DEANS COURT CHAMBERS

# Susan Grocott

1986 Middle Temple, 2008 Kings Counsel, familyclerks@deanscourt.co.uk



## Education

Oulder Hill Community School

Exeter College, Oxford BA (Oxon)

Inns of Court School of Law

## Professional Associations

Family Law Bar Association, Joint Chair Manchester Committee

Northern Circuit Administrative Law Association

Manchester Family Justice Council – FLBA rep

## Appointments

Co-Chair, Legal Services Committee

Vice Chair, Ethics Committee

Head of the Family Team

2004 Recorder (Northern Circuit) – Crime & Family (Public and private Law)

2011 Deputy High Court Judge, Family Division

## Areas of Specialism

- Children (Public)
- Children (Private)
- Financial Remedies and Family Properties
- Child Abduction and Leave to Remove
- Cohabitation Disputes
- Judicial Review
- Financial Orders for Children
- Private FDR
- Early Neutral Evaluation (ENE)

## Profile

Susan is a distinguished King's Counsel, widely recognised as a leading specialist in family law, particularly in children matters. Ranked Band 1 by Chambers & Partners, she is praised for her forensic attention to detail and compelling and effective advocacy. "She is second to none," says Chambers and Partners and "her ability to digest large volumes of documentation from a forensic perspective never ceases to impress."

As well as her practice at the Bar, Susan also sits as a Recorder and is authorised to sit as a Deputy High Court Judge, allowing her to draw on her judicial skills to offer a unique insight into complex and challenging cases, and novel issues of law.  Susan's experience as a judge makes her an obvious choice to act as an Early Neutral Evaluator, Mediator, or Private FDR Evaluator.

### Public Law Children

Susan continues to be involved in some of the most complex public children law cases acting both alone and as a leader for local authorities, parents, and children. She is instructed in cases of the utmost seriousness with complex issues of fact and law and is highly sought after for her straightforward yet highly forensic style of advocacy. Susan is highly skilled in dealing with vulnerable children and adults and prides herself on her ability to explain complicated concepts in an easy and digestible way.

Susan is regularly instructed to provide written advice on areas of policy and procedure in this area.

Susan appears before all levels of Court and was leading counsel for the respondent local authority in S-B Children [2009] UKSC 17 in the Supreme Court.

### Private Law Children

Susan is routinely retained in disputes arising in the context of child arrangement applications. She is experienced in cases involving disputes as to residence, contact, and specific questions concerning schooling, medical treatment, international mobility, and changes of habitual residence, as well as serious allegations involving coercive conduct, emotional harm, or non-consensual acts

### Financial Remedy

Susan maintains a financial remedy practice and is called upon to advice in complex areas of law at all stages of proceedings. Susan's experience as a Recorder makes her an obvious choice for ADR work, including acting as a Private FDR Judge or Early Neutral Evaluator.

## Notable Cases

### Re R (Care Proceedings: Causation) [2011]

**Practice Area: Family**

EWHC 1715 (Fam) [20011] 2 FLR 1384

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### Re S-B (Children) [2009]

**Practice Area: Family**

UKSC 17 [2010] 1 FLR 1161

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### Lancashire County Council v R [2008]

**Practice Area: Family**

EWHC 2959 (Fam) [2010] 1 FLR 387

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### Re AB (Care Proceedings: Disclosure of Medical Evidence to the Police) [2002]

**Practice Area: Family**

EWHC 2198 (Fam) [2003] 1 FLR 579

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## What the Directories say

*"An excellent advocate."*
*Chambers & Partners, 2026*

*'Susan is a force of nature; she is a highly experienced family silk whose written and oral advocacy is second-to-none. She can grapple with vast amounts of documentation and her legal analysis of the most complex cases is thoroughly impressive.'*

*Legal 500, 2026*

"Susan is a strong and effective silk."

*Chambers & Partners, 2025*

"She is second to none and her ability to digest large volumes of documentation from a forensic perspective never ceases to impress me."

*Chambers & Partners, 2025*

“Susan Grocott’s expertise is second to none. She has superb advocacy skills and breadth of knowledge in family matters.”

*Chambers & Partners, 2024*

“Susan is a robust opponent. She knows the law well and is not afraid to advance her client’s position."

*Chambers & Partners, 2024*

Susan Grocott handles incredibly complex cases with ease and practicality. She is reassuring, helpful, and grounded. Nothing seems to ruffle her. She is calm, collected and gets to the points in the case.

*Chambers & Partners, 2023*

Susan is excellent, well prepared, meticulous and approachable.

*Chambers & Partners, 2023*

She is straight-talking and robust. A no-nonsense lawyer who is always well prepared.

*Chambers and Partners, 2022*

She has a very straightforward manner that is attractive to clients and judges.

*Chambers and Partners, 2021*

Susan is clear and concise, and thinks on her feet. She is a real force to be reckoned with.

*Chambers and Partners 2020*

Has a diverse practice, advising on a range of finance issues in addition to public and private children work. Her caseload includes an emphasis on negligence, serious injury and induced illness. She also handles matters involving child trafficking and sexual abuse.
Very astute and meticulous in her preparation.

*Chambers and Partners*

A tenacious advocate with a very astute legal brain.

*Legal 500*

Highly recommended for private law children work.

*Legal 500*

Distils large quantities of complex information to the essential arguments.

*Legal 500*

Calm under pressure and measured in her delivery.

*Legal 500*

Applies "assiduous preparation" to high-value family law issues. She is also particularly highly regarded for her knowledge of children law cases.

*Chambers UK*

Recommended for [her] sensitivity in care cases.

*Legal 500*

Calls a spade a spade and has a fantastic grasp of issues.

*Chambers UK*

Has a diverse practice, advising on a range of finance issues in addition to public and private children work. Her caseload includes an emphasis on negligence, serious injuries and induced illness.
Provides robust, pragmatic and client-centric advice. She is a pleasure to work with.
She is very driven to meeting her client's needs and a pleasure to work with.

*Chambers UK*

Specialise in matrimonial finance and private children law.

*Legal 500*

Offers no-nonsense advocacy, phenomenal memory and thorough preparation.

*Chambers UK*

Recommended for childcare matters.

*Legal 500*

Applauded for her sensible and hard-working attitude.

*Chambers UK*

Has a diverse practice, advising on a range of finance issues in addition to public and private children work. Her caseload includes an emphasis on negligence, serious injury and induced illness.
A formidable advocate. She has an insightful knowledge about her cases. Calm and reassuring and very able.
Fabulous advocate and leader, who responds quickly to any queries.

*Chambers and Partners*

A leading practitioner in financial matters and the law relating to children. Instructing solicitors particularly appreciate her straightforward approach to cases.
She would be my first port of call. She is direct and has a down-to-earth approach to things which is not commonly found.

*Chambers UK*

She was very fair in a difficult situation. She came to a very fair conclusion.

*Chambers UK*

She talks the same language as her clients, which enables her to forge strong relationships with them.

*Chambers UK*

In her element with medical issues in childcare proceedings.

*Legal 500*

Clever, conscientious and dedicated to her work.

*Chambers UK*

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