

Dominik Morton

YEAR OF CALL: 2018

INN: Lincoln's Inn

Practice Overview

Dominik has recently joined St John's Chambers Family & Divorce team, formerly a barrister at Queen Square Chambers.

Dominik is praised by many of his lay and professional clients as well as members of the judiciary for his personable, empathetic, and down-to-earth approach. He is excellent at dealing with clients from a number of different backgrounds and is skilled at advocating a client's case in a professional, concise, and persuasive manner. He has considerable experience with sensitive and complicated matters, both in relation to Family and Criminal Law, and regularly represents and advises vulnerable and victimised individuals in a variety of matters.

Areas of Expertise

Family Law

Dominik attends courts across the Western Circuit, assisting clients in highly emotional and complicated care proceedings. He is regularly instructed to represent parents and the children's guardian at initial hearings, EPOs and ICOs through to case management and contested final hearings.

Dominik has been instructed on many occasions to represent privately paying and legally aided clients in all disputes relating to the welfare of the children.

He has also supported and represented a number of vulnerable individuals in proceedings relating to non-molestation orders and occupation orders. Dominik has considerable experience in dealing with clients at ex-parte and return date hearings through to contested final hearings.

Relates cases:

- ▶ *Re D (2021)* – currently representing the respondent father in care proceedings. The case revolves around issues of neglect due to the oldest subject child being severely obese for his age. This case involves complex medical evidence and has required me to cross-examine an expert on the immediacy of health risks in respect of the subject child.
- ▶ *N v C (2021)* – represented the respondent mother in private law proceedings. The case had been listed for a fact-finding hearing. The applicant father made various admissions to allegations made by the respondent mother. At the fact-finding hearing, Dominik was able to strike out the applicant father's only allegation. The Court felt that given the applicant father had already made admissions, there was no need for a fact-finding hearing.
- ▶ *Re J (2021)* – represented the respondent father in care proceedings. Dominik was instructed to represent the client throughout most of the proceedings, including a five-day contested final hearing. The client was a very vulnerable individual and required a great deal of support throughout the entire process which

Dominik provided. The client had accepted that he was not in a position to care for the subject child. The Court made a placement order for the subject child to be placed with an adoptive family.

- ▶ *H v H (2021)* – represented the applicant father in private law proceedings. This was an unfortunate case where the children did not want to have contact with the applicant father at that time. At the final hearing, Dominik was able to negotiate a plan for the applicant father's contact with the children to progress at a slow and child-focused pace.
- ▶ *W v P (2020)* – represented the respondent in a case where the applicant had applied for a Non-Molestation Order. Dominik was able to finalise these proceedings at the return date hearing as a result of the respondent accepting the continuation of the Non-Molestation Order provided that no findings of fact were made against him and that the overall duration of the order was reduced to one year. Dominik was able to effectively persuade the court to make a final order in the above terms.
- ▶ *T v T (2019)* – successfully represented the applicant wife at a final hearing for a Non-Molestation Order against the respondent husband. This case involved several live witnesses as well as substantial police disclosure, all of which provided detailed proof of the significant historical and ongoing domestic violence and abuse that the applicant had been subjected to at the hands of the respondent. The court found in favour of the applicant and subsequently made a Non-Molestation Order protecting her from any future abuse.
- ▶ *Re L (2019)* – represented the second respondent father in care proceedings. After lengthy discussions and negotiations, the Local Authority agreed to adjust its care plan from a Foster Care Placement to a twelve-month Supervision Order. The matter was effectively concluded at the IRH.
- ▶ *Re A (2019)* – represented the first respondent mother in care proceedings. Dominik successfully argued against the Local Authority at a contested ICO hearing that the test for immediate removal of the relevant child had not been satisfied. As a result, the Local Authority changed its care plan to a Mother and Baby Placement. This matter also involved lengthy and complicated arguments in respect of which Local Authority should be the designated authority in the case.
- ▶ *C v S (2019)* – represented the respondent mother in private law proceedings. Dominik was able to successfully negotiate a progressive plan for contact with the applicant father. This plan progressed from infrequent indirect contact to regular periods of overnight contact.
- ▶ *S v B (2019)* – represented the respondent mother in private law proceedings. Dominik successfully argued that direct contact between the applicant father and the relevant child should be suspended due to safeguarding concerns. The court found in favour of the respondent mother and ordered that indirect contact should be arranged in lieu of direct contact.

Qualifications & awards:

- ▶ 2017 - 2018: Bar Professional Training Course (UWE) - Outstanding
- ▶ 2016 - 2017: Master of Laws in Human Rights Law (Bristol) - Distinction
- ▶ 2013 - 2016: Bachelor of Laws (UWE) - First Class Degree
- ▶ Joint Highest Mark for Criminal Litigation and Evidence on the BPTC (July 2018).
- ▶ Best Performance in the Human Rights Law LLM Pathway (Feb 2018).
- ▶ Denning Scholarship, Lincoln's Inn (Aug 2017).
- ▶ UWE Bristol Futures Award (Aug 2016) – for undertaking extra-curricular activities.
- ▶ 2nd Year Lyons Davidson Mooting Prize (July 2015) – for gaining the highest score and performing the finest advocacy in the year.
- ▶ Oxford University Press Law Prize (July 2014) – best student.
- ▶ Oxford University Press Legal Method Prize (July 2014) – best performance in the Legal Methods module.
- ▶ Stanley Cartledge Memorial Award (July 2014) – best performance in the Criminal Law module.
- ▶ Awarded a place on the Dean's List for 1st, 2nd and 3rd Year (July 2014 & July 2016) – For demonstrating the highest standard of achievement across all modules during all three years of my degree.
- ▶ 'Nicest Person in the Year' Award (June 2013) – For being trustworthy, kind, and thoughtful towards others.



Additional Information:

In his spare time, Dominik enjoys playing golf, going for walks in the great outdoors, and rock climbing. On occasion, Dominik can also be found sitting in a random pub garden enjoying the weather.

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