

Andrew Powell

'Andrew is exceptional and the go-to barrister for international surrogacy or any complex fertility matters. He exudes charm and competence, and is adored by judges and clients.'

Chambers and Partners, 2025

'Andrew is an outstanding advocate. He is always well prepared and provides realistic and constructive advice.'

Legal 500, 2025

Experience

Year of Call: 2008

Practice Areas

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

Direct Access

Direct Access

Awards





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

Bedingfield Scholarship (Gray's Inn)

Constitutional Law Essay Prize (University of Leeds)

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 an experienced trial advocate who regularly appears against silks.

He has developed a niche practice representing parties in surrogacy, adoption and declaration of parentage cases. He has appeared in some of the leading cases concerning surrogacy and adoption.

Andrew also appears in public law cases, including those with complex medical evidence and allegations of sexual abuse. He is regularly instructed in public law cases where there is an international element and public law cases arising from high conflict private law disputes.

Andrew was awarded the 'Family Law Junior Barrister of the Year Award' in 2021 and has published a book about the legal aspects of surrogacy. He is also the editor of the domestic adoption chapter in Rayden and Jackson.

He has been a Governing Board Member of the Nuffield Family Justice Observatory since 2021 and is a member of the Steering Group for the Bar Council's 10,000 Black Interns Programme.

Andrew was awarded International Family Lawyer of the Year at the 2024 Family Law Awards.

He was also shortlisted by Chambers and Partners UK Bar Awards in the category of Diversity and Inclusion: Future Leader.

Outside work, Andrew enjoys running and cycling.

International Children Law

Andrew regularly represents parents and children in child abduction cases, both Hague Convention and non-Hague Convention cases, or where there is a risk of wrongful removal of a child from this jurisdiction. He also has experience representing family members in a broad spectrum of wardship cases (including committals), as well as cases concerning vulnerable adults, such as stranded spouses and FGM cases.

In international surrogacy cases, Andrew represents intended parents and children, often when there is a legal complexity establishing parental status in this jurisdiction.

He represents parents in international relocation cases and welcomes working collaboratively with instructing solicitors from the outset.

Public Children Law

Andrew has a strong background in public law proceedings and represents local authorities, parents, children and other interested parties.

He has experience representing parties where there are allegations of non-accidental injury and fabricated or induced illness and has developed an expertise in cases where there is an international element. He appeared as junior counsel representing a family member in [A & Others \(Care Proceedings: 1996 Hague Convention: Habitual Residence\) \[2024\] EWFC](#).

He has appeared on behalf of children and parents in high conflict private law disputes that later enter the public law area.

Private Children Law

Andrew has vast experience in all aspects of domestic private law cases representing both parents and children in applications for child arrangements orders, including where one parent seeks to relocate internally.

His background in public law proceedings means that he is well placed to deal with contentious private law disputes that require a forensic approach. He is regularly instructed in cases where a separate fact-finding hearing might be required or cross examination of expert witnesses.

Andrew is well known in the field of surrogacy and adoption (domestic and international) and is regarded as one of the country's leading experts in this area.

He has experience of being instructed in cases arising out of LGBTQ+ family disputes that may require a creative legal solution. Many of his cases involve recognition of parental status, such as those where an application for a declaration of parentage has been made or step-parent adoptions (e.g. [Re H \(Surrogacy: Step-parent adoption\) \[2023\] EWFC](#)).

Andrew is instructed in medical treatment cases and has experience in cases concerning transgender children and the administration of puberty blockers. He appeared as junior counsel in [AB v CD & Others \[2021\] EWHC 741 \(Fam\)](#) on behalf the hospital trust and in [Re J \(Transgender: Puberty Blocker and Hormone Replacement Therapy\) \[2024\] EWHC 922 \(Fam\)](#) on behalf of the respondent mother.

Inquests and Public Inquiries

From 2016-2020 Andrew was led by Alex Verdan 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).

He has significant experience collaborating responses to Rule 9 requests.

Court of Protection

Andrew has experience representing parties in cases concerning deprivation of liberty and best interests in the Court of Protection and has experience being instructed by the Official Solicitor.

Non-court dispute resolution

Andrew has experience representing parents before Arbitrators in private law disputes.

Memberships

Gray's Inn

Family Law Bar Association

Association of Lawyers for Children

Court of Protection Bar Association

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

Child Abduction Lawyers Association

JUSTICE

Directories

"Andrew is exceptional and the go-to barrister for international surrogacy or any complex fertility matters. He exudes charm and competence, and is adored by judges and clients."

"He has incredible international experience and is truly brilliant at getting to grips with complex cross border cases. His empathetic nature means he goes over and above for his clients."

"The barrister I would want if I were facing my darkest hour in respect of my own children. He's never less than beautifully prepared."

Chambers and Partners, 2025

"Andrew is an outstanding advocate. He is always well prepared and provides realistic and constructive advice."

Legal 500, 2025

"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

Cases

27/02/2025	S v F & Anor	Deirdre Fottrell KC Rebecca Foulkes Andrew Powell	[2025] EWHC 439 (Fam)
27/11/2024	R & Anor v A (by her litigation friend, The Official Solicitor) & Anor	Andrew Powell Olivia Gaunt	[2024] EWFC 341
08/11/2024	Re F	Andrew Powell	[2024] EWHC 2849 (Fam)
29/10/2024	YW & Anor v A & Anor	Laura Morley Andrew Powell	[2024] EWHC 3548 (Fam)
24/10/2024	Re Z	Andrew Powell	[2024] EWFC 304
24/10/2024	F v J & others	Andrew Powell	[2024] EWHC 2802
30/09/2024	G v Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority & Anor	Deirdre Fottrell KC Andrew Powell	[2024] EWHC 2453 (Fam)
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
14/05/2024	Re XW (Parental Order: Death of An Applicant)	Andrew Powell	[2024] EWHC 2082 (Fam)

01/05/2024	Re J (Transgender: Puberty Blocker and Hormone Replacement Therapy)	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	Andrew Powell	[2022] EWFC 120
21/10/2022	GTJ v LS	Andrew Powell Mani Singh Basi	[2022] EWHC 3688 (Fam)
29/07/2022	Osborne v Arnold	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)	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 & Ors	Ceri White Andrew Powell Alison Grief KC Rebecca Foulkes Harry Langford	[2021] EWHC 741 (Fam)
23/02/2021	A (A Child) (1980 Hague Convention: Set Aside)	Christopher Hames KC Indu Kumar Teertha Gupta KC Andrew Powell Jacqueline Renton KC	[2021] EWCA Civ 194
15/01/2021	Z (Parental Order: Child's Home)	Andrew Powell	[2021] EWHC 29 (Fam)
12/01/2021	Z (Care Proceedings: Surrogacy)	Andrew Powell	[2021] EWHC 589 (Fam)
18/12/2020	A Local Authority v A Mother & Ors	Andrew Powell Chris Barnes Harry Langford	[2020] EWHC 3496 (Fam)
24/06/2020	Re A (A Child : Surrogacy: S.54 Criteria)	Andrew Powell Mai-Ling Savage Lucy Logan Green	EWHC 1426 (Fam)
23/06/2020	In the matter of XY (Appellant) (Scotland)	Henry Setright KC Andrew Powell	[2020] UKSC 26
20/05/2020	Z (Recognition of Foreign Adoption: Refusal)	Andrew Powell	[2020] EWHC 1829 (Fam)

29/04/2020	McConnell & Anor, R (On the Application Of) v The Registrar General for England and Wales	Andrew Powell	[2020] EWCA Civ 559
25/09/2019	TT, R (on the application of) v The Registrar General for England and Wales	Andrew Powell	[2019] EWHC 2384
03/04/2019	G (Children: Intractable Dispute)	Cleo Perry KC Andrew Powell	[2019] EWCA Civ 548
21/11/2018	Re B (Adoption: Surrogacy and Parental Responsibility)	Andrew Powell	[2018] EWFC 86
20/12/2017	Re M (Children)	Jane Rayson Andrew Powell Private: Hassan Khan	[2017] EWCA Civ 2164
30/08/2017	Egeneonu v Egeneonu (Adjournment of Committal Application)	Andrew Powell	[2017] EWHC 2451 (Fam)
28/08/2017	M v F & SM (Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008)	Andrew Powell	[2017] EWHC 2176 (Fam)
25/01/2017	A v R and Anor (Declaration of Parentage)	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)
29/09/2016	Re B (Foreign Surrogacy)	Andrew Powell	[2016] EWFC 77 (Fam)
23/09/2016	A (A Child : permission to permanently relocate)	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) (No 2)	Teertha Gupta KC Dorothea Gartland KC Andrew Powell	[2016] EWHC 1191 (Fam)
10/12/2015	F v M & Others	Andrew Powell	[2015] EWHC 3601 (Fam)
16/11/2015	L (Grave risk of harm) (Children's objections)	Andrew Powell Jacqueline Renton KC	[2015] EWHC 3300 (Fam)
11/09/2015	A & Ors (Human Fertilisation And Embryology Act 2008)	Deirdre Fottrell KC Dorothea Gartland KC Andrew Powell	[2015] EWHC 2602 (Fam)
29/07/2015	Re PG (Children) V	Andrew Powell	[2015] EWCA Civ 1025
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