

Nancy Williams



Call: 2016

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Profile

Nancy has a wide ranging practice that includes children law, court of protection, Inquests and International Human Rights.

Prior to joining the bar, Nancy developed extensive international experience. She worked at the International Court of Arbitration in Paris in the common law team, the United Nations Development Programme, Access to Justice Programme in Sierra Leone, Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law and in the international and group claims department of the leading human rights law firm Leigh Day where she was involved in large group actions. She maintains an international element to her work through her Pro Bono work. Nancy collaborated with the UK Sierra Leone Pro Bono Network to draft the Sentencing Guidelines and Practice Direction for the Anti-Corruption division of the Sierra Leonean High Court. They were published in October 2022.

Nancy regularly provides training relating to her practice areas, particularly practice and procedure in the Court of Protection and Inquests.

Education

LL.B(Hons), Law with European Law, University of Nottingham

LLM, Human Rights, University of Nottingham

Languages

French

Spanish

Related practice areas

Children's Rights Group

Court of Protection & Mental Health

Inquests and Public Inquiries

Children's Rights

Nancy accepts instructions in children's law cases. She regularly receives instructions on behalf of parents, local authorities and guardians.

Nancy regularly appears in cases which involve the inherent jurisdiction of the court, and deprivation of liberty. She has been instructed to appear in complex cases which have raised human rights issues such as applications to dispense with the notification of care proceedings to parents with and without parental responsibility; non-disclosure of evidence to a party to the proceedings; and a parent objecting to vaccination of their children in care proceedings.

Nancy has also dealt with a wide range of other matters such as:

- Forced marriage protection orders;
- Female Genital mutilation;
- Honour based violence;
- Relinquished baby cases with international elements;
- Discharge of care orders; and
- Committal proceedings.

Nancy is adept at working with vulnerable witnesses – as clients and witness handling.

Nancy has also been appointed to the FA Safeguarding Review Panel for an initial 3 year term. She assists the Football Association by determining whether individuals should be suspended from football and footballing activities because of safeguarding risks to children.

Court of Protection

Nancy has a busy Court of Protection practice. She is instructed by local authorities, ALRs, the Official Solicitor and NHS trusts. She has experience acting in matters relating to personal welfare, Deprivation of Liberty challenges, and the inherent jurisdiction.

Nancy has also been involved in cases relating to the displacement of a nearest relative under the Mental Health Act and medical treatment of adults and children.

International Human Rights

Nancy has a longstanding interest in international human rights. She has combined the academic knowledge with practical experience with organisations in Europe, Africa and Latin America.

During her time as an intern at the Bingham Centre for the Rule of Law, she assisted in the preparation of a report for the International Bar Association, '*International Access to Justice: Barriers and Solutions*'. She was also an editorial assistant for the Human Rights Law Review whilst studying her Masters in Human Rights.

Nancy has worked to bolster the rule of law in Sierra Leone – interning with the UNDP Access to Justice programme and assisting the UK Sierra Leone Pro Bono Network by drafting the Sentencing Guidelines and Practice Direction for the Anti-Corruption division of the Sierra Leonean High Court.

Nancy provided assistance to barristers who prepared a Legal Opinion for the Lawyers for Palestinian Human Rights on whether the closure of Gaza constitutes a crime against humanity of persecution.

Nancy is using her pro-bono and academic experience to **develop her practice**.

Inquests

Nancy has appeared on behalf of interested persons. In conducting inquests, Nancy draws on her experience in cases concerning public Children Law, mental capacity and mental health Law.

Nancy has provided training to local authorities on inquest procedure and is keen to develop her practice in this area.

Publications/Seminars

Nancy visited Sierra Leone in March 2022 with the UK Sierra Leone Pro Bono Network as part of the process of drafting the Sentencing Guidelines for the Anti-Corruption Division of the Sierra Leonean High Court. Nancy provided training on legal drafting to anticorruption prosecutors and investigators; discussed the consultation drafts of the Sentencing Guidelines and the Practice Directions with judges; and met with the anti corruption commissioner and members of the commission.

Nancy commented on Nigeria's SARS for **Littlelaw.co.uk** in January 2021.

Matthews and N. Williams, Post Brexit crystal ball gazing: What the future holds for Phase I Clinical Trials in the UK, **Clinical Risk, 2016, Vol. 2 (5-6) 97-104**. This paper was subsequently presented to the Medico-Legal Society on 11th January 2018. The presentation was published in the Medico-Legal Journal, 2018, Vol. 86 (2) 63-71.