



# Victoria Burgess

Victoria Burgess specialises in all areas of children's law, with a particular emphasis on public law proceedings. Victoria is also regularly instructed on cases where international issues arise, including applications for permanent removal from the jurisdiction.

If you would like to get in touch with Victoria please contact the clerking team:

[familyclerkmailbox@gclaw.co.uk](mailto:familyclerkmailbox@gclaw.co.uk) | [+44 \(0\)20 7993 7600](tel:+442079937600)

You can also contact Victoria directly:

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

## FAMILY LAW: CHILDREN'S LAW

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Victoria specialises in all areas of children's law, with a particular emphasis on public law proceedings.

Victoria regularly represents parties in public law proceedings where there are serious allegations of non-accidental injuries as well as physical and sexual abuse. She has a particular interest in representing parties who are especially vulnerable due to their age, disability or life experiences. Victoria is well known for her empathic approach and ability to communicate complex legal issues in way which is easy to understand.

Victoria undertakes all forms of private law children work including disputes over issues such as schooling, medical treatment, and religious education and practice. Victoria has a particular interest in applications to spend time with children made by non-parents, including applications by grandparents, siblings and step-parents. Victoria is able to deal sensitively with the often difficult circumstances of such applications as well as offering realistic and practical advice.

## **CROSS-BORDER FAMILY CASES**

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Victoria is regularly instructed on cases where international issues arise, including applications for permanent removal from the jurisdiction. Some recent examples of her work include cases where there have been concerns relating to abduction, forced marriage, online grooming and possible radicalisation.

## **BACKGROUND**

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Prior to being called to the bar, Victoria worked in the family department of a large firm of solicitors. This means she understands the concerns and pressures of instructing solicitors. Victoria was also a volunteer at the Citizens Advice Bureau Specialist Family Advice Centre based at the (now) Central Family Court.

## **VOLUNTARY WORK**

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Victoria is passionate about widening access to the bar. She is regularly involved in events to encourage students from non-traditional backgrounds to consider a career in law. Victoria has been responsible for producing the cases used for the Citizenship Foundation's Bar Mock Trial Competition as well as mentoring students from a South London school who were taking part in the event. This involved visiting the school prior to the competition for training and practice sessions, attending the competition itself to give advice and feedback and (perhaps most importantly from the students' point of view) providing the wigs and gowns!

Victoria was also part of group that successfully campaigned to open a new state school in South East London. Victoria was responsible for community engagement and spent a year visiting community groups and talking to local people to rally support.

## **EDUCATION**

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- **History BA (Hons) University of Durham**
- **Common Professional Examination/Diploma in Law (Commendation)**
- **Bar Vocational Court (Very Competent)**
- **City University Pro Bono Award**

- David Karmel Scholar (Gray's Inn)

## PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

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- Family Law Bar Association
- Association of Lawyers for Children

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57-60 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, WC2A 3LJ

Email: [info@gclaw.co.uk](mailto:info@gclaw.co.uk)

Tel: +44 (0)20 7993 7600

DX: 34 Chancery Lane