



**Five Pump
Court Chambers**

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Sophie Kay (2016)

Barrister

Call: 2016

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Practice overview

Sophie specialises in family law, appearing at all levels of the Family Court and High Court. Sophie's practice focuses on matrimonial finance, private law children and injunctive Family Law Act proceedings.

She is an able advocate and negotiator, combining legal expertise with an empathetic approach to client care. Sophie understands the importance of providing robust and considered advice, when required.

Sophie has particular experience representing vulnerable clients, including victims of domestic abuse and people with mental health and substance misuse issues and special educational needs. She ensures that she builds a rapport with clients by providing confident, clear and comprehensible advice, ensuring that they understand and are able to participate fully in the court proceedings.

She instils confidence in her clients that they are being listened to, during what is often, a crisis point in their lives.

Sophie is an Accredited Mediator and is on the Government Legal Department's Attorney General's Junior Junior Panel of counsel.

Children law (private)

Sophie is experienced at representing clients in private law children proceedings. Sophie is regularly instructed in serious and complex cases concerning parental alienation, mental health and substance misuse issues, and allegations of harm against the parents and the children.

She works closely with her instructing solicitors and the parents to develop a case strategy.

Sophie accepts instructions for:

- Emergency *ex-parte* applications
- First Hearing Dispute Resolution Appointments
- Fact-Finding hearings
- Dispute Resolution Appointments
- Final Hearings
- Enforcement applications
- Written Advice between hearings

Sophie's mediation training lends itself to knowing when it is more appropriate and productive to negotiate and settle matters, rather than unnecessarily fight in court.

Family finances

Sophie frequently represents clients in matrimonial finance proceedings and financial dispute resolution following relationship breakdown. She adopts a forensic approach to Ancillary Relief applications and has been involved in cases concerning complex non-disclosure issues.

She is highly commended for her astute attention to detail and her robust approach, both in negotiations and during hearings. She advises clients on issues such as financial disclosure and assists clients in preparing for paper only hearings.

Injunctions / Domestic Violence

Sophie frequently accepts instructions for urgent applications under the Family Law Act, where she quickly assimilates the facts and arguments. She remains calm under pressure and represents clients confidently at emergency *ex parte* hearings.

Sophie recently appeared in the Family Division of the High Court in an urgent child abduction matter – *S v B* [2021] before Mr Justice Poole. The mother unlawfully removed their child from the father's care. Sophie represented the Applicant father at an urgent out of hours *ex parte* hearing, and successfully obtained a Tipstaff collection order. The Tipstaff located the child several hundred miles away from home with the mother, collected the child and returned them to their father's care. Sophie subsequently represented the father at the return date hearing before Mr Justice Cohen where the child abduction proceedings concluded.

International family law

Sophie represents clients in child abduction cases within and out of this jurisdiction. She accepts without notice and short notice instructions. She has successfully opposed applications under the 1980 Hague Convention in the High Court, and has a growing practice in international child abduction cases.

Education

- LL.B.(Hons) University of Bristol

Memberships

- AG's Junior Panel Counsel

Prizes

- Jules Thorn (Major) Scholarship, Middle Temple
- BPP Advocacy Prize

Languages

- Spanish