

HELEN RODGER

Year of call
2020



Helen is building a mixed practice across chambers' core areas of expertise.

Helen joined chambers in October 2021, following successful completion of pupillage. During pupillage Helen was supervised by Craig Carr, Gareth Weetman and Susannah Johnson.

Prior to coming to the Bar, Helen worked at the Infected Blood Inquiry supporting the counsel team's investigations into Government decision-making relating to infected blood products since the 1970s.

Helen also worked as a youth advocate at a legal charity supporting vulnerable children and young people with immigration, homelessness, social care and criminal justice issues.

LEGAL EXPERTISE

Family Law

Helen's practice is developing in children matters, and she accepts instructions in both Private and Public Law Proceedings. She also practises in International Child Abduction and Wardship proceedings.

Helen is frequently instructed to represent parties in cases involving complex allegations of abuse, including physical and sexual abuse, in both Public Law and Private Law proceedings. She is regularly instructed in Fact-Finding hearings and has experience in cases involving serious injuries to children. Helen is adept at navigating the particular intricacies of representing Gillick-competent children.

Helen appears in the High Court representing both applicants and respondents to cases brought under the Hague Convention and also has experience of cases involving child abduction to non-Hague countries.

Helen has a particular interest in family cases involving parties seeking contact/care for children where they are in prison or are transitioning to life after prison. Helen has worked with the Prisoners Advice Service on

model documents parents can use as a guide through the Family Courts. Helen is an assisting lawyer for Not Beyond Redemption, who provide free legal advice and representation to women who are in or who have left prison.

Court of Protection

Helen has a busy practice in the Court of Protection working with clients who lack capacity, as well as family members and public authorities. Her personal injury and clinical negligence practice compliments this developing area of her work.

Recent instructions have included resisting an application for an injunction to prevent a family member from attending the private care home P resided in; cases involving the international relocation of P; and representing a family member where P has recently transitioned from Children's Services to Adult Social Care. Thanks to her background as a youth advocate at Just for Kids Law, Helen is particularly familiar with the transitional arrangements and duties on local authorities for young people leaving care.

Civil

Helen regularly appears in fast-track trials and applications in Fast-Track and Multi-Track matters. She is developing a busy paperwork practice and advises in clinical negligence and personal injury matters. She often acts both for and against local authorities in public liability claims.

Modern Slavery

Helen welcomes instructions in this area. Helen has extensive experience working with vulnerable young people and adults, both in the Family Court and Court of Protection, as well as prior to joining chambers at Just For Kids Law as a youth advocate. Having worked with victims of trafficking in the past, Helen appreciates the need to work sensitively with vulnerable victims to achieve justice whilst limiting the extent to which litigation causes the client to feel re-traumatised by the process.

Helen considers pro bono instructions in certain cases; please contact her clerks for more details.

Inquests

Helen is regularly instructed in multi-day inquests representing interested parties in cases where issues of clinical negligence have arisen and where Article 2 is engaged. She is experienced cross-examining medical professionals and experts.

Crime & Regulatory

Helen is regularly instructed to prosecute and defend in the Crown Court. She is a grade 2 prosecutor and has experience in cases involving robbery, burglary, GBH and prison-related offences. She is currently instructed as junior counsel in a large drugs conspiracy involving elaborate County Lines activity.

Memberships

- FLBA
- COPBA
- PIBA
- CBA

Education

- BPTC, City Law School
- GDL, City Law School
- LLB History (First Class), UCL

Scholarships & Awards

- Queen Mother Scholarship, Middle Temple
- City University Academic Scholarship
- Winner of UK Environmental Law Association Moot
- Honourable Mention for best advocacy at the Vis International Arbitration Moot
- Pollard Prize, UCL
- History Prize, UCL