



## Practice

Chris specialises in family law. His main focus is in public and private children's law, as well as domestic violence. He also has experience of international child abduction as well as ancillary relief.

Chris is acutely aware of the way in which parents can feel alienated by family proceedings, and goes out of his way to ensure that they feel they are fully understood, and that their case is comprehensively presented in court.

Chris has experience of representing local authorities, guardians, parents, grand-parents and parties making special guardianship applications. He also has experience of representing parents in contested non-accidental head injury cases involving complex medical evidence.

Chris receives instructions via direct access.

## Notable Cases

### ***London Borough of Islington v Al Alas and Wray [2012] EWHC 865 (Fam)***

Defended the father in care proceedings brought by a local authority, which accused the parents of "baby shaking". Led by Ian Peddie QC, Chris demonstrated, with the assistance of expert witnesses, that the baby's death had been caused by undiagnosed congenital rickets, leaving the child prone to fractures and infection. [Click here to read the full judgment.](#) [Read a summary of the case here.](#) The case was widely reported, including by the BBC.

### ***In the Matter of M (Children) (2010)***

The court should not delegate decisions over contact to a local authority in private law proceedings.  
[2010] EWCA Civ 1043 28/07/2010

## Publications

- The Wizard of the Family Bar, a profile of Stephen Cobb QC, Counsel Magazine 1/11/10
- Seen & Now Heard, children giving evidence, Counsel Magazine 1/05/2010
- The Shining Light of the Media, Family Law Week, 27/04/09
- Cat and Mouse, Family Law Week, 3/04/09
- Using the Web to find an Expert, Family Law Week, 12/11/07

Chris is Editor of the Garden Court Family Blog

## Background

Before coming to the Bar, Chris was a television script-writer (regular writer for *The Bill*) and a journalist for national newspapers.

## Interests

Playing the accordion, Arsenal FC, wine.

### Year of Call

2004

### Email Address

[christopherm@gclaw.co.uk](mailto:christopherm@gclaw.co.uk)

### Telephone

020 7993 7813

### Education

English BA, Birkbeck College, London. PGDL and BVC, College of Law, London.

### Practice Areas:

Christopher McWatters is a member of the following Practice Areas:

- Employment, Discrimination and Professional Regulation
- Family

### Garden Court Chambers

57 - 60 Lincoln's Inn Fields  
London WC2A 3LJ  
Tel 020 7993 7600  
Fax 020 7993 7700



Barrister profile

# Christopher McWatters



## Professional Memberships

- Member of FLBA
- Member of ALC
- Editorial Board of *Counsel* magazine

Profile updated April 2012