Five Pump
Court Chambers

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Practice overview

Jo is a busy dedicated family practitioner, specialising in family law particularly public and private children law. She has a lot of experience in complex and difficult cases, and works tirelessly for her clients in order to get the right result in court. She has extensive experience of dealing with clients facing very difficult and stressful circumstances, and experience of dealing with clients and other parties who have mental health issues; addiction issues; those for whom English is not their first language (and therefore interpreters need to be involved) and clients who have been trafficked. She also has experience of dealing with cases where there is an international element.

In addition to her family law practice, Jo has a background in housing law and maintains a selective practice in this area.

Jo has a winning way which makes her a popular choice with clients and solicitors alike. She is very good at building and maintaining effective working relationships. Jo has also developed a reputation for combining shrewd negotiating tactics with persuasive advocacy skills.

Children law (public)

Jo has a thriving public law practice, and is often chosen by solicitors and clients to deal with

cases that are complicated both factually and legally. She represents parents, grandparents, guardians and vulnerable clients. She is very experienced at dealing with vulnerable parties in court, whether or not they are her client, and is able to deal with cross-examination and arguments in a way which is appropriate to the individual case.

Jo's practice encompasses complex fact finding hearings and welfare issues involving non accidental injury, severe neglect and substance abuse. Jo is also very experienced at dealing with emergency interim care applications.

Children law (private)

Jo's busy private practice is dedicated to cases involving children, both in the UK and internationally. Within private law proceedings Jo acts in child arrangement disputes involving issues relating to contact and residency, as well as removal in Hague Convention cases.

Jo also is experienced in complex private law proceedings dealing with issues such as domestic abuse, substance misuse, physical and emotional harm, psychological harm and abduction cases. Her thorough understanding of the law and commitment to her clients mean that she is sought out by solicitors in difficult cases.

Property

Jo has a strong background in landlord and tenant law, in which she practised for many years. She maintains a selective practice in this area, regularly sitting as legal clerk for the London Borough of Southwark Arbitration Service.

Notable Cases

Royal Borough of Windsor & Maidenhead v G, P, W and M [2025] EWFC 93 B: Representing a father in complex care proceedings relating to three children. The judge commented that "*While I am grateful to all counsel in these sad, complex and emotionally charged proceedings, I am particularly grateful to Miss McElroy who was instructed very late in the day and who worked tirelessly to get up to speed and obtain instructions from the Father in difficult circumstances – via prison video link and with the able assistance of a Polish interpreter.*"