



Elizabeth Woodcraft

Called 1980

Areas of Practice

Elizabeth's practice covers a wide range of family issues, including care and private law cases. She frequently represents children, as well as parents, in the High Court, Principal Registry of the Family Division, County Court, and Family Proceedings Court.

Notable Cases

- Re H [2008] EWCA Civ 1245 – appeal against the making of a care order. Appeal allowed. The judge did not give sufficient weight to the need the child of 10 had to maintain the very significant relationship with her mother.
- Lambeth London Borough v S, C, V and J (By his Children's Guardian, N), Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis and Secretary of State for the Home Department Intervening [2006] EWHC 326 (Fam); [2007] FLR Issue of paternity raised by the mother. Presumed father was dead having been unlawfully killed. Metropolitan Police held the only example of his DNA. Whether that should be made available to establish the child's paternity. Held it should not.
- Re J (Care: Assessment: Fair Trial) [2006] EWCA Civ 545, (2006) The Times June 21 – challenge to the making of a care order where a meeting of professionals had not included the mother, herself a minor. Appeal failed.
- Lambeth London Borough v S, C, V and J (By his Children's Guardian); Legal Services Commission Intervening [2005] EWHC 776 (Fam), [2005] 2 FLR 1171 – duty of local authority to pay for assessments of potential carers.
- Re M (Sperm Donor Father) [2003] Fam Law 94 – rights of contact of a father who had donated sperm to a lesbian couple.

tooks chambers

81 Farringdon Street
London
EC4A 4BL
DX 68 Chancery Lane

Telephone
020 7842 7575

Facsimile
020 7842 7576

Emergency
07850 823676

E-mail
clerks@tooks.co.uk

Web
www.tooks.co.uk



Publications

Legal publications:

Consulting Editor - United Kingdom Human Rights Reports (Jordans)

Contributor to - the Woman Lawyer: Making the difference (Butterworths 1998)

Legal articles:

"re G - a missed opportunity" (Family Law Jan 2007)

“the Madonna Complex” (Solicitors’ Journal, August 2006)

“Lesbian parents – changing attitudes” (Rights of Women Bulletin, Summer 1997)

“Family Divisions”, a discussion of the problems in families today (Socialist Lawyer, Spring 1994)

Novels:

Good Bad Woman (2001)

Babyface (2002)

Speaking Events and Training, Seminars

2008 - 9	Contributor to Feminism with Fizz – series of seminars on issues relating to women and the law
2007	Feminism and Legal Practice
2006	Critical Lawyers Law, Gender and Sexuality London - Battle of Ideas, ‘the Rise and Rise of Human Rights’
2003	Buenos Aires, Argentina - Domestic Violence Ankara, Turkey - Domestic Violence
2000	Beijing China - Domestic Violence

Membership and Societies

Family Law Bar Association (FLBA).
Haldane Society of Socialist Lawyers.
Rights of Women.
Fawcett Society
Liberty.

Other Relevant Information

Fluent French, some Italian, some Mandarin

Elizabeth was a member of an investigative team researching the issue of strip searching in Armagh Jail. A recent project has gathered together the memories and experiences of those who had dealings with the jail during the Troubles in Northern Ireland

<http://www.prisonmemoryarchive.com/films/depoy/armagh.html>

Background

Elizabeth came to the Bar after working for the National Women’s Aid Federation and assisting Jo Richardson as her private member’s bill worked its way through parliament to become the Domestic Violence and Matrimonial Proceedings Act 1976. From 1991– 1995 Elizabeth was the Chair of Rights of Women - an organisation of women working on legal issues affecting women. Elizabeth frequently speaks on the law relating to Domestic Violence, human rights and gay and lesbian issues.