

BARRISTER OF THE YEAR



Elizabeth Isaacs QC
St Ives Chambers

Elizabeth has developed a successful and highly-regarded national silk practice.

She's the author of two legal textbooks and contributor to various highly regarded legal texts.

In 2019 she was elected a Bencher of Lincoln's Inn, and was recently awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Law by Coventry University in recognition of her significant contribution to family law and equality law, including in diversity in the legal profession.

She is head of St Ives Childcare Group (the largest specialist group in chambers) and also in this last year organised and chaired an inaugural Modern Families conference which covered LGBT parenting issues.



Esther Ruth Gamble
No5 Barristers' Chambers

Specialising in clinical negligence and personal injury litigation, helping those who have sustained serious injuries, Esther's case load largely consists of claims valued at £250,000-£1.5million.

She works in highly sensitive cases, sometimes where bereaved families require great clarity, compassion and support.

Esther is in the Legal 500 2020, ranked as a Tier 1 Leading Junior for clinical negligence in the Midlands and described as "incredibly intelligent and able to think quickly in a wide range of cases."

She co-founded, and now chairs the Midland Circuit Women's Forum, whose aim is to maximise the potential of women barristers on the Midland Circuit through professional development, support and networking.

Within chambers she holds the position of Respect Co-ordinator.



Iqbal Mohammed
St Philips Chambers

Iqbal is a member of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, the Midlands Chancery and Bar Association and the Property Bar Association.

He enjoyed a strong practice in commercial and property law, reaping great success in 2019.

His practice demonstrates a high calibre of work.

Iqbal is mostly instructed at the outset of litigation and retained throughout, which provides for quality and depth of work.

He received his first shipping and commercial arbitration case in 2019.

Also this year his work included cases in Germany, Turkey, India, the Netherlands and the United States.

A large part of his work involves advising on unusual or technical legal issues.

Iqbal works tirelessly to create an accessible and positive impression of the modern bar and is a mentor at the University of Warwick. He also carries out important pro bono work.



Jason M Hadden MBE
St Ives Chambers

Jason has represented many vulnerable people, victims of trafficking, domestic abuse, forced marriages and domestic violence, including rape and abandonment. He has been able to reunite children with family members and obtain compensation in complex human rights litigation.

He is a media commentator and author and campaigns against the persecution of lawyers around the world.

Jason has developed a very successful family law practice since moving from London, specialising in serious cases of child abuse, neglect and domestic violence. He often acts as an emotional counsellor for the client.

Pro bono work includes lecturing services to IDVAs (domestic advisors) so that they are best prepared to offer their services to victims of domestic abuse.

His book, 'How to Represent Yourself in the Family Court' is aimed at those who are no longer eligible for legal aid and need the help and assistance to basically understand the law.



Vanessa Meachin QC
3PB Barristers

Vanessa was involved in a sexual abuse case in Birmingham which was the largest ever of its type heard in England – complicated and multi-faceted.

It was a first experience of dealing with a case wholly electronically.

As a result of Vanessa's diligence, the Judge found that allegations of sexual abuse against a mother were untrue and seven children were returned to her care. They had all been removed under a without notice emergency protection order.

This case was noteworthy as to the challenges faced.

Vanessa also advises on highly sensitive family matters concerning adoption.

She supports Birmingham Children's Trust and fundraising initiatives to help vulnerable young people. She also helps ABC (All Birmingham's Children) and is currently backing a Children's Festival on National Children's Day next month.