

## Janet Bettle (1985)

Call: 1985 Inner Temple  
 Door Tenant: 2013  
 Practice: Family & VAT Law

Specialising in financial remedy, private and public Children Act and VAT tribunals.

Janet is a University Laureate and Inner Temple Marshall Hall/Duke of Edinburgh Scholar. She is a former University Lecturer who made the move from academia in 1989 and still regularly delivers lectures to professionals on developing areas of law.



Janet has a very busy practice. Whilst Janet has an impressive academic background, she is approachable and known for her practical approach to difficult family situations. She is often approached to act in cases which span several areas of law given the breadth of her experience

She is a co-author of Bettle and Hamey's *Personal Injury Claims in the County Court* and has written a number of articles for the academic and professional legal press. An article by Janet on vicarious liability was cited by Lord Clyde in the House of Lords in the leading case of *Phelps v Hillingdon LBC*.

### Family Law

Much of Janet's work is in financial provision cases. She has a particular interest in small businesses and their accounts and aims to provide realistic and cost effective advice at the earliest possible opportunity.

On the children law side, recent cases have involved relocation applications (to foreign jurisdictions and within England), a major relocation appeal, contact and residence disputes and care proceedings. Janet has developed a particular interest and expertise in shaken baby syndrome in care cases and has recently co-written an article on this complex subject with Professor Jonathan Herring of Oxford University. She also has specialist experience of acting for parents with learning difficulties, including cases in which the Official Solicitor is involved.

### Housing Law

Janet has been involved with an Oxford University research project between 2012 and 2014 into how Judges deal with housing repossession claims. The first phase of this major piece of work is now complete and was presented to officials from the M of J, Council of Mortgage Lenders and other interested bodies in London earlier this year. The research will be of considerable assistance in formulating policy on the future direction of housing legislation. Janet remains interested in possession work and is happy to advise and represent parties involved in this important area.

### VAT Tribunals

The rules in relation to the recovery of costs at VAT tribunals have changed to the effect that it is now very difficult for small businesses to recover their legal expenses even if they are successful in appealing a VAT assessment. Janet works with a local niche firm to provide a low cost representation service for individuals and businesses who find themselves in such a situation. Whilst on the face of it this is a very different area of law to the rest of her practice, both areas demand a cost-effective and highly focused approach to the issues in hand.

### Inter disciplinary work

Janet often works in areas that cross different boundaries of the law as she is always happy to expand her knowledge base and research new areas. This has led her into matters as diverse as defending a local authority against a harassment claim in its pursuit of council tax under the Council Tax (Administration and Enforcement)

## Find the right Barrister



Please contact us to discuss which Trinity Chambers Barrister has the right experience and skills for your case.

Call: **01245 605040**

[clerks@trinitychambers.com](mailto:clerks@trinitychambers.com)

## Browse Trinity Chambers Barristers

[All Barristers >>](#)

## Browse Areas of Practice

[Areas of Practice >>](#)

## Clerks' Room

[Meet Trinity Chambers' Clerk Team >>](#)

Regulations 1992 and challenging a trustee in bankruptcy in relation to its approach in a divorce case. She also is happy to work in dealing with Trusts of Land and Appointment of Trustees Act cases.

### Elder law

The challenges faced by those of advancing years are increasingly being recognised by our legal system. Janet has a particular interest in acting in cases where older people are seeking to enforce their rights. The boundaries are never closed, but recent cases have involved

- Obtaining a new report on the suitability of grandparents to look after their grandchildren in a care case
- Obtaining leave for grandparents to be heard in cases concerning their grandchildren.

Further areas of law where Janet can help and advise include issues under the Mental Capacity Act, applying to the Court of Protection, care arrangements, housing problems and the increasingly worrying problem of elder abuse.

### Interesting Cases

Recent cases have involved :

- Dealing with a combined partnership buy out and financial provision on divorce claim
- Several hearings (some of which went to appeal) involving financial provision claims against monies held by way of PI damages
- A successful application for revocation of a placement order
- Successfully opposing a secure accommodation order and, in a separate case, a recovery order in cases involving teenagers in care
- Representation via the Official Solicitor, of parents with learning difficulties
- Two recent complex fact finding hearings representing parents who were unaware that their respective partners caused injuries to a child. In both cases it was possible, after judgment, to reunite the mother and child.
- Advising in cases concerning lead generation and whether an outgoing is a disbursement for the purposes of VAT rating.

### Publications

Can you marry a robot ? Family Law Week , March 25th 2014 (with Herring, J). This is a look at some of the oddities and absurdities of current marriage law.

Shaken Baby Syndrome and Care Proceedings : (with Herring, J) : Family Law, December 2011.

A modern day morality tale : *Ashby v Kilduff*" This article, written by Janet with Professor Susan Bright of Oxford University on ToLATA and proprietary estoppel, was published by *Family Law* (a publishing imprint of Jordan Publishing Ltd) in the February 2011 issue, at [2011] Fam Law 168

"Suing Hospitals Direct : Whose Tort was it Anyhow?" (1987) 137 New LJ 573, referred to in *Clerk & Lindsell on Torts, 17th ed (1995)*, p 445, para 8-63, and by Lord Clyde in *Phelps v Hillingdon LBC [2001] 2 AC 619*, at 676

Co-author : Bettle and Hamey's *Personal Injury Claims in the County Court*

### Interests

Janet is a best-selling author of crime fiction, which has been published in several different countries as well as in the UK. Her latest book, *Dead Man's Shoes*, topped the relevant Kindle charts in January and March 2013.

Janet enjoys music and plays in a local orchestra. She also travels extensively and acted as a chaperone on an expedition to Antarctica for a group of international students – a trip covered by the [East Anglian Daily Times](#).

---

## Trinity Chambers

Mediation  
Our Team  
Public Access  
Contact Us  
Blog

## Our Expertise

Family  
Private  
Civil Law

## Our Team

Find a Barrister

## Client Care

General Policies  
Complaints  
Quality Standards  
The Future

© 2012, Trinity Chambers

---