



Ben Chapman

2015

Practice Areas

Family
Family Finance
Civil
Public Access

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SQUARE

Summary

Ben is a Civil and Family Barrister who has appeared in courts of all levels up to the Court of Appeal. He is ranked in the 2023 edition of the Legal 500 as a Tier 1 Rising Star in both Child Law and Social Housing.

He is well regarded for his impeccable manner with vulnerable clients, eye for detail and ability to grasp complex legal and factual themes. He has a friendly, welcoming and understanding approach which helps clients feel listened to. He fosters a culture of trust helping client be open with him and feel properly advised and supported in respect of their position.

His broad ranging practice across the spectrum of civil law, private children law and matrimonial finance allows him to provide holistic and practical advice to clients across the multiple legal matters their case gives rise to. He has unique expertise in all aspects arising from relationship breakdowns, whether married or not. His caseload regularly includes complex features such as domestic abuse (including rape and abuse towards children), parental alienation, relocation, occupation of the home, insolvency and homelessness.

Ben has an impressive and growing reputation amongst Public Access clients who are seeking to manage their own litigation with bespoke advice and advocacy assistance from a barrister.

Background / Qualifications

Ben was called to the Bar by Middle Temple in 2015 as a Major Scholar. His impressive academic background includes a First Class LL.B in Law from the University of Hull, an LL.M with Merit in International Human Rights Law and Practice from the University of York, and multiple Outstanding grades on his BPTC at Nottingham Law School where he was also awarded a scholarship. He won a number of advocacy and negotiation competitions, and received an academic prize for his work in the University of Hull Legal Advice Centre.

Following his BPTC Ben worked for a Top 50 UK Law Firm as an Assistant Advocate undertaking advocacy, advice and drafting work. He was (and continues to be) a Presenting Officer for the Teaching Regulation Agency prosecuting teachers in cases of professional misconduct, and appeared regularly before the County Court in small claims trials, application hearings, CCMCs, quantum hearings and infant settlement approval hearings.

He completed his Pupillage under the supervision of previous member of chambers, and now District Judge, James Carter.

He is committed to work involving human rights elements and champions access to justice. He supports Advocate, the Bar's Pro Bono charity, and continues to accept such instructions via them. He was a co-founder of the pro bono legal education programme 'inFrinGeMent' raising awareness of FGM. He has developed training for NGOs working with human trafficking survivors in South East Asia and has trained a Police Force in awareness around Travellers and Gypsies.

Growing up Ben had a number of real-world jobs from working on a market stall, to working behind a bar, through to being a Duty Manager in Boots advising on healthcare.



Outside of work, Ben enjoys cooking, hot curries, live comedy and a wide variety of music (including rock, indie, lofi and instrumental). He regularly travels in search of new foods and experiences. He also keeps a tiny puppy named after a very large and hairy Star Wars character.

References & Recommendations

"The client commented that Counsel was very professional and that his knowledge of his case was great. This case involved many issues and we were very pleased with how Ben has managed the progression of the case. The client has been provided with clear advice and I feel that he has managed the client's expectations really well.

Ben was prompt to provide a detailed note of the Hearing and has kept us fully informed regarding the drafting of the Order. His aftercare of the client has also been really good as he has contacted him to go through the Order which I think has been really helpful for this particular client. Overall we are really pleased with Ben's representation and look forward to his ongoing assistance."

Joanne Wilbraham, Ellis-Fermor & Negus

"I thought Ben was excellent and handled a very nervous client extremely well."

Local Managing Partner & Solicitor

"I recently instructed Ben to represent a wife, who had previously been a litigant in person, at a final financial remedy hearing. The outcome was excellent. Ben is an effective advocate, able to listen to client's instructions/needs and then deliver the same in an engaging and considered way. The client was so pleased and commented that Ben was "amazing" and that she felt so relieved to have him representing her. I would not hesitate to recommend Ben."

Florence Ashcroft-Lane, Stowe Family Law

Legal 500 2023 – Child Law (Public and Private) Rising Star Ranked: Tier 1

"Well regarded for his 'extensive knowledge of occupation orders' and ability with vulnerable clients."

"Ben has a great manner with clients and always gives a full note of the hearing and quickly updates following hearing."

Legal 500 2023 – Social Housing Rising Star Ranked: Tier 1

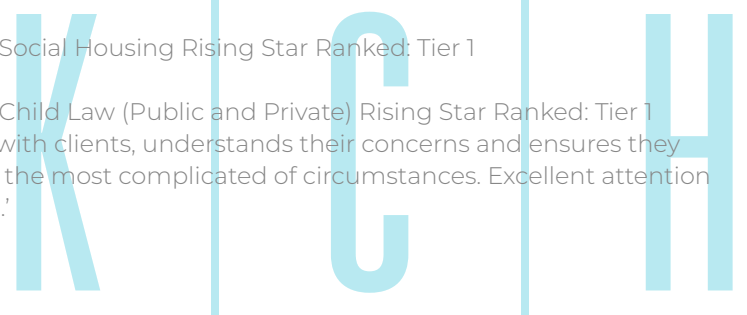
"Ben demonstrated excellent client care and explained complex legal matters to the client clearly and concisely. Very down to earth, thoroughly prepared and great attention to detail. I would not hesitate to instruct Ben again!"

Sarah McLoughlin, Stowe Family Law

Legal 500 2022 – Social Housing Rising Star Ranked: Tier 1

Legal 500 2022 – Child Law (Public and Private) Rising Star Ranked: Tier 1

'Extremely good with clients, understands their concerns and ensures they understand even the most complicated of circumstances. Excellent attention to detail in a case.'





Reported Cases

Rogerson v Bolsover District Council [2019] EWCA Civ 226 (Court of Appeal)
Led by Head of Civil and Family Team Tom Russell, Ben was junior counsel on behalf of the Claimant in a Defective Premises Act matter. They were successful on both grounds of appeal, and the Court of Appeal used the opportunity to re-confirm the law in this area.

G v G & G (2021)

A successful application for a Wife under s. 37 Matrimonial Causes Act 1973 obtaining a freezing order and setting aside the disposition of a buy-to-let property. The Husband purported to hold the property on trust for his brother following the separation of the parties. There were allegations of fraud and foreign state corruption. The court agreed with Ben that the Husband's actions were a sham.

TRA v Nicholas Walker (2021)

Regulatory prosecution of a teacher concerning allegation of recent and historic sexual misconduct with pupils/children. The victim witnesses were particularly vulnerable, with one as an adult still affected by the actions and giving evidence on matters occurring some 19 years prior. The teacher was prohibited from teaching indefinitely.

Panel decision and reasons on behalf of the Secretary of State for Education available [here](#).

BBC News article available [here](#).

J v M (2021)

Multi-day Fact-Finding Hearing in which Ben's client, a Father, had previously admitted poor behaviour and was facing serious allegations including strangulation, threats to kill and causing bruising to the child. There were difficulties with an interpreter and questions around whether they were accurately interpreting the accuser's evidence. Despite this, Ben was able to ensure no findings were made against his client.

P & P (2021)

Fact-Finding Hearing at which Ben was representing a 16 year old child separately from her siblings. There were allegations against her Father of physical abuse, destruction of property, emotional abuse, controlling behaviour and alienation of one of the siblings from the others. Ben's client would not be giving evidence meaning he was limited to cross examination alone to prove her evidence. Ben was able to present his cross examination in a considered way to display to the Court the Father's nature when his behaviour was challenged, and satisfied the court that his client's evidence was true.

T v B & A (2020)

Complex TOLATA/Insolvency matter. Ben was representing a Wife living in an adapted home with 3 disabled children. The property was in the Husband's sole name. He was bankrupted and a possession order was made, both without the Wife's knowledge. She applied to set the possession order aside. This was one of the early cases heard remotely following the onset of the 2020 Coronavirus pandemic. Ben's client spoke very little English. The law in this area did not sympathise with her position. Nevertheless Ben was able to secure a declaration of her beneficial interest in the property and delayed an Order for Sale by 18 months by demonstrating the exceptional circumstances. This would allow her time to raise the funds to buy the Husband's share



and keep the property. The Judge commended Ben's mastery of the case in circumstances where he had been instructed at very short notice on an emergency basis.

A v M & P (2021)

A very emotionally sensitive Final Hearing in which Ben represented a Special Guardian Grandmother responding to an application for contact by the parents who were each litigants-in-person. The matter was further complicated by a conflict in religions. Ben was able to successfully manage the hearing to secure an outcome favourable to his client and avoid her religious beliefs from being undermined.

D v D (2020)

A high-stakes Fact-Finding Hearing at which Ben represented a Father on a Public Access basis. His client was vulnerable as he could not read or write, and faced deportation if serious allegations of physical abuse against him were proven. He himself made allegations that she had physically abused him and was alienating the child from him in furtherance of that abuse. Ben was able to successfully defend his client against all of the allegations made against him, and was able to prove all of the allegations made against the Mother.

Professional Experience

CIVIL

Ben is instructed in a wide variety of civil and public law matters. He is an experienced trial and application advocate, regularly appearing for both claimants and defendants in Fast Track and Small Claim trials, possession hearings, tribunal hearings, high value CCMCs, interim application hearings and disposal hearings.

He has appeared in the Court of Appeal with success acting as Junior led by chambers Tom Russell in a Defective Premises Act matter – Rogerson v Bolsover District Council.

Ben also undertakes drafting and advisory work across the civil and public spectrum.

He has particular experience working with vulnerable individuals and acting for public bodies. His manner is such that he is often sought after where the other party is a litigant-in-person.

His areas of work include:

- Regulatory, acting as Presenting Officer on behalf of the TRA prosecuting teachers for professional misconduct.
- Commercial.
- Debt.
- Property.
- TOLATA.
- Housing and homelessness.
- Personal Injury.
- Credit Hire.

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FAMILY

Ben undertakes a financial remedy (ancillary relief), private children and domestic abuse work from early directions hearings through to final hearings. He is an experienced trial advocate and is regularly instructed in Finding of Fact hearings with difficult and emotive subject matter, including rape and abuse towards children.

His broad ranging practice across the civil and family sphere give him particular expertise in all aspects of relationship breakdowns, whether parties are married or not. This includes child arrangements, division of assets, occupation of the home, non-molestation orders, repossession of the home and homelessness.

Clients value Ben as a robust, emotionally sensitive and pragmatic practitioner. They appreciate his approachable manner. Ben is often sought out for instructions on behalf of vulnerable people and his skillset makes him particularly suitable for vulnerable clients and emotionally sensitive work.

Ben accepts instructions on publicly funded, private and Public Access bases.

Awards

Shortlisted for Modern Private Client Law Awards Barrister of The Year 2023

Additional Info

TRAINING

Ben also offers bespoke training and those interested are encouraged to get in touch. Examples of his work include:

- Roundtable briefings on developments in particular areas of the law.
- Development of a training programme for a Malaysian charity working with human trafficking victims.
- Training of a police force in the law regarding discrimination, using travellers as a case study.