm, an insightful brain and excellent client management.'

Legal 500, 2021

Specialises in complex public law children issues involving serious abuse and injury. She acts on behalf of parents, children and local authorities and has particular experience in matters with concurrent criminal proceedings, having previously practised criminal law herself.

Strengths: "She's knowledgeable about the law, and a firm, thorough advocate. You know she's going to put the client's case across accurately."

Chambers & Partners 2020

'A persuasive advocate who is also empathetic with clients.'

Legal 500, 2020

Specialises in complex public law children issues involving serious abuse and injury. She acts on behalf of parents, children and local authorities and has particular experience in matters with concurrent criminal proceedings, having previously practised criminal law herself.

Strengths: "You know she'll do a case beautifully, transparently and professionally. She's a brilliant cross-examiner."

Chambers & Partners 2019

'Has a very loyal client following, no doubt due to the incredible attention she gives to each case.'

Legal 500, 2019

Specialises in complex public law children issues involving serious abuse and injury. She acts on behalf of parents, children and local authorities and has particular experience in matters with concurrent criminal proceedings, having previously practised criminal law herself.

Strengths: “When you’re dealing with really complex care cases involving vulnerable people, families and children who may not be able to return to their parents, you need someone who can be extremely child-focused and think carefully and pragmatically about the issues. That’s what she does.”

Chambers & Partners 2018

‘Her knowledge is unmatched.’

Legal 500, 2017

‘Very good with vulnerable clients.’

Legal 500, 2016

Cases

| | | | |
|------------|---|---|---|
| 09/08/2021 | Re Z (Care Proceedings: Special Guardianship: Competing Placements) | Sally Bradley | [2021] EWFC 70 |
| 23/04/2021 | AX v BX & Ors (Revocation of Adoption Order) (Rev 1) | Sally Bradley | [2021] EWHC 1121 (Fam) (23 April 2021) |
| 23/04/2021 | AX v BX & Ors (Revocation of Adoption Order) (Rev 1) | Deirdre Fottrell KC Sally Bradley | [2021] EWHC 1121 (Fam) |
| 17/06/2020 | SX (A Child) (2020) | Alex Verdan KC John Tughan KC Sam King KC Sally Bradley Greg Davies | [2020] EWHC 1573 (Fam) |
| 05/05/2020 | A Local Authority v Mother & Ors (2020) | 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) |
| 12/12/2019 | Y (A Child), Re | Sally Bradley | [2019] EWCA Civ 2209 |
| 04/04/2019 | B (Children: Uncertain Perpetrator) [2019] EWCA Civ 575 | Chris Stevenson Sally Bradley | [2019] EWCA Civ 575 |
| 04/04/2019 | Re B (Children: Uncertain Perpetrator) (2019) | Sally Bradley | [2019] EWCA Civ 575 |

| | | | |
|------------|--|---|---|
| 19/05/2017 | Westminster City Council v H | Sam King KC Joanne Brown KC Sally Bradley | [2017] EWHC 1221 (Fam) |
| 16/03/2017 | H (A Child), Re (Interim Care Order : fact finding) | Alex Verdan KC Joanne Brown KC Sam King KC Sally Bradley | Re (Interim Care Order : fact finding) [2017] EWHC 518 (Fam) |
| 16/11/2016 | Re AD & AM (Children) (Fact Finding: Re-Hearing) (2016) | Sally Bradley Julia Townend | [2016] EWHC 2912 (Fam) |
| 24/02/2016 | Re (1) AD (2) AM (Children) (2016) | John Tughan KC Sally Bradley Julia Townend | [2016] EWHC 326 (Fam) |
| 29/09/2015 | Re Q (A Child) (2015) | Sally Bradley | [2015] EWCA Civ 991 |
| 02/09/2015 | RY v Southend Borough Council [2015] | John Tughan KC Sally Bradley | [2015] EWHC 2509 (Fam) |
| 02/07/2015 | Re R (A Child) (2015) | Henry Setright KC Sally Bradley Chris Barnes | [2015] EWCA Civ 674 |
| 11/06/2015 | Re A (A Child) (2015) | Sally Bradley | [2015] EWHC 1709 (Fam) |
| 19/03/2015 | SR (A Child: Habitual Residence) [2015] | Henry Setright KC Sally Bradley Chris Barnes | [2015] EWHC 742 (Fam) |
| 21/08/2014 | Re F (A Child) (2014) | Jane Rayson Sally Bradley David Bedingfield | AC9201158 |
| 12/08/2014 | W (Children) [2014] | Sally Bradley | [2014] EWCA Civ 1303 |
| 20/06/2014 | Local Authority 1 & Others v AF (Mother) & Others [2014] | Sally Bradley Chris Barnes | [2014] EWHC 2042 (Fam) |
| 20/07/2012 | A Council v (1) M (2) F (3) A (4) B, C, & D (By Their Children's Guardian) (Reporting Restrictions) (2012) | Sally Bradley | [2013] 2 FLR 1270 : [2013] Fam Law 970 : [2012] EWHC 2038 (Fam) |
| 17/07/2012 | A Council v (1) M (2) F (3) A (4) B, C, & D (By Their Children's Guardian) (Welfare) (2012) | Sally Bradley | [2013] 2 FLR 1261; [2012] EWHC 4242 (Fam) |
| 08/03/2012 | A Council v M and Others (No 1) (Fact-finding; Adoptive Child; Artificial Insemination) [2012] | Sally Bradley | [2013] 2 FLR 1229; [2012] EWHC 4241 (Fam) |
| 12/04/2010 | A London Borough Council v K & others | Alex Verdan KC Sally Bradley | [2009] EWHC 850 |
| 08/02/2008 | Haringey London Borough Council v S | Sally Bradley | [2007] 1 FLR 387 |