

Chambers

UK Bar —————

2022

Leading barristers and sets in the UK

Court of Protection

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Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

Band 1**39 Essex Chambers**

See profile on p.1023

THE SET

39 Essex Chambers is described by instructing solicitors as "one of the gold standard sets for Court of Protection work," adding: "You know whoever you instruct is going to be good." The chambers houses a strong bench of barristers who are noted for their expert handling of a wide range of health and welfare cases. Areas of particular strength for the team include disputes concerning serious medical treatment, including the withdrawal of clinically assisted nutrition and hydration, and deprivation of liberty cases. Members act for a diverse range of clients,

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Clement Joanne 11KBW (ORL) D *
Curtis Helen Garden Court Chambers
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Parkhill Lee Cornerstone Barristers *
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Wenban-Smith Mungo 39 Essex Chambers
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Bellamy Jonathan St John's Buildings
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Harris Bethan Garden Court Chambers
Hearnden Alexis 39 Essex Chambers
Hirst Leonie Doughty Street Chambers
Kelly Arianna 39 Essex Chambers
Kohn Nicola 39 Essex Chambers
Lawson David Serjeants' Inn Chambers A
Lee Annabel 39 Essex Chambers
Lewis Oliver Doughty Street Chambers
Meacher Alison Gatehouse Chambers (ORL) D
Mellon Gráinne Garden Court Chambers
Sydow Katarina Outer Temple Chambers
Taylor Keri No5 Barristers' Chambers
Tkaczynska Anna Serjeants' Inn Chambers
Watson Claire Serjeants' Inn Chambers
Up-and-coming individuals
Cisneros Alex Outer Temple Chambers *
Gowman Nia 30 Park Place (ORL) D

including vulnerable individuals and their families, the Official Solicitor and several statutory agencies. The set's tenants are routinely instructed in landmark cases, and have experience appearing before the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court.

Client service: "The clerking is excellent – they are always very helpful." "The clerks are very responsive and good at providing estimates and managing cost expectations." "Everyone on the clerking team is quick to come back to you and has a real in depth understanding of the practice areas." Alastair Davidson is the senior clerk.

SILKS

Victoria Butler-Cole QC Victoria Butler-Cole QC is an impressive silk who represents a broad range of clients, including family members, health authorities, local authorities and the Official Solicitor. She is a top choice for a range of cases, including those relating to welfare, capacity and medical treatment disputes. She has been involved in a number of the leading cases concerning the application of Article 5 as well as those concerning the international jurisdiction of the Court of Protection. She regularly acts in cases concerning end-of-life treatment.

Strengths: "She is a go-to Court of Protection barrister – she knows the law like the back of her hand." "A truly outstanding advocate who is very committed to the subject." **Recent work:** Instructed in a case concerning an application by a trust for an order for a caesarean section and sterilisation of a learning disabled woman who was pregnant following rape.

Jenni Richards QC Jenni Richards QC is a standout silk who acts on behalf of public bodies and individuals. She is also regularly instructed to act on behalf of public interest groups in cases covering all issues relating to public law. She is particularly adept at handling high-profile and complex cases under the Mental Capacity Act, many of which involve difficult issues regarding medical treatment, deprivation of liberty and capacity. **Strengths:** "She is very personable, knowledgeable and has a problem-solving approach." "You can feel confident in her advice and oversight in high-profile cases."

Vikram Sachdeva QC Vikram Sachdeva QC is particularly adept at handling medical treatment cases due to his clinical background, which gives him an excellent understanding of the complex health issues involved. He has been involved in numerous high-profile and heavily scrutinised cases in the Court of Protection. He is known for his work in cases concerning mental health, medical ethics and end-of-life care cases. **Strengths:** "A very experienced, enthusiastic and effective barrister." "He has extensive medical knowledge." "He is so responsive, and what sets him apart is that you always feel like yours is the only case he is working on. He goes that extra mile, which makes a huge difference in a stressful case." **Recent work:** Acted for a local authority in a high-profile case raising for the first time the question whether capacity to consent to sex requires the patient to understand that the other person must be able to consent and must be in fact consenting.

Fenella Morris QC Fenella Morris QC is a highly regarded silk who has a broad practice that encompasses Court of Protection as well as health and community care matters. She is also increasingly involved in cases which involve disputes over property and financial affairs. She is an expert on capacity to consent to marriage and sexual relations, as well

as on matters that concern urgent medical treatment and deprivation of liberty. Hers is a broad client base, ranging from individuals to NHS and private health-care bodies. **Strengths:** “She is a very strong advocate and is lovely to work with.” “She is very easy to work with, really analytical and a great advocate.”

Recent work: Acted for the Official Solicitor in an application to obtain declarations for a forced caesarean for a mother with a mental illness.

Parishil Patel QC Parishil Patel QC is a skilled practitioner who acts for a broad range of clients such as public bodies, family members and the Official Solicitor. He is particularly good at medical treatment disputes and is instructed in cases involving a crossover of both welfare and property matters on behalf of all parties. **Strengths:** “A superb advocate who is extremely good with clients.” “He is pragmatic and clear in his advice.”

JUNIORS

Alexander Ruck Keene (see p.924) Alexander Ruck Keene is noted in the market for his academic excellence in the Court of Protection field. Peers consistently recognise his dedication to the area, citing his writing and involvement in the law as indications of his pre-eminence. He edits and contributes to a number of leading publications dealing with the area, while also maintaining an enviable practice

Strengths: “Has an encyclopedic knowledge of Court of Protection matters and is the go-to person for mental health-related issues.” “A hugely knowledgeable barrister with a very pleasant disposition which allows clients to feel confident in his advice.”

Recent work: Instructed in a case concerning what the Parole Board should do where a prisoner has impaired capacity to participate in their Parole Board hearing.

Neil Allen Neil Allen excels at Court of Protection work that involves deprivation of liberty and other human rights issues. He also has extensive expertise in the use of the Mental Health Act 1983. Peers point out his academic excellence as a distinguishing characteristic, citing his role as lecturer in Clinical Legal Education at the University of Manchester. **Strengths:** “He is especially talented in Court of Protection cases concerning mental health. He brings an interesting perspective to cases and pitches at the right level.” **Recent work:** Instructed in a case setting the precedent for determining a person’s mental capacity when making decisions regarding their use of the internet and social media.

Ian Brownhill Ian Brownhill is a highly regarded prison law barrister who has cultivated a strong reputation in the Court of Protection for his handling of cases involving incarcerated and incapacitated individuals. He is regularly instructed by the Official Solicitor, family members, NHS bodies and local authorities. **Strengths:** “He is user-friendly, very generous with his time and knows a lot about the way the prisons and probation interface with Court of Protection issues, which is really helpful in complex cases.” “A very good advocate who is gifted on his feet.” **Recent work:** Instructed in a case determining whether the first respondent, a 19 year old man with autism, anxiety and severe learning difficulties, was able to make a capacitous decision to accept or refuse care, support and education.

Adam Fullwood Adam Fullwood has a broad practice that encompasses mental capacity, social housing, and health and social care cases. He is highly regarded for his work for a broad range of clients, and regularly acts for private care providers,

patients, service users and private litigants. He is appointed to the Attorney General’s Regional Panel and acts for both claimants and defendants in various courts from the Court of Appeal to the Upper Tribunal. He also is an Assistant Coroner. **Strengths:** “Adam is an excellent communicator with depth of knowledge and great with clients. He is robust when needed but persuasive in a manner befitting the jurisdictions we work in.” “He is personable and charming and doesn’t lose sight of his client’s objectives. He will reach solutions for his client that leave all parties satisfied, without an overly aggressive approach.” **Recent work:** Instructed on an application to determine the capacity of a vulnerable woman to engage in sexual relations and contact with others.

Nicola Greaney Nicola Greaney is an excellent practitioner with a broad public law practice that encompasses community care, mental health and human rights. She is particularly adept at handling medical treatment cases, and is regularly involved in matters involving an overlap between mental capacity law and civil litigation. **Strengths:** “She is very thorough, experienced and incredible at drafting.” “She is incredibly professional, with an abundance of integrity.” **Recent work:** Instructed in a case concerning an individual who suffered from paranoid schizophrenia leading him to have delusions around medical treatment. He had developed an infection in his left foot and had undergone partial amputation. The issue before the court was whether he should have a full amputation.

Peter Mant Peter Mant is acknowledged as an expert in the field of health and welfare, and is particularly proficient at handling cases on the overlap between the Mental Health Act and the Mental Capacity Act. He also regularly deals with deprivation of liberty matters. His expertise encompasses disputes concerning end-of-life care, childbirth and forced contraception. **Strengths:** “An excellent advocate. He is calm, super bright and will argue around a problem in a very attractive way.” “He has a very reassuring disposition and is very likeable.” **Recent work:** Instructed in an important case concerning life-sustaining treatment. The subject of the proceedings was a man who suffered a catastrophic stroke and did not eat (although he was physically able to chew and swallow).

Fiona Paterson Fiona Paterson is noted for her work handling cases concerning serious medical treatment and welfare decisions. She acts on behalf of a range of clients including families, the Official Solicitor and NHS trusts. She spent eight years as a solicitor in Scotland practising medical law, and as a result has expertise beyond her year of call. **Strengths:** “An excellent barrister who is really on the ball.” **Recent work:** Instructed in a case concerning a learning-disabled young man who suffered from autism and delusional disorder and wished to have sex with a sex worker. Although he had capacity to consent to sex and to decide to have sex with a sex worker, he was incapable of making the necessary arrangements to secure her services.

Katharine Scott Katherine Scott is instructed by a wide client base that includes local authorities, clinical commissioning groups, the Official Solicitor and others. She is particularly experienced in disputes that arise out of best-interest decisions, with a specific focus on matters involving health and welfare, although she does also practise in the related field of property and affairs. Her expertise spans matters arising under the Mental Capacity Act and the High Court’s inherent jurisdiction. **Strengths:** “Very intelli-

gent, sensible and smart.” “She is a terrific advocate and is brilliant in complex cases involving vulnerable clients – she’s able to speak to them on their level. She’s a terrific advocate as well and provides very effective oral and written submissions.” **Recent work:** Instructed in a case about the welfare of a young woman with extremely challenging behaviour. She had capacity to make decisions about having sexual relations, but lacks it in relation to contact.

Francesca Gardner Francesca Gardner is adept at handling the full range of Court of Protection matters, including serious medical treatment cases and welfare disputes. Her instructions come from a broad range of clients including the Official Solicitor, private individuals and an array of public sector bodies. **Strengths:** “A fantastic advocate who is diligent and pragmatic, with a deep understanding of how the Court of Protection works.” “She is calm, approachable and very strategic in her approach. She is also excellent in cross-examinations.” **Recent work:** Represented a young woman living in the traveller community who suffered a brain injury as a child. She was married to a man she did not know, and concerns were raised as to her capacity to enter into the marriage.

Eliza Sharron Eliza Sharron is experienced across a range of cases, including those relating to best-interest decisions and deprivation of liberty. She receives instructions from a broad client base that includes family members, local authorities and individuals who lack capacity. **Strengths:** “Very knowledgeable and skilled in Court of Protection work.”

Mungo Wenban-Smith Mungo Wenban-Smith focuses on cases concerning mental capacity, mental health and medical treatment. He receives instructions from clients such as local authorities, NHS bodies and individuals. He regularly acts in cases concerning serious medical treatment of both adults and children. **Strengths:** “An excellent barrister – he knows the Court of Protection inside out, deals with difficult opponents very well and cuts to the chase quickly.” “He is pragmatic, easy to get along with, and you can feel confident that he knows his client’s needs.” **Recent work:** Acted for an NHS trust in unusual proceedings initiated by a local authority for the court to determine whether the respondent had capacity to make decisions as to his hydration and nutrition, in circumstances where he was on a hunger strike indicating his intention to starve himself to death due to a dispute with Marriott International.

Jack Anderson Jack Anderson is a well-regarded junior barrister who is regularly instructed in complex safeguarding and medical treatment cases, including those involving abortions, end-of-life treatment and invasive contraception. He has experience acting for both vulnerable individuals and local authorities. **Strengths:** “A friendly and approachable barrister who has a very easy manner with clients.” “He is pragmatic, straightforward and gets to the point.”

Sian Davies Sian Davies is a notable junior with established expertise in health and welfare matters. She is experienced in the handling of cases involving asylum seekers and trafficked individuals. **Strengths:** “A very clear-thinking and effective barrister.” “She has a good understanding of the Court of Protection, local authority work and complex client needs.” **Recent work:** Instructed in an application for judicial review on behalf of a protected party who was assessed as not having care and support needs without consideration of her diagnosis of learning

disability, and lack of capacity in relation to contact with her allegedly abusive son, and in relation to managing her finances.

Catherine Dobson Catherine Dobson is increasingly well known in the market for her work handling welfare and medical treatment disputes. She acts for a broad range of clients including NHS trusts, clinical commissioning groups and families, in a range of matters including cases concerning deprivation of liberty and best-interest decisions. She is also well known for providing training and seminars on the Mental Capacity Act and the Mental Health Act. **Strengths:** "Highly intellectual yet extremely personable." **Recent work:** Instructed in a case concerning an application by the treating NHS trust for declarations that it is lawful to withdrawing life-sustaining treatment from a five year old girl in a persistent vegetative state.

Alexis Hearnden Alexis Hearnden handles Court of Protection matters as a natural extension of her work in community care and mental health. She is adept at handling a range of cases, including those concerning deprivation of liberty, forced marriage and the relationship between the Mental Health Act and the Mental Capacity Act. Her expertise also includes advising on professional discipline matters within the healthcare sector. **Strengths:** "A very calm and measured barrister who manages difficult clients really well."

Arianna Kelly Arianna Kelly is a talented public law junior who regularly appears in the Court of Protection in cases concerning mental health, residence and welfare. She offers expertise in matters concerning capacity to consent to sexual relations and contact. **Strengths:** "She is extremely reliable and has excellent knowledge of the Care Act and community matters." "She is extremely intelligent while also being refreshingly approachable and practical in her advice." **Recent work:** Acted for a local authority in an urgent out-of-hours application to prevent an individual from travelling to the USA, where it was believed he was likely to be subject to exploitation and would face significant risk from travelling to a hotspot area in the pandemic.

Nicola Kohn Nicola Kohn focuses her practice on the handling of health and welfare matters, and is regularly called on to represent her clients in cases concerning capacity and sex. She acts for the Official Solicitor, as well as several local authorities, NHS trusts and clinical commissioning groups. **Strengths:** "She leaves no stone unturned, and judges really respond to her." "She is very thorough, knowledgeable and particularly sensitive to her clients' needs. She's also very easy to get along with." **Recent work:** Instructed in a capacity and best-interests dispute concerning a woman who was removed from her family home by the local authority following concerns regarding neglect, possible sexual abuse and coercive control.

Annabel Lee Annabel Lee is adept at handling a wide range of Court of Protection matters, and has particular expertise in complex cross-border cases concerning the international protection of vulnerable adults. Her experience covers health and welfare matters such as care, contact, sexual relations and serious medical treatment. **Strengths:** "She is incredibly personable, fiercely intelligent and has a keen eye for detail." **Recent work:** Represented JU, by his litigation friend, the Official Solicitor, in a challenge to the local authority's placement of JU in a residential care home.

Serjeants' Inn Chambers

See profile on p.1101

THE SET

Serjeants' Inn Chambers retains its reputation as a leading set for health and welfare matters, and is routinely instructed in leading cases in the Court of Protection as well as the Supreme Court and Court of Appeal. The team offers considerable expertise in complex medical treatment disputes, including the withdrawal of life-sustaining treatment, as well as cases concerning capacity to consent to sexual relations and deprivation of liberty challenges. The set's strong bench of barristers is regularly called upon to act on behalf of vulnerable individuals and their families, the Official Solicitor and several NHS trusts. Instructing solicitors praise Serjeants' Inn as "the leading set in the country for contested Court of Protection cases."

Client service: "The clerks are really great and will always go the extra mile to try to find someone suitable." "The clerks always respond really promptly and work very efficiently." The set's senior clerk, Lee Johnson, is "very accessible and hugely helpful on any issues."

SILKS

Bridget Dolan QC Bridget Dolan QC had a previous life as a forensic psychologist and is an accomplished silk in regard to complex mental capacity issues. She is particularly adept at dealing with cases involving end-of-life decisions for people in minimally conscious states, and is also experienced in the handling of deprivation of liberty matters and those concerning capacity to consent to sexual relations. She is frequently instructed on behalf of incapable persons and on behalf of the Official Solicitor. **Strengths:** "Her level of service and quality of work are of a very high standard." "She is brilliant with clients and able to manage them well, even when they are forthright with their views." **Recent work:** Represented the Polish birth family of RS, a Polish citizen living in the UK who suffered a significant brain injury and profound disorder of consciousness. The NHS trust, supported by his wife, sought to withdraw artificial nutrition and hydration so that his life would end. His family claimed that his deep Roman Catholic faith would lead him to wish his life to continue.

Nageena Khalique QC Nageena Khalique QC is a renowned silk with a broad practice that encompasses cases concerning deprivation of liberty safeguards, serious medical treatment, sexual abuse, forced marriage and financial abuse relating to vulnerable people. She is instructed by a range of clients, including NHS trusts, clinical commissioning groups and the Official Solicitor. **Strengths:** "Very forthright and persuasive." "She is always reliable, a strong advocate and a joy to work with." **Recent work:** Acted for the Official Solicitor in an application by the hospital trust that it was in P's best interests to use all reasonable and proportionate measures, including physical restraint, to administer renal dialysis.

Michael Mylonas QC Michael Mylonas QC is head of the Court of Protection team and a vastly experienced silk who draws particular praise for his work handling medical treatment and welfare cases. He is often instructed in complex cross-border issues. He receives instructions from a broad range of clients, including NHS trusts, patients and the Official Solicitor, and is known for his sensitive and pragmatic handling of medical cases. **Strengths:** "He is extremely approachable, excellent on complex

medical treatment cases, and makes his clients feel totally supported." "He is brilliant in court, and nothing is too much trouble for him." **Recent work:** Acted for the trust in seeking declaration that it was lawful to withdraw treatment in *Guys & St Thomas' NHS Trust v Pippa Knight*, a case concerning a five year old child with a catastrophic brain injury.

Katharine Gollop QC Katharine Gollop QC is an established barrister in serious medical treatment cases in the Court of Protection and Family Division. She is instructed in cases requiring specific speed and skill in this area. Acting primarily for NHS trusts, she is often involved in high-profile and sensitive matters. She also sits as a deputy High Court judge.

Strengths: "A great advocate who is very empathetic. Judges love her." **Recent work:** Represented a young woman with severe and enduring anorexia who did not want to be admitted to hospital for force feeding, despite fact that without intervention she was likely to die.

Michael Horne QC Michael Horne QC is principally known for his work in cases which relate to applications involving serious medical treatment. He is adept at acting for the full range of parties in Court of Protection proceedings, although the majority of his instructions come from NHS trusts and the Official Solicitor. His Court of Protection practice is rooted in a broad healthcare practice which informs his understanding of complex medical issues. **Strengths:** "He has the confidence of his clients and is completely reassuring." **Recent work:** Instructed in a case concerning the withdrawal of artificial nutrition and hydration from a patient in a minimally conscious state after a drug overdose.

Angus Moon QC Angus Moon QC offers considerable expertise in medical ethics. He is regularly called on to advise on complex cases involving patients without capacity to consent to medical procedures and the withdrawal of medical treatment, including artificial nutrition and hydration. **Strengths:** "Very good with clients." **Recent work:** Instructed in an application to withdraw treatment from a man in a persistent vegetative state.

Debra Powell QC Debra Powell QC excels in health and welfare cases, and is particularly well known for handling matters concerning end-of-life care, and welfare decisions such as those concerning residence and contact. She frequently acts for health and social service bodies, as well as for private entities and the Official Solicitor. **Strengths:** "She is very thorough and has a great eye for detail." **Recent work:** Instructed in an urgent case concerning the withdrawal of life support for a young Muslim woman who had recently given birth while suffering from COVID-19 and was in a medically induced coma receiving intensive care.

JUNIORS

Sophia Roper As a former specialist lawyer at the Official Solicitor's office, Sophia Roper is highly sought after in medical treatment and welfare cases. She is instructed in matters involving the interface between mental health and mental capacity law. **Strengths:** "She is a go-to advocate for really complicated welfare cases. She is great with clients and has an encyclopedic knowledge." "She works collaboratively and is great at coming up with unique practical solutions."

Amy Street Amy Street is a leading junior who is at the forefront of developing case law in the Court of Protection. She has featured numerous times in cases dealing with the rise in social care placements

that amount to a deprivation of liberty following the decision in the Cheshire West case. Although she has particular experience in deprivation of liberty cases, she is also hugely adept at handling high-profile and urgent medical treatment matters. **Strengths:** “Very knowledgeable.”

Emma Sutton Emma Sutton represents a range of clients that includes English and Welsh local authorities, clinical commissioning groups and family members. Her practice encompasses cases concerning capacity, serious medical treatment, and health and welfare applications involving various decisions about care requirements. Her health and welfare practice is complemented by her broad expertise in public law. **Strengths:** “A very robust advocate who misses nothing.” “She is always extremely well prepared.”

Rhys Hadden Rhys Hadden is experienced across a broad range of Court of Protection cases, including those concerning deprivation of liberty and areas of overlap with human rights law. He often represents family members, local authorities and the Official Solicitor. **Strengths:** “He is excellent and has a great court manner. He instils a sense of calm in often very emotional cases.” “An excellent advocate who is able to narrow the issues down quickly.” **Recent work:** Instructed in a hybrid application regarding the personal welfare and property and affairs of CVF, a young person who had complex needs arising from a learning disability and emotionally unstable personality disorder, low self-esteem and feelings of abandonment.

Conrad Hallin Conrad Hallin has a breadth of experience in the Court of Protection and is instructed by a broad range of clients, including the Official Solicitor, local authorities and NHS trusts. He is particularly experienced in serious medical treatment cases, including applications for life-saving medical treatment, end-of-life withdrawal of medical treatment, and treatment of suicidal patients. He is also well versed in handling cases involving allegations of serious sexual assault against incapacitated adults. **Strengths:** “He is really fair and works towards a resolution.”

Susanna Rickard Susanna Rickard’s wide-ranging experience in the Court of Protection encompasses cases relating to healthcare, welfare and financial decisions. She is known for her work in ‘life and death’ matters, as well as those concerning best-interest decisions. She most frequently acts for families, patients and trusts. **Strengths:** “She is extremely good, very sensible and experienced.” “She is incredibly well prepared and completely on top of everything.”

Pravin Fernando Pravin Fernando is a well-regarded junior with notable experience in medical treatment cases involving the withdrawal of life sustaining treatment and emergency treatment. He is also noted for his expert handling of disputes concerning capacity to consent to sexual relations and to use the internet. His varied client list includes local authorities, CCGs, family members and the Official Solicitor. **Strengths:** “He is very approachable and will get the job done without any fuss.” “He is able to secure swift results for vulnerable clients.”

David Lawson David Lawson has a broad practice in the Court of Protection that encompasses cases concerning deprivation of liberty, capacity to engage in sexual relations, removals to a place of safety and urgent applications for life-saving medical treatment. **Strengths:** “He really gives his time and empathy to clients in significant distress.”

“He is well regarded, knowledgeable and strong in his approach.” **Recent work:** Instructed in a case concerning an inpatient in hospital whose power of attorney holder refused consent for him to be vaccinated. The vaccine needed to be given urgently for M’s best interests but also because the entire unit was being vaccinated at the same time.

Anna Tkaczynska Anna Tkaczynska acts in a wide range of welfare matters. She is particularly adept at handling cases concerning deprivation of liberty, and represents local authorities, trusts, clinical commissioning groups and relevant person’s representatives. She is frequently instructed by the Official Solicitor. Her broad expertise extends to human rights claims arising from Court of Protection proceedings. **Strengths:** “She is really thorough, gets straight to the key issues and is very concise and efficient.” “She is very eloquent and great on her feet, with an ability to take on and absorb complex information about a case and then provide really helpful and constructive advice.”

Claire Watson Claire Watson is experienced in the handling of a wide range of health and welfare cases. She frequently is instructed by the Official Solicitor, NHS trusts and private healthcare providers. Her broad expertise encompasses cases concerning end-of-life care, deprivation of liberty and mental capacity. **Strengths:** “She is consistently brilliant.”

Band 2

Doughty Street Chambers

See profile on p.1014

THE SET

Doughty Street Chambers is highly regarded for its expertise in health and welfare matters, and houses a strong bench of barristers experienced in the handling of cases affecting both incapacitated adults and children. Members are regularly instructed in deprivation of liberty and serious medical treatment cases, as well as disputes concerning capacity to consent to sexual relations and forced marriages. The set’s expertise in this area is complemented by its recognised strengths in human rights, housing and community care law, and its barristers frequently appear in landmark cases before the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal. The tenants have experience acting on behalf of incapable individuals and their family members, as well as local authorities and health authorities.

Client service: “The clerks are very friendly and easy to get hold of.” “The clerking team is wonderful and really on top of things.” Senior practice manager Sian Wilkins leads the clerking team for Court of Protection cases.

SILKS

Aswini Weeraratne QC Aswini Weeraratne QC acts for all parties in the Court of Protection, including the Official Solicitor, and is renowned for her work in complex cases concerning human rights, mental health and capacity. She is well versed in matters concerning the overlap between the Mental Capacity Act and the Mental Health Act, and is a noted deprivation of liberty expert. **Strengths:** “Very measured and thorough in her advice, with excellent advocacy skills.” “She is very calm and collected and good at untangling the more complex issues and getting to the heart of what needs to be addressed.” **Recent work:** Acted for the claimant in a claim under common law and the Human Rights Act for damages

for false imprisonment/A5 and A8 breaches in a care home lasting seven years.

JUNIORS

Ulele Burnham Ulele Burnham has a broad practice covering the law relating to mental capacity and mental health. She is also an expert in unlawful detention cases. She has a particular interest in the potential application of the Equality Act 2010 in the context of domestic Court of Protection law. **Strengths:** “She is incredibly approachable and very good with vulnerable clients. She gives very detailed and helpful advice.” “She is very quickly able to pick up the relevant, pertinent issues and provide her views as to the next steps we should be pushing for in the case.”

Sophy Miles Sophy Miles was one of the leading national solicitors handling Court of Protection work before her move to the Bar in 2015. She is an expert on all health and welfare matters, and contributes to many of the leading texts in the area. She is routinely instructed by individuals and statutory bodies, as well as the Official Solicitor. **Strengths:** “An exceptional barrister who is incredibly experienced in supporting vulnerable clients.” “She has been able to negotiate some very difficult relationships with clients and come to a really good conclusion.”

Stephen Reeder Stephen Reeder is a well-known specialist in welfare cases who is adept at handling property and affairs matters. He is instructed by a broad range of clients including healthcare bodies, families and the Official Solicitor. **Strengths:** “He is incredibly experienced in this area and exudes real authority.”

Leonie Hirst Leonie Hirst acts for a full range of parties in the Court of Protection, and is adroit at handling best-interests and deprivation of liberty matters. She is particularly experienced in handling disputes regarding mental health and safeguarding issues. **Strengths:** “A very enthusiastic and conscientious advocate.”

Oliver Lewis Oliver Lewis is an experienced junior with a recognised expertise in mental health and international disability law. He is regularly instructed to act on behalf of public bodies, family members and the Official Solicitor. **Strengths:** “An excellent barrister who is very good at identifying novel arguments.” “He is incredibly approachable, very client-focused and able to grapple with complex issues.” **Recent work:** Acted for the parents of P, an individual with a congenital brain injury who lived in a care home on 2:1 care. She wanted to return to her own home.

Band 3

No5 Barristers’ Chambers

See profile on p.1122

THE SET

No5 Barristers’ Chambers offers expertise in a wide range of health and welfare matters. Members are experienced in the handling of complex residence, forced marriage, deprivation of liberty and capacity to consent to sexual relations cases. The set’s barristers are regularly instructed to act on behalf of the Official Solicitor, the Office of the Public Guardian, local authorities and health bodies, as well as vulnerable individuals and their families.

Client service: “The clerks are responsive and always available to help either on the phone or via email.” “The clerks are great – very friendly, good at

finding someone for you and can pull things together at short notice when needed." Abdul Hafeez is the practice director for the public law group.

JUNIORS

Keri Tayler Keri Tayler regularly appears in the Court of Protection in health and welfare matters, including complex cases involving mental health, sexual relations and forced marriage. She acts for local authorities, families and relevant person's representatives, and is frequently instructed by the Official Solicitor. **Strengths:** "Very approachable and pragmatic." **Recent work:** Instructed in proceedings relating to an application by the local authority for the authorisation of JB's deprivation of liberty and for the court to consider where JB should live once he left his current placement.

Cornerstone Barristers

See profile on p.1008

THE SET

Cornerstone Barristers houses strong capabilities in health and welfare matters, drawing on the set's recognised expertise in community care and social housing law. Its barristers are experienced in the handling of complex deprivation of liberty and forced marriage cases, as well as capacity disputes and matters relating to best interests. Members regularly act on behalf of the Official Solicitor and the Public Guardian, as well as several local authorities, social care providers and vulnerable individuals and their families, among other parties.

Client service: Elliot Langdorf is the senior clerk.

JUNIORS

Lee Parkhill (see p.909) Lee Parkhill is a dynamic public law barrister offering considerable expertise in Court of Protection, social care, healthcare and local government matters. He is adept at handling cases concerning deprivation of liberty and forced marriage. Regularly instructed by NHS bodies, local authorities, the Official Solicitor and individuals. **Strengths:** "An impressive advocate who is clear about his client's position and easy to negotiate with." "A clear-thinking and measured problem solver." **Recent work:** Represented KW, who suffered from a hoarding disorder. The council applied for orders to remove KW from her home and to then clear the house, which was full of hoarded items.

Peggy Etiebet Peggy Etiebet is noted for her expert representation of local authorities in complex health and welfare cases. Her broad practice encompasses cases involving deprivation of liberty, forced marriage and best-interest decisions in relation to care, contact and residence. **Strengths:** "A very committed advocate with considerable experience in health and welfare cases." "She is very pleasant and lovely to work with."

Garden Court Chambers

See profile on p.1041

THE SET

The barristers at Garden Court Chambers are highly sought after for their expertise in health and welfare matters. The team is able to draw on the set's wider knowledge and experience in public law matters when advising on complex and cross-disciplinary cases, and is regularly instructed in sensitive mental capacity and residence matters. Additional areas of strength for the set's barristers include forced marriage and deprivation of liberty disputes, and members act on behalf of protected parties and their

families, the Official Solicitor and public bodies.

Client service: "The clerks are really responsive, prompt and provide a good service to their solicitors." "The clerks are really helpful and make life easy for us." Colin Cook is the director of clerking.

JUNIORS

Helen Curtis Helen Curtis is instructed in a broad array of cases, often on behalf of the Official Solicitor. She is known for her expertise in mental health law, and her practice includes claims for unlawful detention, appeals and judicial reviews. **Strengths:** "She is very committed, excellent with clients and good at taking the heat out of a situation." "She is passionate, enthusiastic and insightful."

Bethan Harris Bethan Harris excels across a range of Court of Protection matters, including deprivation of liberty, Section 21A applications and cases dealing with complex care packages. She acts for local authorities, family members and litigation friends. **Strengths:** "She is incredibly thorough and leaves no stone unturned. She will always give very detailed opinions and thinks of the minutiae of arrangements for clients." "She is incredibly prepared, diligent and can drill down into the details of a case."

Gráinne Mellon Gráinne Mellon is a well-regarded Court of Protection barrister experienced in the handling of deprivation of liberty cases, where she regularly acts for NHS trusts, the Official Solicitor and family members. She is also noted for her expertise in complex disputes concerning residence and care for adults who lack capacity. **Strengths:** "A real pleasure to work with – she's excellent with clients." **Recent work:** Instructed in the first reported case on capacity and best interests in relation to the COVID-19 vaccine.

1GC|Family Law

See profile on p.1044

THE SET

1GC|Family Law is a well-regarded set with notable expertise in health and welfare proceedings. Members are skilled in the handling of an array of complex disputes, including those concerning forced marriages, capacity to consent to sexual relations, deprivation of liberty and the withdrawal of medical treatment. The team is able to draw on the set's significant expertise in family law when advising on complex Court of Protection matters involving teenagers who lack capacity. Tenants are regularly instructed to act on behalf of family members, the Official Solicitor, NHS trusts and local authorities.

Client service: The clerking team is led by senior clerk Paul Harris.

SILKS

Andrew Bagchi QC (see p.783) Andrew Bagchi QC is particularly well known for his work in welfare cases, but is also adept at handling finance and medical treatment matters. He is regularly instructed by the Official Solicitor and excels at cases which involve the forced marriage of incapacitated adults. **Strengths:** "He is charismatic, great to deal with, and when he speaks, the court listens." "Andrew is very persuasive and absolutely excels on his feet."

JUNIORS

Malcolm Chisholm (see p.808) Malcolm Chisholm is a leading senior junior who is best known for his work for local authorities and for parents. Praised in the market for his client-handling skills, he is an expert on cases concerning the overlap between the Mental

Health Act and the Mental Capacity Act. **Strengths:** "He knows the Court of Protection inside out and inspires confidence in clients." "A calm, careful and tactical advocate."

Kings Chambers

THE SET

Kings Chambers is a highly regarded set on the Northern Circuit. It houses significant expertise spanning a wide range of health and welfare matters, and its tenants are well versed in the most complex and sensitive of proceedings such as serious medical treatment cases involving sedation and the withdrawal of life support. The team is also regularly instructed in capacity disputes and deprivation of liberty cases, and acts on behalf of the Official Solicitor, incapable individuals and their families, local authorities and clinical commissioning groups.

Client service: Stephen Loxton is the director of clerking at the set.

SILKS

Sam Karim QC (see p.868) Sam Karim QC is highly regarded for his applications for urgent medical treatment and is also adept at handling a range of welfare and deprivation of liberty matters. He is one of the leading practitioners in the North, and is regularly instructed by the Official Solicitor. His specific areas of expertise include cases concerning urgent applications for life-saving medical treatment, end-of-life withdrawal of medical treatment, and treatment of suicidal patients. **Strengths:** "A pleasure to be against. He never loses his calm and is trusted by the judges in the Court of Protection." "He has a well-deserved reputation for acting in high-profile and interesting cases." **Recent work:** Instructed in a case heard in the Court of Appeal which defined the relevant information needed to make decisions about social media and the internet and to consent to sexual relations and residence.

Outer Temple Chambers

See profile on p.1078

THE SET

Outer Temple Chambers is a highly regarded set for Court of Protection matters, with noted expertise in cases concerning the health and welfare of vulnerable individuals. The team's expertise covers serious medical treatment and end-of-life matters, as well as cases concerning capacity to consent to sexual relations, sterilisation and deprivation of liberty. Members have experience acting on behalf of local authorities and public bodies, as well as protected parties and the Official Solicitor. The set also houses strength in the handling of property and affairs disputes.

Client service: "The clerks are really helpful and accommodating." "Mark Gardner is incredibly friendly and helpful." "The clerking is excellent." Paul Barton leads the health clerking team.

SILKS

John McKendrick QC John McKendrick QC specialises in public, commercial and regulatory work, and has significant Court of Protection expertise across a wide range of health and welfare matters. He is highly rated by his peers for his persuasive courtroom presence and incisive legal mind. He is adept at handling cases involving capacity for sexual relations and sterilisation. **Strengths:** "Very smart, kind and easy to work with." "He is very personable, helpful and concise."

JUNIORS

Claire van Overdijk Claire van Overdijk is noted for having a broad Court of Protection practice and being strong on mental capacity issues generally. She fields considerable experience in the handling of cases involving cross-border issues, and is able to draw on her broad expertise in public law and community care. As well as having a strong practice, she has published a number of texts relating to the Court of Protection. **Strengths:** "Very experienced and well regarded." "She is a meticulous, compassionate and ferocious barrister."

Katarina Sydow Katarina Sydow has a strong reputation for her Court of Protection practice. She frequently receives instruction from the Official Solicitor in cases concerning residence, capacity to consent to sexual relations, deprivation of liberty and serious medical treatment. **Strengths:** "Extremely efficient and experienced in this area of law." "She is very down to earth and grapples with any problem very easily."

Alex Cisneros (see p.809) Alex Cisneros has a recognised expertise in cases concerning mental capacity, and regularly acts for vulnerable individuals through the Official Solicitor. **Strengths:** "He has amazing technical ability as well as a warm and friendly persona when dealing with clients." "He's very quick, bright and turns work around very quickly."

St John's Buildings

THE SET

St John's Buildings houses a strong bench of barristers experienced in the handling of a variety of health and welfare proceedings in the Court of Protection. Members are regularly instructed in serious medical treatment matters, including disputes concerning the termination of treatment and the withdrawal of artificial hydration and nutrition, and also offer expertise in deprivation of liberty and capacity to consent to sexual relations cases. The set's broad client base includes the Official Solicitor and families of vulnerable individuals, as well as several local authorities and clinical commissioning groups.

Client service: Paul Laverty is the senior family and Court of Protection clerk.

SILKS

Lorraine Cavanagh QC Lorraine Cavanagh QC has expertise in cases concerning the marriage and sexual relations of incapacitated people, particularly involving concurrent matrimonial litigation. She is also experienced in matters relating to the transition from child to adult services. **Strengths:** "A very knowledgeable and impressive barrister."

JUNIORS

Joseph O'Brien Joseph O'Brien is a leading junior in the market who is widely acknowledged as "the godfather of the Court of Protection." He acts for a broad range of clients including local authorities, clinical commissioning groups and the Official Solicitor. He has a broad practice that encompasses medical, welfare, and property and affairs matters, and is a noted expert in deprivation of liberty cases. **Strengths:** "He is brilliant, very effective and one of the best cross-examiners in this field." "He is one of the best advocates at the Bar and is a real pleasure to work with. His standards never fall and he's completely reliable." "An exceptionally charming advocate who really knows his stuff but also attracts the attention of the court when presenting cases."

Jonathan Bellamy Jonathan Bellamy is noted for

his expert handling of health and welfare cases concerning contact with others, residence and deprivation of liberty. He regularly acts for the Official Solicitor, as well as local authorities and family members. **Strengths:** "Very reliable, always prompt, clear in his writing and a good advocate."

Lucinda France-Hayhurst Lucinda France-Hayhurst is a talented junior barrister who regularly acts for the Official Solicitor in complex cases concerning deprivation of liberty, forced marriage and capacity to consent to sexual relations. She also has experience representing local authorities in judicial reviews and cases concerning ordinary residence. **Strengths:** "She is very personable and reliable, with a great advocacy style."

Other Ranked Lawyers

Jonathan Auburn QC (see p.782) (11KBW) Jonathan Auburn QC is a noted practitioner who excels at handling community care and public law matters arising in the Court of Protection. He is regularly called on to act for local authorities. His areas of strength include mental capacity and human rights claims. **Strengths:** "Very pragmatic and extremely knowledgeable." "He is fantastic and offers incisive approaches to the legal analysis of cases." **Recent work:** Instructed in a test case to determine who has responsibility for the care and representation of mentally impaired prisoners in the parole hearing process.

Paul Bowen QC (Brick Court Chambers) Paul Bowen is a vastly experienced silk who is accomplished in both the High Court and the Court of Protection. He is an expert in capacity and mental health law, and is particularly active in cases that concern disputes around life-sustaining treatment and deprivation of liberty. He has been a member of the Equality and Human Rights Commission's A Panel since March 2015. **Strengths:** "He is extremely clever and fights his client's corner like no one else."

Chris Buttler QC (Matrix Chambers) Chris Buttler QC is an established Court of Protection barrister who is held in high esteem for his work and is strong on public law and human rights matters generally. He is instructed by a broad range of clients, including family members, NHS trusts and the Official Solicitor. **Strengths:** "An extremely talented barrister."

Joanne Clement (see p.811) (11KBW) Joanne Clement often plays a central role in cases concerning mental capacity, welfare and finance, and also excels at local government, community care and housing work. **Strengths:** "She is an extremely bright and exceptionally able practitioner." **Recent work:** Acted for a local authority in inherent jurisdiction proceedings in the Family Division and joined Court of Protection proceedings concerning a young person approaching the age of 18 with complex behavioural difficulties, including fire-setting behaviour.

Nia Gowman (30 Park Place) Nia Gowman is a skilled Court of Protection junior with a strong reputation on the Wales and Chester Circuit. She is regularly instructed in disputes surrounding capacity, medical treatment and sexual relations, and acts for local authorities, relevant person's representatives, family members and the Official Solicitor. **Strengths:** "She is very thorough, sympathetic and easy to work with."

Rebecca Harrington (30 Park Place) Rebecca Harrington is the head of the Court of Protection team at 30 Park Place. She is noted for her expert handling of both welfare and finance matters, and is regularly instructed in cases involving deprivation of liberty

and disputes surrounding capacity. She acts for family members of vulnerable individuals and local authorities. **Strengths:** "She's very calm and collected, and deals with difficult clients very well."

David Lock QC (Landmark Chambers) David Lock QC maintains an enviable Court of Protection practice as part of his wider public law work. An expert on NHS matters, he is regularly instructed on behalf of local authorities. **Strengths:** "A leading silk in this field. He is very sharp and has excellent attention to detail."

Recent work: Instructed in an appeal by a local authority and by the Official Solicitor in the case of a young woman with learning difficulties who craved intimacy and was sexually exploited by men.

Ben McCormack (Garden Court North Chambers) Ben McCormack is regularly instructed in cases involving the Official Solicitor and is adept at dealing with mental capacity issues and cases concerning welfare rights. He primarily acts for disabled adults and family members. **Strengths:** "He is one of the most approachable barristers you will meet – he's good at working with vulnerable clients and their family members." "An incredibly friendly, compassionate and accessible barrister who offers excellent advice."

Alison Meacher (Gatehouse Chambers) Alison Meacher has experience of handling cases involving forced marriage, capacity to marry and other issues surrounding mental capacity law. She regularly acts for and advises vulnerable clients, local authorities, care home providers and landlords. **Strengths:** "Very pragmatic."

Nicholas O'Brien (Coram Chambers) Nicholas O'Brien offers an abundance of experience in welfare and deprivation of liberty cases within the Court of Protection. He represents family members, children and local authorities. He is regularly instructed by the Official Solicitor or relevant person's representative. **Strengths:** "He is very practical and a good advocate."

David Rees QC (5 Stone Buildings) David Rees QC is highly regarded for his expertise in matters involving complex issues of both personal welfare and property and affairs. He is regularly instructed by the Official Solicitor, and is particularly adept at handling cases concerning the jurisdiction of the Court of Protection. **Strengths:** "A powerful silk with a well-earned reputation." "He is the go-to for complex cases, and his advice is always very comprehensive and very clear."

Recent work: Instructed in a mixed personal welfare and property and affairs case involving a high-profile and high net worth individual. The case raised issues about the validity of lasting powers of attorney and about P's best interests regarding questions of contact with family members.

Fiona Scolding QC (Landmark Chambers) Fiona Scolding QC is instructed by family members, local authorities, NHS trusts and the Official Solicitor. She is particularly adept at handling cases that concern adults with learning disabilities, including those who have suffered familial abuse. **Strengths:** "She is extremely personable and excellent with clients but at the same time on top of all the issues and detail in a case." "She is a delight to work with, doesn't get fazed by anything and thinks outside the box." **Recent work:** Acted for an NHS trust in a long-running Court of Protection claim which involved issues of parental behaviour and managing direct payments and the responsibility of the NHS to provide direct payments.

All Circuits Property & Affairs

Court of Protection: Property & Affairs
Leading Sets
Band 1
5 Stone Buildings *
Band 2
Radcliffe Chambers *
Ten Old Square *
Leading Silks
Star individuals
Rees David 5 Stone Buildings
Band 1
Angus Tracey 5 Stone Buildings
Rajah Eason Ten Old Square
Reed Penelope 5 Stone Buildings
Band 2
McDonnell Constance Serle Court (ORL) ◇ *
New Silks
Haren Sarah 5 Stone Buildings
* Indicates set / individual with profile.
📄 Direct access.
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

Band 1

5 Stone Buildings

See profile on p.1109
THE SET

5 Stone Buildings is praised by instructing solicitors as “a go-to chambers for Court of Protection matters.” Members are recognised for their expert handling of lasting powers of attorney disputes, deputyship-related matters and complex statutory will and gift applications, and are regularly involved in leading test cases. The team routinely receives instructions from leading private client firms, as well as the Public Guardian and the Official Solicitor. Interviewees further note that the set “has a fantastic reputation in this area and is home to a number of very talented and knowledgeable barristers.”

Client service: “The senior clerk Paul Jennings is helpful and approachable.” “The clerks are always polite and knowledgeable.”

SILKS

David Rees QC David Rees QC is an expert in matters that concern incapacity and elderly clients. He is noted for his unusual expertise in international and cross-border Court of Protection work that challenges the court’s jurisdiction, and for handling cases that analyse orders made by foreign courts. He is sought after for high-profile cases with substantial damages, particularly by the Official Solicitor. **Strengths:** “A leading barrister and a real expert in Court of Protection matters. He is very approachable, considered and easy to deal with.” “He is a top silk in this area and knows all there is to know about the Court of Protection.” **Recent work:** Instructed in an important test case involving applications by professional deputies for authority to instruct their own firms to act in litigation for P.

Tracey Angus QC Tracey Angus QC has a broad practice that encompasses contentious probate, trusts and all sides of Court of Protection work, including health and welfare as well as property and affairs. She is instructed by a broad range of clients including charities, individuals and the Official Solicitor. She brings her forensic grasp of trust law to assist in

Court of Protection: Property & Affairs
Leading Juniors
Star individuals
Rich Barbara 5 Stone Buildings
Band 1
Baxter Mark 5 Stone Buildings *
Bedworth Georgia Ten Old Square
Dew Richard Ten Old Square
Holmes Justin Radcliffe Chambers
Hughes Ruth 5 Stone Buildings
McQuail Katherine Radcliffe Chambers
Band 2
East William 5 Stone Buildings *
O’Sullivan Michael 5 Stone Buildings
Pickering Leon Ten Old Square
van Overdijk Claire Outer Temple Chambers (ORL) ◇
Band 3
Drapkin Alexander 5 Stone Buildings *
Feltham Piers Radcliffe Chambers
Holland Jordan 5 Stone Buildings
Meacher Alison Gatehouse Chambers (ORL) ◇
Troup Alex St John’s Chambers (ORL) ◇ 📄
Winston Naomi Ten Old Square
Up-and-coming individuals
Eagling Eliza 5 Stone Buildings

cases of negligence. **Strengths:** “Very clever and authoritative in her advocacy. She has a real presence and a very calming style that gives clients a lot of confidence.” “She quickly grasps the issues in a case and works through the matter logically, critically and comprehensively.”

Penelope Reed QC Penelope Reed QC is a top-class silk whose extensive chancery experience informs her excellent Court of Protection practice. She has been involved in numerous high-value, complex applications in the Court of Protection. She is instructed by an impressively diverse client base encompassing charities, vulnerable individuals and families. **Strengths:** “Very thorough, detailed and insightful.” “She is very client-friendly and knowledgeable, with great experience in the field.”

Sarah Haren QC Sarah Haren QC’s broad chancery practice encompasses both non-contentious and contentious work, and she is experienced in probate, inheritance claims and trusts matters. Haren has received instructions from a range of sources, including the Official Solicitor. She is also frequently called upon to act in disputed property, gift and statutory will applications. **Strengths:** “A good advocate.”

JUNIORS

Barbara Rich Barbara Rich is a top-class Court of Protection barrister who has great experience in high-value, complex cases. She is also an expert on probate, the validity of wills and the administration of estates and trusts. She has additional expertise in dispute resolution. **Strengths:** “Very experienced in Court of Protection cases, and very thoughtful and thorough in her approach.”

Mark Baxter (see p.787) Mark Baxter is an active Court of Protection barrister who handles a number of complex cases as part of his wide chancery practice. He has broad spectrum experience including disputed deputyships, contested statutory wills and trusts. He is further noted for his knowledge of children’s rights. **Strengths:** “A real expert who is very knowledgeable in this area.” “He has a very easy-

going nature and is very calm and composed. He is able to break down complicated principles to make them simple.”

Ruth Hughes Ruth Hughes is instructed most frequently by the Official Solicitor and handles cases involving statutory will applications, deputyships and divorce, among other things. She is well known for her work in cross-jurisdictional property and affairs matters, and has handled international matters arising under the Mental Capacity Act 2005. She is additionally instructed in high-value cases with a significant personal welfare element. **Strengths:** “Very thorough, responsive and gets up to speed very quickly.” **Recent work:** Instructed in three conjoined test cases concerning the authority conferred by a standard deputyship order and a professional deputy’s ability to instruct their own firm in litigation for P or for P’s benefit and manage the inevitable conflict of interest.

William East (see p.828) William East is well known for the breadth of his experience in chancery matters and is frequently involved in cases concerning statutory wills and contested deputyships, some of which are highly complex and involve challenging clients. He is often sought out to act in cases involving financial negligence. **Strengths:** “A very intelligent, thorough and careful advocate.”

Michael O’Sullivan Michael O’Sullivan is a noted junior with a wealth of experience in Court of Protection applications who is also adept at handling trusts and probate matters. He is also well known for his professional negligence practice and is often instructed in complex and high-value disputes, including those concerning large landed estates. **Strengths:** “He is straight-talking and can be tough when he needs to be.”

Alexander Drapkin (see p.826) Alexander Drapkin is a strong junior with broad experience in the Court of Protection encompassing statutory will applications, attorneyship disputes and the exercise of trust powers. He is regularly instructed by the Official Solicitor to intervene in the affairs of incapacitated individuals. **Strengths:** “He is very capable, good on his feet and turns cases around quickly.”

Jordan Holland Jordan Holland has a thriving Court of Protection practice and receives a significant number of his cases from the Official Solicitor. He is active in a variety of Court of Protection matters, ranging from statutory will applications to disputes over deputyships. He offers pragmatic advice regarding the management of both domestic and international assets. **Strengths:** “He is really quick and efficient, and great at explaining complex concepts by breaking them down into building blocks.” **Recent work:** Instructed by the Official Solicitor in a case seeking authorisation of a deed of variation to redirect a severely autistic woman’s legacy from her grandfather into a Section 89 trust.

Eliza Eagling Eliza Eagling is a talented junior barrister who is frequently instructed in cases relating to contentious trusts, undue influence and inheritance disputes. She acts for a broad range of clients including the Official Solicitor, family members and professional deputies. **Strengths:** “She is dedicated, proactive, approachable and inspires confidence in her clients.”

Band 2

Radcliffe Chambers

See profile on p.1094

THE SET

Radcliffe Chambers is a well-regarded set for Court of Protection matters and houses a strong bench of barristers experienced in the handling of a wide range of property and affairs cases. Tenants offer considerable expertise in disputes concerning statutory wills, inheritance tax planning, deputyship arrangements and the registration of lasting powers of attorney. The set's broad expertise also encompasses trusts matters and the sale of property. The team acts the Official Solicitor and the Public Trustee, as well as individuals lacking capacity and their families.

Client service: Keith Nagle and John Clark are the joint senior clerks.

JUNIORS

Justin Holmes Justin Holmes is a leading Court of Protection junior who is particularly good at lasting and enduring powers of attorney, contested deputyships and applications for declarations of capacity. Instructions come from a broad range of sources, including the Public Trustee, private clients and the Official Solicitor. He is also adept at handling professional negligence claims. **Strengths:** "Very capable on his feet and provides excellent advice." "Justin is very quick, thorough and approachable."

Katherine McQuail Katherine McQuail has as a good reputation for her work in mental capacity matters, and has been involved in cases relating to property, statutory wills and enduring powers of attorney. She works for a broad range of clients, and receives a number of instructions from the Official Solicitor. She offers additional ability in complex cases involving inheritance and trusts and is further noted for her particular strength in mediation. **Strengths:** "She is very experienced and pragmatic." "She is absolutely brilliant to deal with and is a go-to barrister in this area."

Piers Feltham Piers Feltham is a strong practitioner who remains a top choice for clients faced with a range of Court of Protection matters. He is particularly active on cases concerning the validity of powers of attorney and statutory wills. He is regularly instructed by the Official Solicitor, private clients and deputies. **Strengths:** "He provides great tactical advice."

Ten Old Square

See profile on p.1114

THE SET

Ten Old Square is a formidable set, offering expertise spanning a wide range of property and affairs matters. Members are regularly instructed in statutory will and gift applications, drawing on the set's recognised strength in private client and tax law. Additional areas of expertise for the team include disputes surrounding lasting powers of attorney and the sale of property. The set's tenants routinely act for individuals and their families, as well as the Official Solicitor.

Client service: "The clerks are professional, knowledgeable, helpful and always available to discuss costs to accommodate their clients' objectives." Keith Plowman is the senior clerk.

SILKS

Eason Rajah QC Eason Rajah QC is a top-quality property and financial affairs silk who has a fantastic reputation for his chancery work generally. He is instructed by private clients and charitable organisations in high-value and complex contentious cases. He is also well equipped to handle cases with an international element. **Strengths:** "Very good with clients."

JUNIORS

Georgia Bedworth Georgia Bedworth is a noteworthy chancery barrister who is experienced in matters concerning probate, inheritance and the administration of estates. She is often involved in complex, high-value matters for private clients and the Official Solicitor. **Strengths:** "An intelligent, careful and thoughtful advocate who takes good points." "She is very experienced, great technically and gives her instructing solicitors and clients great confidence."

Richard Dew Richard Dew brings his broad chancery practice to contentious and non-contentious trust and probate cases. He is particularly adept at handling the management of personal injury damages awards. **Strengths:** "A charismatic and efficient barrister who is always well prepared."

Leon Pickering Leon Pickering is well reputed for his litigation experience and knowledge of complex capital tax and fiscal planning. He is often instructed by the Official Solicitor and private clients in statutory will and gift applications. **Strengths:** "He is a pleasure to work with."

Naomi Winston Naomi Winston is noted for her expertise in property and affairs matters concerning

estates containing partnerships and other business interests. She regularly acts for the Official Solicitor, as well as several private clients. **Strengths:** "She is reliable, efficient and excellent at communicating with her solicitors and clients." "She has a very sensible and organised approach."

Other Ranked Lawyers

Constance McDonnell QC (see p.890) (Serle Court) Constance McDonnell QC is highly regarded for her work on probate and contentious trusts and probate. When in the Court of Protection she is frequently involved in cases concerning lifetime gifts, statutory wills and enduring powers of attorney. She is further able to advise on the sale of assets for clients who lack capacity. **Strengths:** "She has an encyclopedic knowledge of her practice area."

Alison Meacher (Gatehouse Chambers) Alison Meacher offers expertise in cases involving lasting power of attorneys, deputy appointments, gift approvals and statutory will applications. She is also experienced in the handling of health and welfare cases. **Strengths:** "Has great attention to detail."

Alex Troup (St John's Chambers) Alex Troup is an exceptional chancery barrister who is adept at handling Court of Protection work. He excels in cases concerning statutory wills, contested deputyship applications and lifetime gifts. He uses his extensive experience to assist deputies and family members. **Strengths:** "A highly experienced and persuasive advocate. He is very approachable and has a good presence in court."

Claire van Overdijk (Outer Temple Chambers) Claire van Overdijk has a practice that encompasses both property and affairs matters and health and welfare matters. She acts for a range of clients such as individuals, local authorities, the Official Solicitor and financial deputies. She is well known for her work in cases concerning statutory wills, gifts, trusts and disputed deputyships. She also advises on cross-border cases. **Strengths:** "She has a really good breadth of knowledge." **Recent work:** Acted for the Official Solicitor in a matter which concerned a crossover between homelessness legislation and the Mental Capacity Act 2005. This case concerned the rights of persons in priority need and eligible for homeless assistance but barred from accessing mandatory housing provision under the Housing Act 1996 purely because of their mental incapacity.