

Andrew Powell

'An expert on surrogacy and the modern family. Andrew's preparation is stellar – his notes show a mastery of the law and facts. Judges hang on his advocacy, which balances persuasion with an empathy for the cases he deals with.'

Legal 500, 2024

Experience

Year of Call: 2008

Practice Areas

- Court of Protection - Vulnerable Adult
- Inquests and Inquiries
- International Children Law
- Private Children Law
- Public Children Law

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Direct Access



Family Law
Awards **2021**
LexisNexis®

WINNER:
FAMILY LAW JUNIOR BARRISTER
OF THE YEAR



Education

University of Manchester (BSocSc Social Anthropology First Class)

University of Leeds (LLM)

BPP Law School (BVC)

Pegasus Scholarship 2013

Bedingfield Scholarship (Gray's Inn) 2007

Mooting Finalist University of Leeds 2006

Constitutional Law Essay Prize (University of Leeds) 2005

The Professor Max Gluckman Prize (University of Manchester - Awarded for Highest First Class Degree)

Profile

Andrew is widely recognised for his expertise in cases concerning children. His practice focuses on parental disputes about arrangements for children after separation, international children law including child abduction, and applications to relocate children to another country. He is also in demand in cases where the local authority is involved, including those with complex medical evidence and allegations of sexual abuse. Andrew was awarded the 'Family Law Junior Barrister of the Year Award' in November 2021 at the annual LexisNexis Family Law Awards.

From 2016-2020 Andrew was led by Alex Verdian KC and Cleo Perry KC representing a core participant in the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (Children in the care of Lambeth Council investigation). He was also led by Cleo Perry KC representing a core participant in a second investigation, also as part of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (Child Sexual Exploitation by Organised Networks investigation).

Andrew brings a calm but knowledgeable approach to his work with parents engaged in disputes about their children. Clients find him approachable and empathetic. He has represented clients in all levels of court, and adopts a courteous but no-nonsense approach to advocacy. His case load is both domestic and international, and he is experienced in dealing with cross-jurisdictional issues, particularly in international adoption and international surrogacy cases. Andrew is also instructed in cases concerning vulnerable adults in forced marriage, stranded spouses and FGM cases.

In addition to his practice focusing on arrangements for children, Andrew has developed a specialist practice advising and representing clients on the law relating to the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008 (surrogacy, parental order applications and fertility treatment) and disputes arising from LGBTQ+ parenting arrangements. Andrew appeared as junior counsel on behalf of the AIRE Centre in the Court of Appeal in R (Alfred McConnell) -v- The Registrar General for England and Wales and others [2020] EWCA Civ 559. The appellant sought to appeal a decision of the President of the Family Division in judicial review proceedings concerning the Registrar General's decision to register a trans man who had given birth to a child as the child's mother. He also appeared as junior counsel on behalf of University College London NHS Foundation Trust in AB v CD [2021] EWHC 741 (Fam) which concerned whether parents could lawfully consent to the prescription and administration of puberty blockers. In 2014, after being awarded a Pegasus Scholarship, he worked in Los Angeles in a law firm specialising in surrogacy and fertility law and since his return has been acknowledged as one of the leading barristers in this area, writing surrogacy articles for Family Law Week. Andrew has experience representing, intended parents and surrogates in applications for parental orders as well as parents and fertility clinics in declaration of

parentage cases. Andrew's book '[A practical guide to the law in relation to surrogacy](#)' was published in November 2020. In 2021 he provided an expert opinion in a case before the Eastern Caribbean Supreme Court concerning international surrogacy arrangements ([O Trustee et al v Q et al](#))

In May 2021 Andrew was appointed a Governing Board Member of the Nuffield Family Justice Observatory.

Andrew has experience representing parties in cases concerning deprivation of liberty and best interests in the Court of Protection.

Andrew is also the author of the domestic adoption chapter of Rayden and Jackson on Relationship Breakdown, Finances and Children (2016 edition).

Outside work, Andrew enjoys running and cycling.

Memberships

Gray's Inn

Family Law Bar Association

Association of Lawyers for Children

Court of Protection Bar Association

South Eastern Circuit

Associate member of the American Bar Association (Family law section)

Child Abduction Lawyers Association

Commonwealth Lawyers' Association

JUSTICE

Directories

"Andrew is a wise, considered, knowledgeable and empathetic barrister."

"Andrew will go that extra mile and is also most generous with his time."

"A lawyer who has a brilliant manner with clients; he's very approachable and nothing is too much trouble."

Chambers and Partners, 2024

'An expert on surrogacy and the modern family. Andrew's preparation is stellar - his notes show a mastery of the law and facts. Judges hang on his advocacy, which balances persuasion with an empathy for the cases he deals with.'

Legal 500, 2024

"Andrew Powell has an incredible brain and superb client skills. He is a phenomenal advocate for clients."

"He is a number-one choice for any matter related to surrogacy, what he doesn't know about surrogacy law isn't worth knowing."

"Andrew is always able to cut through difficult cases and make them seem straightforward with his huge wealth of experience and calm approach."

"He is wonderful on every level - adored by solicitors, clients and judges alike."

"He is known for being at the cutting edge of surrogacy and alternative family work."

Chambers and Partners, 2023

'Andrew is a highly talented barrister with excellent core talents. He is insightful, knowledgeable, great communicator with excellent people skills.'

Legal 500, 2023

“A persuasive, personable advocate and cross-examiner who is a calm presence in court.” “He’s got an absolutely encyclopedic knowledge of surrogacy law, but puts it in a way that’s accessible. His written and oral submissions are things of beauty.” “He exudes charm and remains calm under pressure.”
Recent work: Represented the London Borough of Lambeth in the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse.

Chambers & Partners, 2022

‘An excellent advocate on complex children cases. Extremely personable with good client communication skills.’

Legal 500, 2023

Children law barrister with a domestic and international practice. He is proficient in child abduction cases and has particular expertise in surrogacy issues.

Strengths: “A charming and formidable opponent. He undertakes additional research into complex areas of the law, and goes above and beyond the requirements for each hearing.” “His knowledge of surrogacy law is utterly amazing and his passion shines through.”

Chambers & Partners, 2021

‘His knowledge of surrogacy law is second to none and he is a very personable and sensible advocate.’

Legal 500, 2021

A rising presence in the world of private law children work both domestically and abroad, who is proficient in child abduction cases. He has further particular expertise in surrogacy issues.

Strengths: “So obviously knowledgeable, and has a way of clearly demonstrating that knowledge and his legal prowess whilst still being really lovely and chatty with clients in a way that puts them at ease. He’s able to explain complex legal concepts in an accessible way that enables clients to understand the situation. You know his papers will be beautifully prepared and that he will know absolutely everything about the case.”

Chambers & Partners 2020

‘Is quick to assure worried or anxious clients and is a safe pair of hands when you have a complicated matter that needs a detailed solution.’

Legal 500, 2020

A rising presence in the world of private law children work both domestically and abroad, who is proficient in child abduction cases. He has further particular expertise in surrogacy and broader fertility issues.

Strengths: “A warm and persuasive advocate with a real passion and enthusiasm for his work, which shines through in all he does. He has a detailed knowledge and reassuring manner which clients warm to instantly.”

Chambers & Partners 2019

‘A natural and gifted advocate.’

Legal 500, 2019

A rising presence in the world of private law children work both domestically and abroad who is proficient in child abduction cases. He has further particular expertise in surrogacy and broader fertility issues.

Strengths: “His knowledge in surrogacy cases is really second to none. He’s just really personable, gets on really well with clients and is really persuasive with the judges. He’s just got this charm about him that you don’t see with barristers of his call, and is really classy.”

Chambers & Partners 2018

Cases

23/05/2024	A & Ors (Case Proceedings: 1996 Hague Convention: Habitual Residence), Re	Christopher Hames KC Michael Gratton KC Mai-Ling Savage Andrew Powell	[2024] EWFC 110
01/05/2024	Re J (Transgender: Puberty Blocker and Hormone Replacement Therapy) (2024)	Dorothea Gartland KC Andrew Powell	[2024] EWHC 922 (Fam)
28/11/2023	Re H (Surrogacy: Step-parent adoption)	Andrew Powell	[2023] EWFC 214
03/11/2023	Re QR (Parental Order: Dispensing with Consent: Proportionality)	Andrew Powell	[2023] EWHC 3196 (Fam)
15/11/2022	Y & Anor v V & Ors (2022)	Andrew Powell	[2022] EWFC 120
21/10/2022	GTJ v LS	Andrew Powell	[2022] EWHC 3688 (Fam)
29/07/2022	Osborne v Arnold (2022)	Andrew Powell	[2022] EWHC 1983 (Fam)
31/01/2022	R v G (Disclosure of Fact-Finding Judgment to SSHD)	Andrew Powell	[2022] EWHC 367 (Fam)
25/01/2022	E, Re (Re Family Law Act 1986, s.55A)	Andrew Powell	[2022] EWFC 180
26/11/2021	YP (Adoption of 18 year old) [2021] EWHC 3168 (Fam)	Andrew Powell	[2021] EWHC 3168 (Fam)
13/08/2021	Re Z (No 1 Fact Finding)	Andrew Powell	[2021] EWHC 3839 (Fam)
26/03/2021	AB v CD	Ceri White Andrew Powell Alison Grief KC Rebecca Foulkes Harry Langford	[2021] EWHC 741 (Fam)
11/03/2021	Re Z (A Child) (2nd Judgment) (Rev 1) [2021]	Andrew Powell Chris Barnes	[2021] EWHC 559 (Fam)
23/02/2021	A (A Child) (1980 Hague Convention: Set Aside)	Christopher Hames KC Indu Kumar Teertha Gupta KC Andrew Powell Jacqueline Renton	[2021] EWCA Civ 194

15/01/2021	Z (Parental Order: Child's Home) (2021)	Andrew Powell	[2021] EWHC 29 (Fam)
12/01/2021	Z (Care Proceedings: Surrogacy) (2021)	Andrew Powell	[2021] EWHC 589 (Fam)
18/12/2020	A Local Authority v A Mother & Ors (2020)	Andrew Powell Chris Barnes Harry Langford	[2020] EWHC 3496 (Fam)
24/06/2020	A (A Child : Surrogacy: S.54 Criteria) (2020)	Andrew Powell Lucy Logan Green	EWHC 1426 (Fam)
23/06/2020	ABC (Appellant) v Principal Reporter and another (Respondents) (Scotland) In the matter of XY (Appellant) (Scotland)	Henry Setright KC Andrew Powell	[2020] UKSC 26
20/05/2020	Z (Recognition of Foreign Adoption: Refusal) (2020)	Andrew Powell	[2020] EWHC 1829 (Fam)
29/04/2020	R (Alfred McConnell) -v- The Registrar General for England and Wales and others (2020)	Andrew Powell	[2020] EWCA Civ 559 (Court of Appeal Civil division)
25/09/2019	R (on the application of TT) v The Registrar General for England and Wales and others (2019)	Andrew Powell	[2019] EWHC 2384
03/04/2019	G (Children: Intractable Dispute) (2019)	Cleo Perry KC Andrew Powell	[2019] EWCA Civ 548
21/11/2018	Re B (Adoption: Surrogacy and Parental Responsibility) (2018)	Andrew Powell	[2018] EWFC 86
20/12/2017	Re M (Children) (2017)	Jane Rayson Andrew Powell Private: Hassan Khan	[2017] EWCA Civ 2164
30/08/2017	Egeneonu v Egeneonu (Adjournment of Committal Application) (2017)	Andrew Powell	[2017] EWHC 2451 (Fam)
28/08/2017	M v F & SM (Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008) (2017)	Andrew Powell	[2017] EWHC 2176 (Fam)
25/01/2017	A v R and Another (Declaration of Parentage) (2017)	Andrew Powell	[2017] EWHC 396 (Fam)
30/09/2016	Case V (Human Fertilisation And Embryology Act 2008)	Deirdre Fottrell KC Andrew Powell	[2016] EWHC 2356 (Fam)
30/09/2016	Case V (Human Fertilisation And Embryology Act 2008) [2016]	Andrew Powell	[2016] EWHC 2356 (Fam)
29/09/2016	Re B (Foreign Surrogacy) (2016)	Andrew Powell	[2016] EWFC 77 (Fam)
23/09/2016	A (A Child : permission to permanently relocate) (2016)	Andrew Powell	[2016] EWHC 2691 (Fam)

10/06/2016	Re A, B and C (UK surrogacy expenses)	Sam King KC Andrew Powell	[2016] EWFC 33
20/05/2016	Re Z (A Child) (2016)	Teertha Gupta KC Dorothea Gartland KC Andrew Powell	[2016] EWHC 1191 (Fam)
10/12/2015	F v M & Others [2015]	Andrew Powell	[2015] EWHC 3601 (Fam)
16/11/2015	L (Grave risk of harm) (Children's objections) [2015]	Andrew Powell Jacqueline Renton	[2015] EWHC 3300 (Fam)
11/09/2015	In the matter of HFEA 2008 (Cases A, B, C, D, E, F, G and H Declaration of Parentage) [2015]	Deirdre Fottrell KC Dorothea Gartland KC Andrew Powell	[2015] EWHC 2602 (Fam)
29/07/2015	Re PG (Children) (2015)	Andrew Powell	AC9601851
30/10/2014	Re IB and EB 2014	Kate Branigan KC Andrew Powell	[2014] EWHC 369 (fam)
15/08/2014	P v (1) D (2) X (3) Y (4) Z (2014)	Teertha Gupta KC Sam King KC Private: Hassan Khan Andrew Powell	[2014] EWHC 2355 (Fam)
06/06/2013	Re P-M [2013]	Andrew Powell	[2013] EWHC 2328 (Fam)
25/07/2012	Re C (A Child) (2012)	Andrew Powell	[2012] EWCA Civ 1281
28/05/2012	H (A Child) [2012]	Teertha Gupta KC Andrew Powell	[2012] EWCA Civ 913
06/12/2011	R v (1) A Local Authority (2) B (3) ABC (By Her Children's Guardian) (2011)	Jane Rayson Andrew Powell	[2011] EWCA Civ 1451