

Legal 500 UK Bar 2025 results - Family law team

Group rankings

- The Legal 500 ranks our team **Tier 1** for
 - Midlands - Family: children and domestic violence
 - Midlands - Family: divorce and financial remedy
 - Western - Family: children and domestic violence
- Our Family: divorce and financial remedy team is ranked **Tier 2** in Western
- Our Family: children and domestic violence team is ranked **Tier 3** in South Eastern

Barristers ranked in Legal 500	Legal 500 section	Bar	2025
Elizabeth McGrath KC	Family: children and domestic violence	Midlands	yes
Elizabeth McGrath KC	Family: divorce and financial remedy	Midlands	yes
Vanessa Meachin KC	Family: children and domestic violence	Midlands	yes
Vanessa Meachin KC	Family: divorce and financial remedy	Midlands	yes
Lucy Hendry KC	Family: children and domestic violence	Western	yes
Lucy Hendry KC	Family: children and domestic violence	Midlands	yes
Hamish Dunlop (head of family finance)	Family: divorce and financial remedy	Western	yes
Hamish Dunlop (head of family finance)	Family: divorce and financial remedy	London	yes
Emma Griffiths (head of children)	Family: children and domestic violence	Midlands	yes
Emma Griffiths (head of children)	Family: children and domestic violence	South Eastern	yes
Nicola Martin	Family: children and domestic violence	South Eastern	yes
Nicola Martin	Family: children and domestic violence	Midlands	yes
Nicola Martin	Family: divorce and financial remedy	South Eastern	NEW - Yes
Lawrence Messling	Family: children and domestic violence	Midlands	yes
Sarah O'Hara	Family: children and domestic violence	Western	yes
Elisabeth Hudson	Family: children and domestic violence	Western	yes
Michael George	Family: divorce and financial remedy	Midlands	yes
Elaine Strachan	Family: children and domestic violence	South Eastern	yes
Elaine Strachan	Family: divorce and financial remedy	South Eastern	yes
Nicola Brown	Family: children and domestic violence	Midlands	yes
Poonam Bhari	Family: children and domestic violence	London	yes
Poonam Bhari	Family: children and domestic violence	Midlands	yes
Stephen Abberley	Family: children and domestic violence	Midlands	yes
Louise Worton	Family: divorce and financial remedy	South Eastern	NEW - Yes
Laura Scott	Family: children and domestic violence	Midlands	yes
Roger Thomas	Family: divorce and financial remedy	Midlands	NEW - Yes
Gemma Chapman	Family: children and domestic violence	Western	yes
Emma Harman	Family: children and domestic violence	Western	yes

Nathalie Bull	Family: children and domestic violence	Midlands	yes
Nathalie Bull	Family: divorce and financial remedy	midlands	yes
Oliver Thorne	Family: divorce and financial remedy	Western	yes
Emma Southern	Family: children and domestic violence	Western	yes
Aimee Fox	Family: children and domestic violence	Midlands	yes
Aimee Fox	Family: divorce and financial remedy	Midlands	yes
Mark Elliott	Family: divorce and financial remedy	Western	yes
Alex Hodge	Family: children and domestic violence	South Eastern	NEW - Yes
Sarah Jennings	Family: children and domestic violence	Western	yes
Steven Howard	Family: children and domestic violence	Western	yes
Nicola Frost	Family: children and domestic violence	Western	yes
Nicola Frost	Family: divorce and financial remedy	Western	yes
Amy Beddis	Family: children and domestic violence	Midlands	yes
Amy Beddis	Family: divorce and financial remedy	Midlands	yes
Amy Beddis	Family: divorce and financial remedy	Western	yes
Lucy Clayton	Family: children and domestic violence	Midlands	yes
Andrew Duncan	Family: children and domestic violence	Midlands	yes
Amy Lush	Family: children and domestic violence	Western	yes
Frida Dahlqvist	Family: children and domestic violence	Midlands	yes
Adeo Fraser	Family: children and domestic violence	Midlands	yes
Charles Hogan	Family: divorce and financial remedy	Midlands	NEW - Yes
Eleanor Marsh	Family: divorce and financial remedy	Midlands	yes
Eleanor Marsh	Family: children and domestic violence	Midlands	yes
Luke Nelson	Family: divorce and financial remedy	Midlands	yes
Kellie Salter	Family: children and domestic violence	Western	NEW - Yes
Sam Pentony	Family: children and domestic violence	Midlands	yes
Sam Pentony	Family: children and domestic violence	South Eastern	yes
Rachel Bloxwich	Family: divorce and financial remedy	Midlands	yes

Team Commentary

Regional Bar > Midland Circuit > Family: children and domestic violence – Tier 1

3PB continues to be recognised as an ‘impressively strong set’ for family law work in the Midlands. The ‘Calm, robust and effective’ **Nicola Martin** has considerable experience handling care proceedings arising from serious injuries and abuse as well as private law children matters involving issues such as abduction, alienation, and relocation. **Lucy Clayton** has a particular interest in cases concerning abduction, LGBT parents and surrogacy, and the misuse of social media. **Laura Scott** specialises in cases involving older children and young people, including sexual or criminal exploitation. **Aimee Fox** is widely praised as a ‘phenomenal advocate’ with strong client care skills. Her expertise encompasses multi-jurisdictional relocation cases.

Regional Bar > Midland Circuit > Family: divorce and financial remedy – Tier 1

3PB maintains its reputation as the premier divorce and financial remedy set in the Midlands region. Widely praised as a ‘fantastic advocate’ **Aimee Fox** is regularly instructed in financial remedy work involving varied asset portfolios valued in the millions and tens of millions. Having joined from St Ives Chambers in November 2023, **Roger Thomas** brings with him considerable experience representing litigants under the Matrimonial Causes and Civil Partnership Acts as well as cohabiting couples under TOLATA. He is noted for his skill ‘tackling cases with a jurisdictional element’ as well as for his persuasive advocacy. **Charles Hogan** increasingly handles high-value financial remedy applications and Schedule 1 claims.

Regional Bar > Western Circuit > Family: children and domestic violence – Tier 1

3PB is ‘a very large multi-circuit and multi-centre set with a good reputation’ that offers advice on all areas of family law. ‘Excellent advocate’ **Lucy Hendry KC** frequently handles children’s cases related to both public and private law with specific expertise in challenging sexual abuse cases. **Emma Harman** has expertise in representing vulnerable clients, with specific expertise in challenging sexual abuse cases and is described as a ‘maestro in Children Act matters’. An ‘exceptional and incredibly talented barrister’, **Steven Howard** has a track record of representing local authorities in serious public law cases. **Elisabeth Hudson** is ‘an excellent advocate with good personal skills which help the client feel at ease’ and regularly represents clients in difficult domestic and international children cases.

Regional Bar > Western Circuit > Family: divorce and financial remedy – Tier 2

3PB is a 'strong set with breadth of knowledge and skills nationwide' and specific expertise in financial remedy cases. **Hamish Dunlop** heads the family finance group and is praised for 'meticulous preparation, careful attention to detail' and longstanding experience of handling financial remedy cases involving family businesses and farms. **Oliver Thorne** is a 'highly skilled and respected advocate' who specialises in TOLATA applications, while 'expert cross-examiner' **Mark Elliott** stands out for his 'top-tier advocacy' and expertise in matrimonial finance cases.

Regional Bar > South Eastern Circuit > Family: children and domestic violence – Tier 3

3PB is 'a strong set, with strength in depth and good availability of counsel', offering support across all areas of public and private children's law proceedings. A 'robust and effective advocate', **Nicola Martin** handles the most complex care, child abduction and relocation cases, while **Emma Griffiths** is 'an exceptionally gifted barrister' who is 'always clear and focussed in her submissions which are well prepared and researched'. Rising star **Sam Pentony** is also recommended.

Individual Commentary

Elizabeth McGrath KC - Regional Bar > Midland Circuit > Family: children and domestic violence – Tier 1

Elizabeth McGrath KC - Regional Bar > Midland Circuit > Family: divorce and financial remedy – Tier 1

Elizabeth McGrath KC –3PB 'Outside the court room Elizabeth is a calming figure for parents in what can be very upsetting proceedings. She has an empathetic approach but maintains an ability to give robust advice. Her preparation of cases is rigorous and her ability to spot minute details is unparalleled. Her cross-examination and submissions are skillful, forensic and precise.'

Vanessa Meachin KC - Regional Bar > Midland Circuit > Family: children and domestic violence – Tier 1

Vanessa Meachin KC - Regional Bar > Midland Circuit > Family: divorce and financial remedy – Tier 1

Vanessa Meachin KC –3PB 'Vanessa is a highly skilled advocate and her client care is of the highest quality. She is able to digest vast amounts of complex papers and gain a clear understanding of complex medical information.'

Lucy Hendry KC - Regional Bar > Midland Circuit > Family: children and domestic violence – Tier 1

Lucy Hendry KC – 3PB 'Lucy is an extremely experienced family law KC, doing the most complex cases. She always has the case forensically ready from the outset, so as to set her tactics and strategy and to guide often vulnerable clients through these most difficult of cases. She is a real team player and is an extremely effective communicator, always finding a way to deliver her questions and submissions with devastating effect.'

Lucy Hendry KC - Regional Bar > Western Circuit > Family: children and domestic violence – Tier 1

Lucy Hendry KC – 3PB 'Lucy has faultless attention to detail and is an excellent advocate for witnesses with vulnerabilities. She is skilled in assimilating complex medical evidence.'

Hamish Dunlop - Regional Bar > Western Circuit > Family: divorce and financial remedy – Tier 1

Hamish Dunlop – 3PB 'Hamish is an assured and competent barrister. He is excellent on his feet and a great negotiator.'

Hamish Dunlop - London Bar > Family: divorce and financial remedy

Hamish Dunlop – 3PB 'Hamish is very thorough and well-prepared.'

Emma Griffiths - Regional Bar > Midland Circuit > Family: children and domestic violence

Emma Griffiths – 3PB 'Emma is a first-rate advocate and fully commits to any case she is briefed on. She is a delight to work with and demonstrates she values her solicitors' input. She is an excellent advocate and her written material is also excellent. She is a first choice of barrister for almost any case.'

Emma Griffiths - Regional Bar > South Eastern Circuit > Family: children and domestic violence

Emma Griffiths –3PB 'Emma is a first rate advocate and fully commits to any case she is briefed on. She is an excellent advocate and her written material is also excellent.'

Nicola Martin - Regional Bar > Midland Circuit > Family: children and domestic violence – Tier 1

Nicola Martin – 3PB 'Nicola is a exceptional barrister. She is thorough, amazingly professional, sensitive to clients needs and will give everything to each case. She is a pillar of strength – robust in court and realistic and sensitive in her approach.'

Nicola Martin - Regional Bar > South Eastern Circuit > Family: children and domestic violence – Tier 1

Nicola Martin – 3PB 'Nicola is organised and thorough in her practice. She is clear and concise in her advice.'

Nicola Martin - Regional Bar > South Eastern Circuit > Family: divorce and financial remedy

Nicola Martin -3PB 'Nicola has an easy rapport with all clients. She is a good advocate and very responsive to enquiries from solicitors.'

Lawrence Messling is ranked - Regional Bar > Midland Circuit > Family: children and domestic violence**Sarah O'Hara - Regional Bar > Western Circuit > Family: children and domestic violence**

Sarah O'Hara – 3PB 'Sarah is an excellent advocate, sensible, efficient and easy to deal with.'

Elisabeth Hudson - Regional Bar > Western Circuit > Family: children and domestic violence – Tier 1

Elisabeth Hudson – 3PB 'Elisabeth is a very experienced barrister, thorough in her preparation and drafting of documents. She is a persuasive advocate who is concise in putting her best points.'

Michael George – Regional Bar > Midland Circuit > Family: divorce and financial remedy – Tier 1

Michael George –3PB 'Michael combines an excellent technical knowledge with the ability to inspire confidence in solicitors and their clients alike. His attention to detail is always reflected in clear, accurate drafting and he is a first-rate advocate, while able also to negotiate pragmatically and persuasively. Michael is a go-to barrister for financial remedy proceedings and cannot be praised highly enough.'

Elaine Strachan - Regional Bar > South Eastern Circuit > Family: children and domestic violence

Elaine Strachan –3PB 'Elaine is meticulous in her preparation and is very knowledgeable. She tenaciously defends her clients' positions and can quickly build a rapport with them. She always provides a thorough and timely update following a hearing.'

Elaine Strachan - Regional Bar > South Eastern Circuit > Family: divorce and financial remedy

Elaine Strachan – 3PB 'Elaine is an efficient and thoughtful barrister.'

Nicola Brown - Regional Bar > Midland Circuit > Family: children and domestic violence

Nicola Brown – 3PB 'Nicola is a determined and fearless advocate and strong cross-examiner. She has exceptionally good client skills and as an advocate is always very down-to-earth, pragmatic and sensible.'

**Poonam Bhari is ranked in the London Bar for Family: children and domestic abuse
Poonam Bhari is ranked in the Regional Bar > Midland Circuit > Family: children and domestic violence****Stephen Abberley - Regional Bar > Midland Circuit > Family: children and domestic violence**

Stephen Abberley –3PB 'Stephen is a first-rate junior and rivals his silk colleagues in his case analysis, paperwork and cross-examination. His case preparation and analysis is second to none. He is a first choice for complex children matters, particularly when physical abuse is an issue.'

Louise Worton - Regional Bar > South Eastern Circuit > Family: divorce and financial remedy

Louise Worton- 3PB 'Louise is thorough and offers clear advice to clients. Her advocacy is strong.'

Laura Scott - Regional Bar > Midland Circuit > Family: children and domestic violence

Laura Scott – 3PB ‘Laura is very thorough in her preparation and knowledge of cases. She is an excellent advocate, always well prepared and ready to argue a case when necessary, with a fantastic knowledge of the law and case law in support. She is fabulous with clients, putting them at ease very quickly and explaining each and every step before and after hearings.’

Roger Thomas – Regional Bar > Midland Circuit > Family: divorce and financial remedy

Roger Thomas – 3PB ‘Roger has an excellent skill set. He is exceptionally bright, particularly when it comes to complex financial remedy work. He is a very skilful negotiator and his advocacy is extremely persuasive.’

Gemma Chapman - Regional Bar > Western Circuit > Family: children and domestic violence

Gemma Chapman – 3PB ‘Gemma has a good manner with clients. Her advocacy skills and getting to grips with the key issues of a case are her strength.’

Emma Harman - Regional Bar > Western Circuit > Family: children and domestic violence – Tier 1

Emma Harman – 3PB ‘Emma is a first-class advocate and meticulous in her preparation for every case. Her written work is outstanding, with superb advocacy skills. Her creative and innovative thinking puts her in a class of her own.’

Nathalie Bull - Regional Bar > Midland Circuit > Family: children and domestic violence

Nathalie Bull –3PB ‘Nathalie's particular strength is for having compassion and empathy for clients whilst also providing clear and concise legal advice. Her written documents are well structured and she is able to explain complex legal matters simply. Nathalie is persuasive and unwavering but in a respectful and considered way.’

Nathalie Bull - Regional Bar > Midland Circuit > Family: divorce and financial remedy

Nathalie Bull –3PB ‘Nathalie is an excellent advocate and is calm even where there are unusually difficult or unpleasant opponents. She is impressive in ensuring that judges can grasp her arguments no matter what, is excellent with clients and has the ability to keep large amounts of relevant facts at her fingertips even over a protracted period of time. She is strategic and persuasive.’

Oliver Thorne – Regional Bar > Western Circuit > Family: divorce and financial remedy

Oliver Thorne – 3PB ‘Oliver is an excellent advocate. He is excellent with clients and can command judges' attention with ease.’

Emma Southern - Regional Bar > Western Circuit > Family: children and domestic violence

Emma Southern – 3PB ‘Emma is competent, thorough, and communicative with all clients. She is very efficient at providing attendance notes and communicating the outcome of cases.’

Aimee Fox - Regional Bar > Midland Circuit > Family: divorce and financial remedy – Tier 1

Aimee Fox – 3PB ‘Aimee is a formidable barrister. She is sharp as a razor and calm under pressure. Aimee quickly gets to grips with complex issues and instinctively handles the most sensitive of situations. She is also a persuasive advocate. Aimee is a pleasure to work with and skilled beyond her call.’

Aimee Fox - Regional Bar > Midland Circuit > Family: children and domestic violence

Aimee Fox – 3PB ‘Aimee is a formidable opponent. She is sharp as a razor and calm under pressure. Aimee quickly gets to grips with complex issues and instinctively handles the most sensitive of situations. She is a pleasure to work with and skilled beyond her call.’

Mark Elliott - Regional Bar > Western Circuit > Family: divorce and financial remedy

Mark Elliott – 3PB ‘Mark is very sharp in cross-examination and well-prepared. He advises clients on the big picture very effectively, often helping to resolve matters or focus on matters.’

Alex Hodge - Regional Bar > South Eastern Circuit > Family: children and domestic violence

Alex Hodge – 3PB ‘Alex is a hard-working and responsive barrister and a safe pair of hands. He is an effective advocate for all his clients and is thorough in case reading and presentation.’

Sarah Jennings is ranked in Regional Bar > Western Circuit > Family: children and domestic violence**Steven Howard - Regional Bar > Western Circuit > Family: children and domestic violence – Tier 1**

Steven Howard – 3PB ‘Steven is incredibly organised, and his attention to detail is second to none. He has exceptional knowledge of the law and can provide clear advice on several issues.’

Nicola Frost - Regional Bar > Western Circuit > Family: children and domestic violence

Nicola Frost – 3PB ‘Nicola has excellent client care. Her advice is clear and firm yet delivered sensitively and with empathy. Her preparation and advocacy are excellent.’

Nicola Frost - Regional Bar > Western Circuit > Family: divorce and financial remedy

Nicola Frost – 3PB ‘Nicola's attention to detail is phenomenal, especially in her skeleton arguments and case outlines. She has an excellent manner with clients, putting them at their ease.’

Amy Beddis - Regional Bar > Midland Circuit > Family: children and domestic violence

Amy Beddis – 3PB ‘Amy is a fantastic barrister. She has a calm and considerate manner with clients. She is extremely well-prepared and can be relied upon to have read all her papers and prepped the case thoroughly. She works collaboratively with instructing solicitors which is always a positive. She gives sage and commercial advice, but is also a tenacious advocate in court.’

Amy Beddis - Regional Bar > Midland Circuit > Family: divorce and financial remedy

Amy Beddis – 3PB ‘Amy is really well prepared, understands the issues and gives clear and concise advice to clients. She really cares about each case and has a very good client manner, especially with vulnerable clients. Her advocacy is confident and focused - she is a very safe pair of hands.’

Amy Beddis - Regional Bar > Western Circuit > Family: divorce and financial remedy

Amy Beddis – 3PB ‘Amy is excellent on her feet, grasps the issues at hand quickly and can adapt to unforeseen circumstances on the day. She has a calm manner and thrives under pressure.’

Lucy Clayton - Regional Bar > Midland Circuit > Family: children and domestic violence

Lucy Clayton – 3PB ‘Lucy is pragmatic but personable. She prepares in great depth; she is robust both on paper in skeleton arguments and position statements, and in court. Lucy has a strong presence in court but also provides sensible advice to clients. She goes above and beyond.’

Andrew Duncan - Regional Bar > Midland Circuit > Family: children and domestic violence

Andrew Duncan – 3PB ‘Andrew is a formidable advocate. His written advocacy is exceptional and always drafted with precision and care. He is always up to date with developments in the field of children law and never shies away from a legal argument. Andrew has a reputation for excellent oral advocacy; he is persuasive, tenacious and suitably adaptable depending on the witness.’

Amy Lush - Regional Bar > Western Circuit > Family: children and domestic violence

Amy Lush – 3PB ‘Amy is a brilliant barrister. She is thoughtful, considerate and always well-prepared.’

Frida Dahlqvist - Regional Bar > Midlands Circuit > Family: children and domestic violence – Tier 3

Frida Dahlqvist – 3PB 'Frida is extremely approachable, professional and personable. She is always well prepared and is incredibly thorough as well as an experienced and effective advocate with clear communication skills.'

Adeo Fraser - Regional Bar > Midland Circuit > Family: children and domestic violence

Adeo Fraser – 3PB 'Adeo never appears fazed by anything or intimidated by anyone and has an ability to instil confidence in clients. He manages to carefully balance complex legal proceedings with a human and empathetic touch and is an excellent advocate, even amongst the toughest opponents.'

Charles Hogan - Regional Bar > Midland Circuit > Family: divorce and financial remedy

Charles Hogan – 3PB 'Charles is a polished and confident advocate. He is very well prepared, gives realistic advice and is excellent with clients. He is a star in the making.'

Eleanor Marsh - Regional Bar > Midland Circuit > Family: children and domestic violence

Eleanor Marsh – 3PB 'Eleanor's preparation is second to none and her advocacy is first class. She is very professional and courteous at all times and handles complex and difficult cases with ease. Her ability to remain calm in crisis and under pressure is amazing.'

Eleanor Marsh - Regional Bar > Midland Circuit > Family: divorce and financial remedy

Eleanor Marsh – 3PB 'Eleanor has great rapport with clients. She is very quick to dissect and understand issues and a very efficient and direct advocate, which she supports by excellent written documentation.'

Luke Nelson - Regional Bar > Midland Circuit > Family: divorce and financial remedy

Luke Nelson – 3PB 'Luke is a very technical barrister with an eye for detail. He is thorough in his preparation and his cross-examination skills are very effective.'

Kellie Salter - Regional Bar > Western Circuit > Family: children and domestic violence

Kellie Salter – 3PB 'Kellie demonstrates great technical knowledge of the relevant law and procedures, combined with an ability to quickly and accurately understand issues from the client's perspective.'

Sam Pentony - Regional Bar > Midland Circuit > Family: children and domestic violence

Sam Pentony - Regional Bar > South Eastern Circuit > Family: children and domestic violence

Sam Pentony – 3PB ‘Sam is knowledgeable and robust as an advocate, whilst being extremely personable and empathetic towards clients and their needs. His advice is always measured and resolution focused. Sam is a fantastic negotiator.’

Rachel Bloxwich - Regional Bar > Midland Circuit > Family: divorce and financial remedy

Rachel Bloxwich – 3PB ‘Rachel is calm under pressure and extremely empathetic. She is always professional and courteous in her interactions with clients and other advocates. Rachel is a tenacious, knowledgeable and thoroughly well-prepared advocate and always offers pragmatic and well-thought-out advice to clients.’