

SAM WATTS

Year called 2018

clerks@coramchambers.com

+44020 7092 3700



OVERVIEW

Sam is developing a practice in all areas of family law. He accepts instructions in public and private children law, applications under the Family Law Act 1996, and financial remedy and TOLATA proceedings. He has experience representing individuals up to and including the High Court.

PRACTICE AREAS

Children Private
Children Public
Finance and private client
Court of Protection
International

EXPERIENCE

Sam recognises the different needs and often difficult circumstances of his clients and takes a strategic approach to make sure that their best interests are met. His focus is on resolving the case as effectively as possible, remaining mindful of his client's particular circumstances. He will advise on and encourage a settlement where appropriate however, if required, will not hesitate to contest matters on his client's behalf.

He prides himself on making himself approachable to professional and lay clients, making great efforts to understand their views before providing sensitive but direct advice on the conduct of their case. He has a particular interest in working with vulnerable clients and disadvantaged clients, understanding the practical and emotional strain that court proceedings can have.

Sam originally studied philosophy at the University of Bristol, with a particular interest in phenomenology, the philosophy of mind and the philosophy of psychology. He then completed the GDL (Commendation), simultaneously teaching Issues in International

Criminal Law as a Visiting Lecturer at the University of Bedfordshire, before completing the BPTC (Outstanding).

Before coming to the Bar, Sam spent time in the legal office of the UN World Food Programme, dealing with contractual, constitutional, and international law matters at their headquarters in Rome. Sam has also worked at the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse, where he assisted in the investigation of possible institutional failings to protect children from sexual abuse within the Anglican Church and Roman Catholic Church.

TESTIMONIALS

“The service I received from Mr Watts was simply outstanding. I would also like to commend Mr Watts for being very understanding and sensitive to my racial/ cultural experiences which greatly helped communications. I do believe it is in the best interests of the child to have two parents in their life as well as their siblings/wider family. This outcome was a tremendous relief.” – lay client.

“Sam has been absolutely fantastic in this case from the start. He has already had two conferences on Zoom with the father, had drafted two possible position statements and given us very good advice about dealing with the mother suspending all contact due to COVID-19. He must have answered about 40 emails from me and looked at draft letters, always responding the same day – and seems wise beyond his years.” – professional client.

EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

BA (Hons) Philosophy, University of Bristol
GDL BPP University
BPTC BPP Law School
The Honourable Society of the Inner Temple
Association of Lawyers for Children
FLBA
Court of Protection Bar Association

AWARDS

Major Scholarship from the Honourable Society of the Inner Temple
Advocacy Scholarship from BPP Law School
