

1GC | Family Law

Samuel Marks

Year of Call: 2021



Practice Overview

Samuel specialises in children law, with particular focus on representing children with neurodiversity, special educational needs, and disabilities.

Samuel is instructed in multi-day trials, including in the High Court, involving allegations of sexual abuse, perplexing presentations / fabricated or induced illness, non-accidental injury, alienating behaviours, domestic abuse, and coercive & controlling behaviour.

Samuel's expertise lies in the cross-examination of experts and vulnerable witnesses, whom he also represents, including through the Official Solicitor. He has completed training in witness handling of vulnerable persons and children.

Samuel advises on cases which interplay between jurisdictions – the Family Court, the Court of Protection, and the First-tier Tribunal (Special Educational Needs and Disability).

Samuel regularly appears against more senior counsel and silks without a leader. He has appeared before the President of the Family Division in a leading case involving foreign surrogacy. He has acted at all levels up to and including the Court of Appeal.

In 2025, Samuel was appointed as Co-Chair of the Luton & Bedfordshire Family Justice Board.

Children (Public Law)

Samuel represents all parties and interveners in public law proceedings, with particular emphasis on representing children with neurodiversity, special educational needs, and disability. Samuel is frequently instructed in multi-day trials, including in the High Court, involving allegations of sexual abuse, perplexing presentations / fabricated or induced illness, non-accidental injury, alienating behaviours, domestic abuse, and coercive & controlling behaviour.

Samuel is experienced in representing all clients in applications for deprivation of liberty safeguards.

Samuel provides training to local authorities, solicitors, and social workers on these areas of law.

Children (Private Law)

Samuel is frequently instructed to represent parents and children through their r.16.4 guardian. He has expertise in cases involving allegations of alienating behaviours, a subject on which he has also

delivered training, and applications for external and internal relocation.

International Family Law

Samuel acts for parents and children in matters involving international adoption, and permanent and temporary leave to relocate with a child.

Surrogacy, Adoption & Fertility Law

Samuel advises and represents families and adoption agencies. Samuel has appeared before the President in a leading case involving foreign surrogacy arrangements.

Re Z (Unlawful Foreign Surrogacy: Adoption) [2025] EWHC 339 (Fam)

Court of Protection

Samuel has both professional and personal experience of the Court of Protection.

Domestic Abuse & Injunctions

Samuel has made and resisted applications for injunctive relief under the Family Law Act 1996, and in cases concerning forced marriage protection orders, and injunctions under the inherent jurisdiction.

Education

Samuel advises and represents clients on education law matters, including cases in the First-tier Tribunal (Special Educational Needs and Disability).

Notable Cases

Re Z (Unlawful Foreign Surrogacy: Adoption) [2025] EWHC 339

A Local Authority v A Mother & Ors [2025] EWHC 3498

London Borough of A v Ors [2025] EWFC 471 (B)

London Borough of Havering v Ors [2025] EWFC 238 (B)

London Borough of Richmond v Ors [2023] EWFC 146 (B)

Re B-M (Children: Findings of Fact) [2021] EWCA Civ 1371

Education

BPTC, BPP Law School

GDL, The University of Law, London

MA History of War, King's College London

BA Classics (Literae Humaniores), University of Oxford

Prior to pupillage, Samuel worked at several pro bono organisations and charities, including Advocate, assisting applicants seeking representation in family law matters; the City of London Appeals clinic, advising on a route of appeal for a conviction of murder to the Criminal Cases Review Commission; and IPSEA, appearing on behalf of parents, families, and young people before the First-tier Tribunal (Special Educational Needs and Disability).

Appointments

Co-Chair of the Luton & Bedfordshire Family Justice Board

Awards

Highest mark in Family Law on the BPTC at BPP

University of Law Prize for best individual mooter in the final of the annual mooting competition.

Exhibition Award, Inner Temple

BPTC Advocacy Scholarship

Memberships & Associations

Family Law Bar Association

Court of Protection Bar Association

Child Abduction Lawyers Association

Education Law Association

Resolution