

Liam Kelly

2019 Inner Temple, familyclerks@deanscourt.co.uk



Education	Professional Associations	Appointments
University of Leeds – LLB (Hons) Law LLM Legal Practice incorporating the BPTC – Distinction	The Honourable Society of the Inner Temple Northern Circuit Family Law Bar Association Chartered Institute of Arbitrators	Advocate (Formerly the Bar Pro Bono Unit) Associate of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators Attorney General's Panel - Junior Counsel to the Crown - Regional C Panel - 2025-Present

Areas of Specialism
Family Law
Financial Remedy
Private Children
Mediation
Arbitration

Profile

Liam specialises exclusively in Family Law. He is recognised in Chambers and Partners 2025 as “Up and Coming” with an impressive and growing practice in family law and as a “Rising Star” in both Financial Remedy and Children work in the Legal 500 for 2025. He has been recognised as a Leading Junior in the 2024 and 2025 rankings of leading Manchester Children Law Barristers by Doyles.

Liam was shortlisted for Family Law Young Barrister of the Year in 2021 and 2024, Young Pro Bono Barrister of the Year in 2022 and 2024, and Barrister of the Year in 2024 and 2025 at the Manchester Resolution Awards. He has recently been shortlisted for the John Collins Pro Bono Excellence award in the 2025 Advocate awards. In 2023, Liam was a Pegasus Scholar and spent time in the USA.

Please contact Liam’s clerk, Owen Macro, if you wish to enquire about his availability. His details are: 0161 214 6081 / omacro@deanscourt.co.uk

Financial Remedies

Liam has a busy financial remedy practice and represents parties at all stages of proceedings, as well as at Mediations, Arbitrations, and other Non-Court Dispute Resolution meetings. He is regularly instructed in cases with significant assets, and those with complex asset structures, including trusts, businesses and agricultural land, as well as those cases with an international element.

Liam is a contributor to the Financial Remedies Journal and currently edits the “Summary of Summaries”.

‘It is extremely rare to find a relatively junior family barrister tackling complicated financial remedy work, and Liam embraces that work. He is a sensible and robust advocate, his preparation is second-to-none, and he also is extremely

pro-active.'

Legal 500 2025 - Rising Star (Financial Remedy)

Private Law Children

Liam acts for parents, children and others in private law proceedings and is regularly instructed in respect of children's living arrangements involving allegations of alienating behaviours, domestic and sexual abuse, specific issues with regards to schooling, travel overseas, immunisations and, relocation both at home and abroad. Liam has also been instructed to appear in the High Court in respect of international abduction proceedings, matters invoking the Inherent Jurisdiction in respect of medical treatment and appeals from the Family Court.

Notable Cases

V v V [2024] EWFC 380 (B)

Practice Area:

Liam appeared on behalf of the appellant husband ("H"). H suffered a catastrophic injury in 2020 resulting in his tetraplegia. Following the accident, a critical illness insurance payment, charitable donations, and donated materials and labour resulted in a home being purchased and adapted to meet the needs of husband and family. At first instance, the court determined the FMH should be sold and the proceeds divided as to 55:45 in favour of the husband. On appeal, the court accepted the decision was wrong. At first instance, the court had failed to properly weigh the significant needs of H generated by his injury, requiring security of accommodation. Allowing the appeal, the court discharged the order for sale, transferred the FMH to H, and provided for W to receive 75% of the net sale proceeds upon sale following a future trigger event.

[Click here for Judgement](#)

Re T (Children: Publication of Judgment) [2024] EWCA Civ 697

Practice Area:

Liam, led by Michael Jones KC, represented the respondent father in the Court of Appeal. The mother appealed the decision of Arbuthnot J to publish the parties' names once the youngest child, T, turned 18 in August 2026. The Court allowed the appeal; a fair balance could not be struck between the rights and interests engaged when publication would be 2 years later.

[Click here for Judgement](#)

T (A Child) (No.2) (Transparency: Publication of the Party's Names), [2024] EWHC 161 (Fam)

Practice Area:

The Court determined the public interest in identifying the parents outweighed the Article 8 rights of the mother and children who opposed unanonymised publication. The Court considered publication to be consistent with the children's best interests as it would allow them to gain full insight into the case, with which to make informed choices in the future. The impact on their right to respect for their private lives is relatively limited. In contrast, the public interest in publication identifying the parents is significant. Liam represented the father, led by Michael Jones KC.

[Click here for Judgement](#)

Re T (A CHILD)(s9(6) Children Act 1989 orders: Exceptional Circumstances: Parental Alienation) [2024] EWHC 59 (Fam)

Practice Area:

Liam was instructed by the father to represent him at a rehearing of his application following an appeal. Proceedings had been ongoing for over 10 years, and significant findings of parental alienation had been made against the mother. At first instance, a Circuit Judge had found the matter to be exceptional and considered the child arrangements order should continue until T reached 18. At the rehearing, the Court determined that whilst the proceedings were exceptional, the Court did not consider it could go against the wishes and feelings of T, now aged 15, when he expressed he did not wish to spend time with his father. Liam was led by Michael Jones KC at the hearing.

[Click here for Judgement](#)

A Borough Council v E and Others (No.2) (Refusal of Secure Accommodation Order)[2021] EWHC 2699 (Fam)

Practice Area:

Liam was instructed by the local authority, led by Peter Rothery, in respect of a renewed application for a secure accommodation order pursuant to S.25 of the Children Act 1989.

[Click here for Judgement](#)

D (A Child) [2021] EWCA Civ 787

Practice Area:

Liam was instructed to represent a Mother with learning disabilities in care proceedings following the birth of her child. On behalf of the Mother, Liam opposed the Local Authority care plan to separate the Mother from the child. The Court having made the decision to separate, and placing the child into foster care, Liam sought an urgent stay in the Court of Appeal, the same being granted. An application for permission to appeal and to appeal the decision to separate was made and subsequently heard on an urgent basis, Liam now being led by Julia Cheetham KC at the substantive hearing. The Court of Appeal granted permission and allowed the appeal.

[Click here for Judgement](#)

A Borough Council v E and Others [2021] EWHC 183 (Fam)

Practice Area:

Liam was instructed by the Local Authority in care proceedings with regards to a child with complex mental health needs subject to Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards Orders. Later led by Julia Cheetham KC, the Local Authority sought approval of the Court to place the child in an unregulated placement whilst subject to Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards Orders remained and OFSTED regulation was sought.

[Click here for Judgement](#)

What the Directories say

"Liam Kelly is a fabulous advocate. My preferred counsel on finances."

Chambers and Partners, 2026

"He is simply excellent and beyond his years of call. He is always well prepared, accessible and he very quickly builds a rapport with clients."

Chambers and Partners, 2026

Liam is a firecracker of a junior barrister. He is a powerhouse: a strategist, a pragmatist, a fighter with the ear of the court.'

Legal 500 2026 - Rising Star (Financial Remedy)

'Liam is a charming barrister inside and outside of the court room. He is highly skilled with a fantastic manner for the client, he keeps in touch and enjoys continuity of representation, and he is a great advocate and is dogmatic with his points without alienating the court.'

Legal 500 2026 - Rising Star (Children)

'It is extremely rare to find a relatively junior family barrister tackling complicated financial remedy work, and Liam embraces that work. He is a sensible and robust advocate, his preparation is second-to-none, and he also is extremely pro-active.'

Legal 500 2025 - Rising Star (Financial Remedy)

'Liam is an excellent advocate who can build an instant rapport with clients.'

Legal 500 2025 - Rising Star (Children)

"Liam Kelly is a very impressive advocate who has the ability to grasp complex matters quickly. He is a reassuring presence for clients and provides clear advice in an effective and supportive manner."

Chambers and Partners, 2024

"He is a fantastic barrister with a depth of knowledge beyond his years."

Chambers and Partners, 2024

"Liam often goes over and above and prepares his case in great detail."

Chambers and Partners, 2024

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