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## Claire Watson

Barrister (Call Date: 1991)



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Claire has considerable experience in dealing with Children Act matters and accepts instructions on behalf of any party, including the representation of those at risk of losing their children to the care system and those who have experienced a relationship breakdown when arrangements for the children are in dispute. She can be relied upon to advocate on behalf of her client with skill and to give clear, realistic advice based on her experience of representing parents, children and other family members who find themselves before the Family Court. Claire also has expertise in family financial disputes including TOLATA and has a particular talent in being able to apportion very little with minimum complication.

Claire is approachable, down to earth and has a no-nonsense approach to problem solving. She is regarded as a 'safe pair of hands' and has a particular empathy with nervous clients.

### **Crime**

Claire specialises in criminal defence work in all areas including rape, serious assault, drug offences and sexual offences against children. She has conducted prosecutions on behalf of the CPS, DWP and various local authorities in respect of regulatory offences, a speciality being offences under the Food Safety Act. She also has considerable experience of Liquor Licensing Law.

Claire graduated in 1988 and initially worked in the busy family law department of a large regional firm of solicitors. In 1989 she joined the Crown Prosecution Service, initially in Reading, and shortly thereafter moving to the Fraud Investigation Group at CPS headquarters.

She was called to the Bar in 1991 and, following the completion of the first six months of pupillage, returned to the CPS to join the Camberwell Green team in South London. She moved to Birmingham in 1993 for a year and returned to London in 1994, finally resigning as a Senior Crown Prosecutor in 1997.

Whilst in employment with the CPS Claire prosecuted the whole range of offences from minor road traffic to murder. Her particular interest lay in fraud cases; from white collar to the grubby blue collar variety. After leaving the CPS Claire practised initially from 3 Temple Gardens, moving to East Anglian Chambers in 2003.



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## **Court and tribunal experience**

Family Court  
Court of Appeal  
Magistrates  
County  
Crown

## **Qualifications/Education**

LLB - 1988

## **Memberships/Appointments**

Pupil Supervisor

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