

OLIVIA BENNETT

Year of call
2021



Olivia Bennett has a busy multidisciplinary practice and welcomes instructions within Chambers' core areas of expertise.

Olivia is currently instructed as a junior member of the counsel team on the Thirlwall Inquiry, set up to examine events at the Countess of Chester Hospital and their implications following the conviction of former neonatal nurse Lucy Letby of murder and attempted murder of babies at the hospital.

Olivia is also developing a practice in family law, serious crime, clinical negligence and the Court of Protection. She recently co-authored an [article](#) on interim orders pursuant to s.48(a) Mental Capacity Act 2005 which was published in the Lexis Nexis Family Law Journal and featured in Barrister Magazine.

Before becoming a barrister, Olivia obtained a First Class degree in Cardiac Physiology and received a prize for achieving the highest grade in the cohort. She studied the Barrister Training Course at Nottingham Law School, funded in full by a Major Exhibition Award from the Honourable Society of the Inner Temple.

LEGAL EXPERTISE

Civil

Olivia's civil practice includes experience of fast-track trials and small claims. She has conducted numerous interim applications in the County Court and acted in case management conferences for multi-track claims. Olivia has advised on merits and quantum in proposed actions concerning personal injury and clinical negligence. She also has experience of privately paid commercial work concerning business to consumer contract disputes pursuant to the Consumer Rights Act 2015.

Inquests & Inquiries

Olivia is currently instructed in the Thirlwall Inquiry as a Junior-Junior.

Olivia has also acted for the family of the deceased in an inquest concerning the suicide of a woman known to mental health services.

Crime & Regulatory

Olivia regularly appears on behalf of the prosecution and defence in the Crown Court and Magistrates' Court. She has acted in cases concerning violent and sexual offences, drugs, possessing offensive weapons, theft and proceeds of crime. Olivia has had conduct of private prosecution work concerning allegations of fraud.

She is developing a busy Youth Court practice. After a successful submission of no case to answer, Olivia recently obtained an acquittal for a youth client in a multi-handed trial concerning s.18 Offences Against the Person Act 1861. She is a Grade 2 CPS Prosecutor.

Family Law

Olivia's practice spans private and public family law. She is regularly instructed to appear in the High Court on international abduction hearings concerning the Hague Convention. She also has experience of financial remedy hearings, international adoption cases concerning complex jurisdictional issues on the validation of service, fact-finding hearings, and care proceedings. Olivia has acted in numerous child arrangements orders and non-molestation order hearings.

Court of Protection

Olivia has appeared in the Court of Protection in matters concerning health and welfare, interim declarations of capacity and the deprivation of liberty. She recently co-authored an [article](#) on interim orders pursuant to s.48(a) Mental Capacity Act 2005 which was published in the Lexis Nexis Family Law Journal and featured in Barrister Magazine.

Memberships

- Court of Protection Bar Association

Education

- Barrister Training Course (Very Competent) – Nottingham Law School, 2021
- LLM Master of Laws (Merit) – BPP University London, 2019
- BSc in Cardiac Physiology (First Class) – St. George's University of London, 2015

Scholarships & Awards

- Major Exhibition Award – Inner Temple, 2020
- Career Commitment Scholarship – BPP University, 2018
- Principal's Award – St. George's, University of London, 2015
- Cardiac Physiology Achievement Prize – St. George's, University of London, 2015

Publications

Family Law Journal, Lexis Nexis – co-author of article titled 'Should a 25% likelihood of incapacity suffice to make interim orders under s 48(a) MCA 2005?' published in February 2024.