

Chambers and Partners 2025 results - Family law team

Group rankings

Chambers and Partners ranks our team **Band 1** for

- Midlands - Family children
- Midlands – Family matrimonial finance

Chambers and Partners ranks our team **Band 2** for

- Western – Family/matrimonial

Individual rankings

Barristers ranked in Chambers & Partners	Area of law	Circuit	2025
Aimee Fox	Family/Matrimonial Finance	Midlands	yes
Aimee Fox	Family/Children	Midlands	NEW
Amy Beddis	Family/Children	Western	yes
Amy Beddis	Family/Matrimonial Finance	Midlands	NEW
Amy Lush	Family/Children	Western	yes
Dorian Day	Family/Children	Midlands	yes
Elizabeth McGrath KC	Family/Children	Midlands	yes
Emma Griffiths	Family/Children	South Eastern	yes
Emma Harman	Family/Children	Western	yes
Frida Dahlqvist	Family/Children	Midlands	yes
Hamish Dunlop	Family/Matrimonial Finance	Western	yes
Hamish Dunlop	Family/Matrimonial Finance	London	yes
June Venters KC	Family/Children	North Eastern	yes
Lawrence Messling	Family/Children	Midlands	yes
Lucy Hendry KC	Family/Children	Western	yes
Mark Elliott	Family/Matrimonial Finance	Western	yes
Michael George	Family/Matrimonial Finance	Midlands	yes
Nathalie Bull	Family/Children	Midlands	NEW
Nicola Frost	Family/Matrimonial finance	Western	yes
Nicola Martin	Family/Matrimonial Finance	Midlands	yes
Nicola Martin	Family/Children	Midlands	yes
Oliver Thorne	Family/Matrimonial Finance	Western	yes
Paul Froud	Family/Children	Midlands	yes
Sarah O'Hara	Family/Children	Western	yes
Stephen Abberley	Family/Children	Midlands	yes
Steven Howard	Family/Children	Western	yes
Vanessa Meachin KC	Family/Children	Midlands	yes

Individual Commentary

Elizabeth McGrath KC – Band 1 – Family: Children - Midlands Bar

"Elizabeth instils an immediate sense of trust and confidence in her clients."

June Venters KC – Band 2 – Family: Children – North Eastern Bar

"She really fights her clients' corners and is very good at dealing with vulnerable clients."

"She has no fear - she is one of the most determined people at the bar."

Vanessa Meachin KC – Band 1 – Family: Children - Midlands Bar

"Vanessa is simply top-tier."

"Vanessa is a fierce advocate."

"Vanessa is always well prepared and has a fantastic way with clients."

Lucy Hendry KC – Band 1 – Family: Children - Western Bar

"Lucy Hendry is very knowledgeable in relation to medical issues."

"Despite Lucy's extensive legal knowledge and expertise, she approaches clients in a calm and considered manner and ensures they understand the complex terminology; this makes them feel at ease."

"Her advocacy skills are exceptional."

"Lucy Hendry is my preferred KC for the extremely complex matters."

Hamish Dunlop – Band 4 – Family: Matrimonial Finance – London Bar

"Hamish is an expert financial remedy barrister, who is great for complex cases with intricate issues and difficult technical aspects of the law."

Hamish Dunlop – Band 2 – Family: Matrimonial Finance – Western Bar

"Hamish is very well prepared and he has an eye for detail."

"Hamish is an expert financial remedy barrister and his expertise is welcomed on complex cases with intricate issues and difficult technical aspects of the law."

Emma Griffiths – Band 3 – Family: Children - South Eastern Bar

"Emma is an amazing advocate who is very experienced and skilled in family work."

"I know when I instruct her that my client's case will be thoroughly prepared, presented and fought, always in collaboration with me."

"Emma is a fantastic barrister."

"Emma is a really skilled, persuasive advocate who always fights her case and is great on complex arguments."

Nicola Martin – Band 3 – Family: Children - Midlands Bar**Nicola Martin – Band 3 – Family: Matrimonial Finance - Midlands Bar**

"She has the ability to undertake any matter."

"Nicola is a solid and dependable advocate with a very good client manner."

"She has always impressed and can be relied upon in particularly challenging cases."

Lawrence Messling – Band 1 – Family: Children - Midlands Bar

"Lawrence is always a go-to counsel in care work."

Sarah O'Hara – Band 3 – Family: Children - Western Bar

"She is clear in her approach to instructing solicitors and clients alike, while remaining empathetic and professional."

"Sarah O'Hara is a very steady hand in matters."

"Sarah O'Hara is a superb advocate who is able to quickly understand the clients' needs and wishes and dedicate herself to achieving the right outcome for them."

Dorian Day – Band 2 – Family: Children - Midlands Bar

"A fabulous, caring barrister with high level of advocacy skills and much liked by clients."

"Nothing is too complex for him and he quickly grasps the sensitivities of any case."

"Dorian is an extremely robust advocate."

"Nothing seems to faze Dorian and he instils confidence in the client."

Michael George – Band 2 - Family/Matrimonial Finance - Midlands Bar

"He's truly excellent."

"His attention to detail, knowledge, competence and advocacy skills are simply amazing."

"He simply shines in all aspects of his work."

"He has excellent technical skills and he's a formidable advocate."

"He has an encyclopaedic knowledge of case law; he's a charming advocate and yields amazing outcomes."

"Michael is always seeking out pragmatic solutions."

Stephen Abberley – Band 1 – Family: Children - Midlands Bar

"He is tireless in his pursuit of his client's goals."

"He is a very strong advocate who is very experience and well respected."

Emma Harman – Band 2 – Family: Children - Western Bar

"Emma Harman is a superb advocate."

"Emma Harman is everything you'd want in a child law barrister - great with clients, meticulously prepared, and spot-on judgement."

Nathalie Bull – Band 3 – Family: Children - Midlands Bar - NEW

"Nathalie provides a high standard of service for the client."

"She's very methodical and knows her stuff."

"Nathalie does more than exceed expectations and is a true professional."

Oliver Thorne – Band 3 – Family: Matrimonial Finance - Western

"He is able to guide his professional and lay clients strategically with great skill and as part of a team."

"Oliver is always well prepared and knows his cases inside out."

"He is a fearless advocate who is able to harness this when needed."

"Oliver's cross-examination is second to none."

"Oliver Thorne's clients like his manner, as he is sympathetic to and understanding of the issues but is also truthful."

Aimee Fox – Band 3 – Family: Children - Midlands Bar - NEW**Aimee Fox – Band 2 – Family: Matrimonial Finance - Midlands Bar**

"She quickly grasps complicated issues and is a persuasive advocate."

"She is a real class act."

"Aimee is absolutely incredible."

"Aimee is always an absolute pleasure to work with."

"She is a hard negotiator and a charming advocate."

"She is technically adept and really rolls her sleeves up to understand the client's needs and priorities."

"Clients really value her practical and level-headed advice."

"Aimee is an exceptional barrister."

Mark Elliott – Band 3 – Family: Matrimonial Finance - Western Bar

"Mark is hot on the detail, is commercially aware, and writes exceptionally good case notes that persuade the judge before he even walks into the courtroom."

"He is highly respected among the judiciary and is well liked by clients."

"Mark is an excellent tactician, adept at quickly seeing the pros and cons of every case."

"Mark Elliott is very supportive and responsive; he's an excellent advocate."

Steven Howard – Band 2 – Family: Children - Western Bar

"If Steven is on a case, no stone will be left unturned."

"His knowledge of the law is incredible and his advocacy skills exceptional."

"Steven handles vulnerable clients with such skill and care."

"He is one of my first choices on a complex case."

"Steven is an incredibly competent barrister with excellent attention to detail."

"He is extremely bright, superb on his feet, and excellent at handling judges."

"His skill set across the board is simply incredible."

"Steven will be in silk very soon."

Nicola Frost – Band 3 – Family: Matrimonial Finance – Western Bar

"With a no stone left unturned approach, she lives and breathes her cases and inspires the confidence of her clients right from the start."

"Nicola is an exceptional advocate."

"Nicola Frost is very approachable, and she has the ability to explain complex issues to clients with patience and in a manner they understand."

"Nicola Frost's research is in-depth and impressive and she is pragmatic and practical with clients and similarly in court."

"Nicola Frost has a really good way with clients."

Amy Beddis – Band 3 – Family: Children - Western Bar

"A real fighter who is great in cross-examination and very pragmatic."

"Amy Beddis' advocacy is fabulous and she is always very well prepared."

"Clients love her."

"Amy is a brilliant advocate - client-focused, approachable and very sharp."

"She is not afraid to defend her client's position."

"Amy is honest and realistic in her advice."

"Amy commands the courtroom and achieves good outcomes for clients."

Amy Beddis – Band 3 – Family: Matrimonial Finance - Western Bar - NEW

"She is very helpful and easy to work with, often putting clients at ease."

"Amy's advocacy is to the point and very clear and concise."

"Amy is excellent with clients, while still fighting their corner and being very knowledgeable."

Amy Lush – Band 3 – Family: Children - Western Bar

"Amy's just got this manner about her that is calm and considered."

"Amy Lush is incredibly kind and we make sure we put Amy in front of the clients that really need the hand-holding."

"She is relaxed under pressure, which instils confidence in the client."

"Amy Lush's advocacy style is very measured and very calm."

Paul Froud – Band 3 – Family: Children - Midlands Bar

"He always gives a voice to the voiceless and is impressive and effective in his advocacy."

"Paul is fantastic on his feet and provides impeccable client care."

Frida Dahlqvist – Band 3 – Family: Children - Midlands Bar

"Frida is approachable, technically sound and efficient."

Client service quotes

Family/Matrimonial – Midlands Bar – Band 1

Family: Children – Midlands Bar – Band 1

Client service:

"The clerks go over and above and always seem to do what they can to accommodate."

"Practice manager Ian Charlton is friendly, eager to please and will always go the extra mile."

"The clerks are always striving to ensure that our clients are able to have the representation they want."

"The best clerks across the board. Nothing is ever too much and they will always go the extra mile. They are incredibly helpful and friendly to work with."

Family/Matrimonial - Western Bar – Band 2

Client service:

"All the clerks have always given top-level service. They are open and communicative and go the extra mile to help match clients to barristers."

"The clerks at 3PB Barristers cannot be faulted. They will always attempt to accommodate a request via a prompt response or provide alternate options."

"The clerks are very good - in particular, Sarah Jenkin, practice manager, and Rob Leonard, senior clerk. Nothing is too much trouble and calls are returned promptly."

"Jess Street, practice manager, is excellent at coming back with suitable options."