



# Allison Munroe

Called 1992

## Areas of Practice

Crime  
Family  
Mental health  
Prison law  
Inquests

## Experience

### Crime

Allison is an established criminal law practitioner with a wealth of experience and expertise as an advocate in all areas of serious crime. She has conducted criminal trials covering a wide range of offences including large scale drugs supply and importation, firearms offences, serious assaults involving the use of weapons, all forms of public order offences, money laundering, armed robberies, child cruelty/ neglect . She has considerable experience as junior counsel in numerous trials, in particular, cases of murder, attempted murder, child cruelty, armed robberies, large scale drugs importations. Additionally due to her work in other fields, most notably family, she has developed a practice of conducting criminal cases, which have arise out of care proceedings. She has represented parents charged with serious assaults, attempted murder/ murder of children in their care. She has also represented a number of local authorities involved in public interest immunity hearings or third party disclosure applications in the criminal courts.

Allison has appeared on behalf of defendants in the Court of Appeal, where she has successfully appealed convictions (including murder, public order offences and serious assaults) and sentences, (including deportation orders, serious assaults, drugs offences).

### Family

Allison is an established family practitioner with particular reference to public law and children. She has particular expertise in complex public law and adoption matters as well as matters involving child abuse, serious physical and sexual abuse in both the Principal Registry and the High Court. Her practice involves representation of Local Authorities, Parents and Children at all levels up to appeals in the Court of Appeal. Many of the parents she represents have a background of mental health difficulties or learning disabilities; which require different skills and expertise in preparing and conducting such matters. e.g representing hearing impaired parents in care proceedings and successfully appealing the decision of the lower courts on family law grounds but also on the basis of the Local Authority breaches of existing disability legislation. There has been an increase in the number of family cases that have an explicit immigration aspect, this can range

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from unaccompanied minors, to parents and children whose immigration status is in issue and the interplay between family and immigration law. Allison has been involved in a number of such cases. She also has expertise in cases with an international feature, including removing children from the jurisdiction to non-convention countries.

Allison's practice also involves education law, specifically in the area of local authority procedures and practices in the field of education provision and services for young people, especially those in care or with special needs.

#### **Mental Health**

Allison is a member of MIND and since the start of her career has represented patients at Mental Health Review Tribunals; in a variety of psychiatric facilities, including Broadmoor. The patients she has represented have been detained under a variety of orders and for a variety of reasons; both via the mental health services and those detained following involvement with the criminal justice system. Many of the parents she represents in care proceedings have had some connection with mental health services or face on going mental health difficulties, which often present new and challenging aspects to the cases. She has extensive knowledge of current mental health and community care provisions and the work of local mental health teams.

#### **Prison Law**

Allison is a member of Chambers Prison Law team, where her knowledge and experience in the areas of crime and mental health had equipped her well to act for prisoners at Prison Parole Boards at all levels; including "lifer panels"

#### **Inquests**

Allison has throughout her career conducted inquests, primarily on behalf of families, in cases of deaths in custody and prisons. She has also on occasions represented Local Authorities (eg in Inquests where an elderly person has died in a care home)

## **Membership and Societies**

Haldane Society  
Rights of Women  
MIND

## **Other Relevant Information**

#### **Languages**

French