



Gayle Ashley

Date of Call: 1997 (Middle Temple)

Qualifications: LLB (Hons) (Sussex); South Eastern Circuit Bar Mess Foundation Advanced International Advocacy Course (Keble College, Oxford)

Memberships: South Eastern Circuit; Family Law Bar Association; Resolution; Family Mediation Council (FMC).

Direct Access Qualified

Since joining Becket Chambers in 2015, Gayle has developed a busy Family Law practice, and is sought after to provide advice and advocacy in all aspects of Public children, Private children (CAP) and Divorce and Matrimonial Finance.

She was called to the Bar in 1997, having been awarded 'Very Competent' in the Bar Vocational Course at the Inns of Court School of Law, London.

Gayle has wide-ranging experience in private and public family law, as well as a growing financial remedies practice, and regularly appears before district and circuit judges.

She is a very approachable person, who takes a pragmatic, sensitive and non-confrontational approach; and her aim is to help her clients resolve their issues as effectively as possible.

She is highly regarded by clients and solicitors for her excellent client care, integrity, advocacy skills and knowledge.

In 2015, she completed the Advanced International Advocacy Course at Keble College, Oxford. The course (taught by senior juniors, silks and judges) aims to encourage and develop the highest standards of advocacy and is internationally recognised as one of the best and most intensive advocacy courses in the world.

Gayle is an experienced public speaker and is actively involved in Becket Chambers' seminar programme, regularly delivering training on a variety of family topics.

She has also delivered family law training to magistrates, legal advisers and the judiciary.

Private Law (Child Arrangements Programme (CAP))

In private family law, Gayle regularly represents parents and grandparents in disputes involving:

- contact/residence,
- change of surname,
- specific issue and prohibited steps,
- special guardianship cases.

She acts at any stage from first hearings through to fact-finding hearings and multi-day final hearings.

She is extremely sensitive to the emotional impact that family law proceedings can have on people. Her clients value this sensitivity, which she combines with a down-to-earth approach and excellent client care. She easily builds exceptional rapport with her clients – her warm, personable and sensitive approach helping her to get along with clients from all walks of life.

Gayle has been commended on her legal and case management skills, described as ‘outstanding,’ and on her paperwork, case preparation and advocacy as ‘of the highest quality’.

Children – Public Law

In her public law practice, Gayle acts for parents and guardians, and her approach to cases and clients, together with her advocacy skills, has resulted in a busy and expanding practice.

She is dedicated to providing a proficient and friendly service for both her professional and lay clients, and has a reputation for being professional, approachable and personable.

Gayle is particularly adept at putting clients, including vulnerable and nervous clients, at ease, and is extremely sensitive to the emotional impact of proceedings on them. She has experience of challenging expert medical evidence and handling vulnerable witnesses.

Divorce & Matrimonial Finance

Gayle practises in all areas of proceedings relating to the Matrimonial Causes Act 1973 and has experience in a range of financial remedy hearings, including FDAs, FDRs, and final hearings.

Gayle is extremely hard-working and applies a forensic, analytical approach to case preparation. She is acutely aware of the need to rigorously assess the evidence and merits of each case and is readily able to assimilate and assess complex facts, evidence and the relevant law.

Testimonials

“Please could you also pass on my thanks to Gayle. She was very helpful and patient with dealing with XXXXX to achieve a final order. I was very nervous about the remote hearing, not having face to face contact with counsel. Gayle’s communication exceeded my expectations and put my mind at ease before during and after the hearing. I am very grateful for that.”

“I really appreciate all of your hard work with this matter. You have gone ‘above and beyond’, the client is very grateful too.”



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"I wished to extend my very great thanks to Gayle for her overwhelming empathy, professionalism and time, over and above by far on this case which has this morning settled."

"I would like to say that I cannot express my gratitude enough to Gayle for all her help."

"Gayle's professionalism and patience were truly outstanding. She was so kind, compassionate, focused, respectful, and dedicated to my case and I felt she left no stone unturned. She acted with integrity, listened to my instructions, and worked so hard for the benefit of my son and me."

"Although I was legally aided, this had no bearing on how Gayle dealt with my case, and I felt she cared about the outcome and always remained professional. She went above and beyond to get the best outcome for my son and myself. Gayle's profile on her chamber's website stood out to me when I was selecting representation. I am so very thankful I chose Gayle to represent me. I would highly recommend her."

"After sitting with Miss Ashley for 2 minutes I was totally back in control, she was absolutely wonderful, such a wonderfully calming person and so without a doubt gave me the confidence to stand strong with my offer. So I thank you for introducing her into my life..."