

Louise Corfield

Call: 2008

"Louise has the full gamut of skills. She is supremely intelligent and very disarming with both opposing advocates and with difficult clients. She is also very strategic in the way she thinks."
"Louise is absolutely brilliant. She is so clear with advice to clients and getting across complex ideas to them."

Chambers UK 2024



Louise Corfield's primary area of practice and specialist experience consists of the full spectrum of contentious estates and trusts work, with particular and extensive experience of 1975 Inheritance Act claims, capacity based will challenges and advising on the construction of wills and trusts, as well as the removal of executors and trustees.

Louise also regularly represents clients in real property issues arising within estate administration and TOLATA disputes.

Louise is experienced at acting as Counsel and also as a Mediator in this area of work, helping parties to bring to an end disputes over contested estates.

Expertise

Business & Property

Louise is a member of the Business and Property Group in Chambers. She is a barrister and an experienced mediator. She specialises in Inheritance, Will and Trust disputes, and also undertakes real property work and TOLATA cases.

Mediation

Louise is an accredited mediator and a Registered Member of the Civil Mediation Council (CMC). She was trained by the Society of Mediators.

Louise is a specialist practitioner in estate and trust disputes, with over 15 years of experience litigating in the High Court/Business and Property Courts. She is particularly experienced in 1975 Inheritance Act claims, contentious probate claims, such as those involving the disputed validity of wills, claims seeking orders in the administration of trusts and estates (including for the removal of executors and trustees) and TOLATA claims (whether they arise within or outside of estate disputes).

Birmingham

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Louise brings this in-depth subject knowledge and practical experience of litigation to her mediation work, specialising in estate and trust mediations. She puts the parties back in control of the process, allowing them to have their say and take time to reflect upon what they want and need from the ongoing dispute or litigation.

Louise is a passionate believer that mediation is of particular value in estate and trust disputes; there is almost always a finite 'pot' of money or assets that lies at the heart of the dispute, participants will very often be families, the issues involved can be highly emotive and often involve matters of principle. The individuals who find themselves involved in this sort of complicated and expensive litigation don't have the backing of corporate entities or structures, either to fund the litigation or to shield them from the emotional strain of the court process.

"Throughout my practice I have rarely encountered a case in which the people involved would not be best served by avoiding expensive and unpredictable litigation, and finding a compromise that they can all live with, so that they can move on with their lives. Litigation is for lawyers, but mediation is the right option for the people who want resolution, control and to put their dispute and difficulties to bed. As a mediator I am keen to understand what is important to the individuals involved and to put them at the heart of decision making."

Real Estate

Louise enjoys practicing across a spectrum of land and property work. She acts as both a barrister and a mediator in this area.

She has extensive experience of advising and representing both claimants and defendants in TOLATA matters and is regularly instructed in property disputes arising in trust/estate administration cases, over rights of way, boundary and possession issues. She has recently secured a Declaration of trust and Order for Sale of a Property in a protracted TOLATA matter and is advising another client about the TOLATA implications of a multi million pound portfolio of jointly owned properties.

She has considerable experience in proprietary estoppel cases and is currently representing a claimant claiming a proprietary interest over the £8m family farm. The case has involved an unusual application by the defendant parents to raise a charge over the farm subject to the claim, in order to fund their defence.

Louise strives to deliver both to her professional and lay clients and prides herself on her ability to build a good rapport with those whom she represents. She has had exposure to a wide variety of court work and tribunals, which provides her with a strong practical base and substantial advocacy experience.

Louise has experience of hearings at all levels and regularly appears in the High court and the County Court, including multi day trials and appeals to the High Court. She regularly advises pre-action through to trial and drafts pleadings and applications.

Louise is also an experienced negotiator, having extensive experience obtaining settlements for clients by representing them at FDR Hearings, round table settlement meetings and mediations. She has had considerable success obtaining favourable settlements for clients at both an early stage and when brought into long running contentious cases.

ToLATA

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of a portfolio of jointly owned properties.

She also has considerable experience in landlord and tenant matters including experience of advising on and obtaining vesting orders in cases of insolvency and missing/untraceable landlords. She has recently conducted a multi-day trial relating to alleged breaches of a tenancy agreement and involving complex expert evidence, securing an excellent and unexpected positive result for a landlord.

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Inheritance Act Disputes

Louise's primary area of practice and specialist experience consists of the full spectrum of contentious probate work and as such she has particular and extensive experience of 1975 Inheritance Act claims, both as a barrister and a mediator. Louise understands the personal and emotional needs of clients involved in these cases, as well as being a practical strategist in an area of work where there is little exact science to be applied to outcomes.

Louise regularly represents clients in the High Court and at mediations both claiming and defending 1975 Act claims. Recent cases include a successful settlement at mediation in the claim of a partner/co-habitee of a multi-million pound estate, advising the Litigation Friend and the Court on a settlement for minors in a valuable estate where there had been abusive behaviour from the deceased parent resulting in estrangement between parent and children and subsequent disinheritance, and giving advice to a successful claimant on trust structures that might legitimately prevent his 1975 Act settlement from interfering with his benefit provision.

Louise strives to deliver both to her professional and lay clients and prides herself on her ability to build a good rapport with those whom she represents. Louise is compassionate and able to explain complicated legal principles in a straightforward way, to those who are under emotional strain.

Louise has had exposure to a wide variety of court work and tribunals, which provides her with a strong practical base and substantial advocacy experience. Louise regularly appears in the High Court and Business and Property Courts, including multi day trials and appeals to the High Court. She regularly advises pre-action through to trial and drafts pleadings and applications.

Louise is also an experienced negotiator, having extensive experience obtaining settlements for clients by representing them at FDR Hearings, round table settlement meetings and mediations. She has had considerable success obtaining favourable settlements for clients at both an early stage and when brought into long running contentious cases.

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Mediators.

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Trusts

Louise is experienced in all types of trust litigation, including issues arising on the construction and meaning of trust documents, the administration of trusts and the removal of trustees.

Awards



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Accreditations

- Barrister of the Year, 2023 Birmingham Law Society

Qualifications

- BA Hons Jurisprudence, First Class, Oxford University
- BVC graded 'Very Competent', Inns of Court School of Law
- Inner Temple Major Scholarship (2007)

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