

Cliona Papazian

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Legal 500, 2025

Experience

Year of Call: 1994

Practice Areas

- International Children Law
- Private Children Law

Direct Access

Direct Access

Education

BA MA (National University of Ireland, University College Cork)

LLB (National University of Wales, College of Cardiff)

Profile

Cliona is an experienced, specialist barrister valued for her tenacious, persuasive clear oral and written advocacy and court room and client skills. Her breath of experience is reflected in over 55 reported cases often involving novel or complicated legal arguments. She is instructed by parents and often on behalf of the subject child. She regularly appears in the High Court but also has extensive experience in the Family Courts. She inspires confidence and combines an approachable, straightforward style with excellent attention to detail. She brings both legal knowledge and pragmatism to a case and works tirelessly to achieve the best outcome for her client. Cliona is often against leading counsel and has led junior counsel. She is unphased when required to present difficult arguments to a court and will courteously and effectively stand her ground. Her recent cases include H v A [2024] EWHC 476 (Fam); H v A [2024] EWHC 997 (Fam), B v N (no2) [2024] EWHC 17 (Fam), MB v KB & ors [2023] EWHC 3177, OZ V ML & ors [2023] EWHC 2412 (Fam), Re S [2023] EWHC 2717 (Fam) and D v T [2023] EWHC 1247 (Fam). Clients value her support and commitment to their cases and her ability to give clear focused advice. She works in all aspects of children law including:

- Arrangements for children after divorce or separation, including intractable disputes and those involving allegations of violence or abuse;
- Specific issues regarding children's upbringing, including schooling, medical treatment and change of name;
- Requests to take children abroad, either temporarily or permanently;
- Enforcement of (and changes to) existing orders regarding children, including those made abroad;



Children cases with an international dimension, including child abduction.

Memberships

Family Law Bar Association

Inner Temple

Child Abduction Lawyers Association

Recommendations

"I have had the privilege of instructing Cliona on numerous complex matters over the years including multiple successful Court of Appeal cases and she is simply first rate. Her expertise in international matters and complex private law disputes is renowned, especially those requiring a forensic approach and clear and concise written legal argument. Even when dealing with voluminous paperwork, she never misses a trick and can always spot the winning argument for a client which can turn a case in your client's favour, often against the odds. She is extremely well respected by the judiciary and across the legal profession. Cliona always strives to achieve the best outcome for her clients and works tirelessly on their behalf. Her breadth of knowledge across her practice, her experience and her advocacy skills mean that she is always in demand and at the cutting edge of legal precedents, particularly in cases with an international element."

Laura Coyle, Partner, Freemans Solicitors

"I have worked with Cliona Papazian for several years in her capacity as an International Family Law Barrister. I have always found her to be an extremely thorough and tenacious advocate. She is a formidable opponent and shows a genuine interest in every case she is involved in."

Simon Craddock, Partner, Brethertons Solicitors

"I regularly instruct Cliona in respect of international children cases and complex private law cases. Cliona is always thoroughly prepared and has extensive knowledge and experience in respect of international children law and complex private children matters. Cliona is a gifted advocate and strategically always on point. Cliona is great to work with and has always considered a case from every possible angle."

Gemma Kelsey, Partner, LDJ Solicitors

"My partner applied to the court for permission to take our two very young boys to New Zealand. I cannot highly enough recommend Cliona; she helped me focus on the key issues throughout and provided guidance on the process, keeping my focus on what was most important. She was excellent in court against a similarly highly experienced barrister, and I have no doubt that her involvement led to a great outcome for me and my boys, where not only was the leave to remove not granted, but my contact was substantially increased. I would have no hesitation in engaging or recommending Cliona; my family and I will be forever grateful to her."

Direct Access Client

Directories

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Legal 500, 2025

Cases

26/02/2024	H v A	Paul Hepher Cliona Papazian	[2024] EWHC 476 (Fam)
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16/01/2024	B v N (No. 2) (Art 7 and Transfer of Jurisdiction)	Cliona Papazian Lucy Logan Green Teertha Gupta KC Harry Langford	[2024] EWHC 17 (Fam)
21/12/2023	MB v KB & Ors (Costs)	Mani Singh Basi Cliona Papazian	[2023] EWHC 3299 (Fam)
13/12/2023	MB v KB & Ors	Mani Singh Basi Cliona Papazian	[2023] EWHC 3177 (Fam)
17/11/2023	SKJ v SLJ	Cliona Papazian	[2023] EWHC 246 (Fam)
17/11/2023	OZ v ML	Cliona Papazian	[2023] EWHC 2412 (Fam)
17/11/2023	AO v LA	Cliona Papazian	[2023] EWHC 83 (Fam)
17/11/2023	D v T	Cliona Papazian	[2023] EWHC 1247 (Fam)
17/11/2023	Re X (Child Abduction: Habitual Residence)	Cliona Papazian Teertha Gupta KC Michael Gratton KC	[2022] EWCA Civ 1423
31/10/2023	Re S (1980 Hague Convention; Habitual Residence; Article 13)	Michael Gratton KC Cliona Papazian Harry Langford	[2023] EWHC 2717 (Fam)
26/09/2023	NM v SM	Cliona Papazian Mani Singh Basi	[2023] EWHC 2209 (Fam)
24/04/2023	Allami v Fakher	Cliona Papazian Mani Singh Basi	[2023] EWFC 59
20/12/2022	ES v DS	Charlotte Baker Cliona Papazian	[2022] EWHC 3397 (Fam)
25/05/2022	B v N (2022) EWHC 1429	Cliona Papazian	[2022] EWHC 1429 (Fam)
02/03/2022	GC v AS (No. 2) (2022)	Cliona Papazian Teertha Gupta KC	[2022] EWHC 310 (Fam)
02/03/2022	R (A Child : Asylum And 1980 Hague Convention Application) (Rev1) (2022)	Cliona Papazian Ralph Marnham Christopher Hames KC Charlotte Baker	[2022] EWCA Civ 188
02/11/2021	P and Q, Re (Hague Convention: Consent) (2021)	Cliona Papazian	[2021] EWHC 2184 (Fam)
02/08/2021	GC v AS (2021)	Cliona Papazian	[2021] EWHC 14 (Fam)
02/08/2021	M (Children) (Abduction: Joinder of Children) (2021)	Cliona Papazian	[2021] EWHC 635 (Fam)
02/05/2021	S (Inherent Jurisdiction Setting Aside Return Order) (Rev1) (2021)	Cliona Papazian Henry Setright KC	: [2021] EWCA Civ 1223, [2021] WLR(D) 452, [2022] 1 FLR 186, [2022] Fam 237, [2022] 2 WLR 275

03/08/2020	RE M (A Child) (2020)	Teertha Gupta KC Cliona Papazian Ruth Kirby KC Michael Edwards Ralph Marnham	[2020] EWCA Civ 922
02/03/2020	A (A Child) (Inherent Jurisdiction: Parens Patriae, FMPO And Passport Orders) (Rev 2) (2020)	Cliona Papazian Ruth Kirby KC	[2020] EWHC 451 (Fam)
27/02/2020	Re A (A Child) (Inherent Jurisdiction: FMPO)	Cliona Papazian Ruth Kirby KC	[2020] EWHC 451 (Fam)
25/09/2019	A (Children), Re (Rev 1) (2019)	Teertha Gupta KC John Tughan KC Cliona Papazian Jacqueline Renton	[2019] EWHC 2334 (Fam)
06/02/2019	Q & V (1980 Hague Convention and Inherent Jurisdiction Summary Return) (2019)	Cliona Papazian	[2019] EWHC 490 (Fam)
01/02/2019	Re A (Children) (2019)	Cliona Papazian Michael Gratton KC	[2019] EWCA Civ 74
12/06/2018	MK and RP (Hague Child Abduction Convention) (2018)	Mark Jarman KC Cliona Papazian	[2018] EWHC 1475 (Fam)
25/11/2014	Re M (A Child) (2014)	Brian Jubb Cliona Papazian	[2014] EWCA Civ 1519
12/03/2014	FB v IB [2014]	Cliona Papazian	[2014] EWHC 759 (Fam)
23/07/2013	Re A (Children) (2013)	Private: Marcus Scott-Manderson QC Private: David Williams QC Cliona Papazian	AC9101290
16/05/2013	Joyce v Joyce [2013]	Alistair G Perkins Cliona Papazian	[2013] EWHC 1353 (Fam)
21/08/2012	Re L (A Child) (2012)	Private: Marcus Scott-Manderson QC Cliona Papazian	[2012] EWCA Civ 1157
24/04/2012	Re LSDC (A Child) (2012)	Private: Marcus Scott-Manderson QC Cliona Papazian	[2012] EWHC 983 (Fam)
10/06/2010	Re AR (A Child: Relocation)	Cliona Papazian	[2010] 2 FLR 1577 : [2010] 3 FCR 131 : [2010] Fam Law 932 : [2010] EWHC 1346
04/12/2009	M v B (2009)	Mark Jarman KC Cliona Papazian	[2009] EWHC 3477 (Fam)

15/08/2008	Re RD (2008)	Private: Marcus Scott-Manderson QC Teertha Gupta KC Cliona Papazian	(2009) 1 FLR 586
16/03/2007	Re K (A Child)	Rex Howling KC Cliona Papazian	[2007] EWHC 544 (Fam) ; (2007) 1 WLR 2531 ; (2007) 2 FLR 326 : Times, April 20, 2007; AC9901177
20/07/2000	Re R (Children) (Sexual Abuse: Standard of Proof)	Christopher Hames KC Cliona Papazian	[2001] 1 FCR 86
24/01/2000	Re O (A Minor) (Blood Tests: Constraint) Re J. (A Minor)	Cliona Papazian	[200] 2 WLR 1284