

	<p>Reagan Persaud</p> <p>Barrister</p>	<p>CALLED: 2013</p> <p>RPersaud@spirebarristers.co.uk</p>
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Summary

Reagan practices in both children law and matrimonial finance proceedings. She has profound experience in all areas including, but not limited to, public children, private children, complex financial remedies proceedings (division of assets upon divorce), injunctions, enforcement, international and jurisdictional matters.

In relation to her children law practice, as a result of being so niche in her practice, Reagan has acted in complex cases where she has represented parents, local authorities and guardians in lengthy fact-finding hearings, dealt with interim removal hearings in the High Court and tricky final hearings involving on-going criminal proceedings, linked directions hearings, and children witnesses. Her experience covers serious sexual abuse/rape allegations, broken bones/bruising/non-accidental injuries, historical and long-standing physical abuse allegations, parental alienation allegations, and cultural issues involving the making of forced marriage protection orders.

In relation to her financial remedies practice, Reagan has experience of complex FDRs and final hearings involving contested divorce applications, and financial remedies cases involving large pension funds and properties. She is confident and assertive in representing clients where emotions are running high and where there is a real argument to be had over the value of assets.

Reagan is also well-learned and capable of challenging experts on their conclusions and evidence. She always looks at matters in an appropriate holistic manner and with a forensic and methodical mind which means that clients get a second-to-none service from her representation.

As part of her professional journey, Reagan has worked previously in-house as a Local Authority counsel and so is very well versed in Local Authority processes and procedures. This makes her an ideal representative for Local Authorities in complex cases where a certain knowledge of the inner procedures of the Local Authority can be key in presenting their position clearly to the court.

Further, Reagan has extensive knowledge and experience of issues relating to gender identity and the difficulties that can be faced when these matters arise. She understands trans issues and the difficulties that trans clients can face during proceedings.

Reagan's practice covers regular exposure in the High Court in complex care proceedings and she has successfully argued in the Court of Appeal. She has also been led by leading silks in numerous cases and is considered a leading junior herself, regularly leading junior counsel in

highly litigious matters. With a number of years of experience under her belt, she is confident in holding her own.

Reagan provides regular seminars covering niche and complex areas of children law and financial remedies to solicitors as part of Spire Barristers' on-going training and development programme.

Areas of Practice

PUBLIC LAW CHILDREN

Reagan is regularly instructed by both Local Authorities, on behalf of the parents and children (through their guardian) in care proceedings. She has a wealth of experience in this area.

She is not one to back down from a fight. Reagan will champion her client's cause without seeking to compromise if that is not in her client's interests.

Reagan is also experienced in complex international care cases. She has experience of all levels of care matters up to the Court of Appeal. Further, she has successfully appealed District Judges and Circuit Judges, and successfully responded to appeals. She is not a barrister who backs down if she believes that a decision against her client is wrong.

Her extensive experience in care matters makes her second-to-none in this area of law where she is regarded as a specialist in the field. She is a regular representative for many Local Authorities across Yorkshire, and very much an essential and preferred barrister for many parents and guardians in complex care cases.

PRIVATE LAW CHILDREN

Reagan understands the high tensions in private children disputes and has experience of dealing with complex cases that may involve domestic violence, injunctions against parties, the involvement of children's services via S7 or S37 reports and/or the issue of care proceedings, shared-care arrangements, parental alienation and jurisdictional disputes.

Reagan's background in children's services allows clients to get incisive advice into the implications of parties' actions and the proper application of the welfare checklist. She is able to find sensible middle grounds in such disputes and ensure that long-lasting agreements can be reached. She is also capable of challenging the evidence at final hearings and giving clear and relevant submissions on her clients' behalf if that is what is required.

MATRIMONIAL FINANCE

Reagan's experience covers substantial asset financial remedy cases with large pensions, trusts, and properties. She has a reputation for being tenacious and practical, and for not allowing her client's interests to suffer in litigation. She can hold her own and will argue fiercely to further her client's interests.

DOMESTIC ABUSE AND INJUNCTIONS

Reagan is frequently instructed by solicitors to represent vulnerable clients who have been abused and require protection via NMOs and/or Occupation Orders. She understands the need for without-notice applications and how to gather evidence and represent these clients throughout proceedings. She is alive to the need for vulnerable clients to not be exposed to their perpetrators at court and is aware of the methods of protecting her clients and the unexpected/interlinked issues that her clients may face around, for instance, child contact.

Reagan's thorough understanding of injunction proceedings and her ability to connect with vulnerable clients makes her somewhat of an expert in this area.

MEDIATION AND ARBITRATION

Reagan is a qualified, non-practicing mediator. She therefore fully understands the mediation process and is able to provide support and proper advice throughout this process. She can provide strategic advice throughout mediations or arbitrations which greatly assists clients in securing the fairest and most beneficial settlements. However, she also knows when to stop discussions when this may be important for her client and is not afraid to move to contested hearings where negotiations are not appropriate or have reached a point where they would not be in her client's best interests to proceed. Reagan does not approach mediations with a 'must-settle' attitude and will certainly contest matters where it is appropriate to do so.

Notable Cases

H-D-H (children) and C (a child) [2021] EWCA Civ 1192

The court of appeal hears 2 appeals on the issue of what allegations should be litigated in care proceedings. They reject the arguments of leading silks in the first case, but allow the appeal in the case of C (a child) for the reasons given by counsel, Reagan Persaud. In delivering Judgment, the court of appeal confirms that the test to be applied when the court decides what allegations need to be litigated remains as set out in *Oxfordshire County Council v DP, RS and BS* [2005].

Re F (Assessment of birth family) [2021] EWFC 31

An application by the local authority to explore a mother's birth family as possible carers for her child, even though the mother had been adopted and so this family had no legal tie to the child. Cobb J sets down/reiterates the guidance to be applied in cases where assessment of wider family members is opposed by the respondent parents in care cases.

Appointments and Memberships

- Visiting Lecturer at BPP University, teaching on the Bar Professional Training Course – 2020
- Examiner/Assessor for the Bar Professional Training Course - 2019
- Committee member National Family Law Bar Association
- Sub-Committee member Family Law Bar Association - Children
- Bar Council committee member
- Bar Council Sub-Committee member Equality, Diversity & Social Inclusion
- Bar Pro Bono Unit
- Inner Temple Society
- Bar North Eastern Circuit

Legal Directories

Legal 500 2023 - 'Reagan is a force to be reckoned with - extremely capable and diligent. She is fierce, confident and fearless in court.'

Legal 500 2022 - "An impressive advocate with a strong eye for detail. She is calm in and out of the courtroom. Conscientious and compassionate, she builds very good rapport with clients and judges."

Legal 500 2021 Rising Star - "Reagan's mind works fast, and draws on the specificity of the case, which is incredibly useful in cases where there are related proceedings, siblings, have been long hearings and there is a lot of detail to draw on. She is confident, which puts the client at ease, especially where other representatives are partisan and can make professional clients feel intimidated or under attack."