Gordana Bala?

Call: 2021

Specialist in:

- Personal Immigration
- Family Law – Private
- Family Law – Public
- Direct Access Trained





Experience

Gordana is a tenant at One Pump Court and a member of the Family Team.

Prior to joining Chambers, Gordana completed a specialist pupillage in Family and Immigration Law, qualifying in September 2024 before going on to practise at the employed Bar. She is Direct Access qualified and accepts instructions across a range of Family and Immigration matters.

Family Law

Gordana's Family Law practice encompasses a range of private family work, including applications under the Children Act 1989 and Family Law Act 1996.

Gordana also undertakes financial remedies cases, and has successfully secured favourable outcomes for clients both following negotiation at the Financial Dispute Resolution stage and at contested Final Hearings.

Gordana's work often involves advising and representing victims of domestic abuse. Having completed specialist Vulnerable Witness Training, Gordana is competent to recognise and accommodate the particular challenges vulnerable clients encounter when faced with court proceedings.

Gordana accepts instructions on both a legal aid and privately-funded basis, and has experience representing both applicants and respondents at all stages of proceedings. She regularly appears in Magistrates' Courts and County Courts in the South East and beyond, and has appeared in the High Court for preliminary matters in urgent wardship applications and international abduction proceedings.

Immigration Law

Gordana's Immigration Law practice covers a broad range of nationality, asylum and human rights cases, and she is regularly instructed to appear at First-tier and Upper Tribunals across the country.

Gordana frequently represents clients in gender-based violence, sexuality and political asylum claims, appeals against visa refusals, and human rights challenges under Articles 3 and 8 ECHR. She also has experience challenging Home Office decisions on modern slavery and human trafficking, and successfully resisting Civil Penalty immigration enforcement actions against alleged illegal workers.

Other Experience

Prior to joining the Bar, Gordana worked as a Legal Research Assistant in the fields of sex trafficking and forced labour, before interning at the Commonwealth Secretariat where she conducted research for ministerial consultation papers and developed a webinar series on the rule of law impact of Covid-19 across the Commonwealth.

Most recently, Gordana worked as a Litigation Officer in the Home Office's Judicial Review

Unit, where she reviewed and responded to judicial review challenges and instructed the Government Legal Department in a range of immigration matters.

Gordana volunteers as an Advice Line Volunteer with Rights of Women, a charity specialising in the provision of free legal advice with a specific focus on violence against women and girls. She also acts as Education Secretary of the Inner Temple Junior Bar Association, where she devises panel events and networking sessions to support junior members of the bar.

What the directories say

“We instructed Ms Bala? in child arrangements proceedings and non-molestation/occupation order proceedings, where she demonstrated an exceptional level of professionalism and expertise. Her thorough understanding of family law, combined with her ability to communicate effectively with clients and represent their interests vigorously in court has consistently resulted in favourable outcomes.”

Solicitor, Forest & Co Solicitors

“Gordana is an amazing barrister and pushed me to fight for my rights. Without her support my children and I would have been left on the breadline. Couldn’t ask for better representation – so professional and works with you to find the best way forward. Gordana has made this stressful process so much easier to bear and the advice I have received has been invaluable. Special thanks to Gordana for her hard work and support.”

Lay Client, Child Arrangements Proceedings

“It is our pleasure to have someone very professional like Gordana who has represented our clients. She has shown to us what a passionate, competent, dedicated, professional and reliable person she is. Our experience with Gordana has been very positive and our clients have spoken very highly of her. She has always responded in a short period regarding any queries, and has shown in a short period of time how reliable and professional she is.”

Solicitor, CV Brooks Solicitors

Education

King’s College London, LL.B. Bachelor of Laws (Hons) (2019)

The City Law School, LL.M. in Bar Vocational Studies (2021)

Memberships

The Honourable Society of the Inner Temple

South Eastern Circuit

Family Law Bar Association

Haldane Society of Socialist Lawyers

Young Legal Aid Lawyers

Languages

French (Intermediate)

Awards

Gordana was selected as one of Brummell Magazine's 30 'Ones to Watch in the City' in 2025.

Gordana was nominated in the 'Pro-Bono Recognition List' in 2025.

Cases

Re X (female partner non-acquisition of parental responsibility) [2026] EWFC 252 (B)

Gordana Bala? succeeds in legal argument to determine the parental responsibility of a former same-sex partner in relation to a subject child. Gordana acted on behalf of the Respondent, the child's biological mother.

The case concerned a child (X) who had been born to the Respondent (BM), the gestational mother, and BM's former male partner, the biological father (F). F was not named on the child's birth certificate.

BM's former female partner (AR), with whom she was in a relationship at the time of the child's birth, had asserted herself as a mother of the child and sought to prove her parental responsibility, as both BM and AR were listed on the child's birth certificate. It was accepted by both parties that AR was not a biological parent of the child.

Gordana made submissions that under s.4ZA of the Children Act 1989, unmarried same-sex

partners could not automatically acquire parental responsibility unless they were deemed to be a ‘parent’ by virtue of s.43 of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008.

Relying on P v Q and F (Child: Legal Parentage) [2024] EWCA Civ 878; [2024] 2 FLR 1201 and Re J (loss of Parental Responsibility) [2026] EWCA Civ 344, Gordana argued that the status of a birth certificate, whilst it holds some weight, is not conclusive when determining legal parentage and parental responsibility, and that in the case of former same-sex partners registration on the child’s birth certificate alone was insufficient.

Gordana also argued that, in circumstances where AR was seeking spending time contact arrangements with the child, her lack of formal status in relation to the child should exclude her from being entitled to pursue proceedings in relation to child arrangements.

The Judge found in favour of the BM, the Respondent, and made a declaration confirming that AR did not have parental responsibility. As such, applying section 10(4) Children Act 1989, AR did not have entitlement to apply for a Section 8 order as of right and would need to apply to seek permission to issue a further application for contact.

Gordana was instructed by Kate Siddall and Michael Presland from Atkins Hope Solicitors.

Learn more about the case here.

Gordana Balac successful in securing transfer of tenancy for vulnerable client

Gordana Bala? acted on behalf of the Applicant, a victim of domestic abuse who continued to share a Local Authority tenancy with her former partner.

Gordana Bala? acted on behalf of the Applicant, a victim of domestic abuse who continued to share a Local Authority tenancy with her former partner. The parties no longer lived together, but the Respondent had refused to agree to the tenancy transfer on the basis that this would demonstrate voluntary homelessness and reduce his chances of securing future Local Authority accommodation.

Gordana successfully made representations that it was essential for a Final Order for the transfer of tenancy to be made to protect the Applicant and her young daughter.

Gordana was also successful in securing an order against the Respondent requiring him to pay the outstanding liabilities on the parties’ joint property, resulting in her client being

effectively indemnified against future enforcement action.

Gordana was instructed by Ned Kenyon-Jones at the National Legal Service.