



Barrister

ANDRÉA HOUNTO

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Call: 2018



Specialist in
Family
Personal Immigration
Public Law
Civil Actions Against Public Authorities
Specialist Family & Immigration Team

Experience

Andréa Hounto is a specialist family and immigration law barrister.

Family Law

Andréa's family practice encompasses all of Chambers' specialisms: private and public children law, matrimonial finance, and proceedings under the Family Law Act.

Andréa is a fierce advocate who uses her critical and lateral thinking to obtain favourable results for her clients. She expertly navigates jurisdictional issues and cases that engage the Hague Convention 2007, as well as cases of child sexual abuse, domestic abuse and parental alienation.

She has been praised by instructing solicitors for her excellent negotiation and advocacy skills, and her tailored client care.

"Andréa is very patient and client-focused with a personal approach. She is exceptionally dedicated to her work and clients which was visible in client satisfaction. Andréa goes that extra mile for her clients and is always available for any queries from those instructing her, no matter how busy she is."

Landmark Legal LLP

"We have instructed Andréa on multiple occasions, and she has only ever secured a positive outcome. I would not hesitate to instruct Andréa on my cases again, as her work was of very high quality, her client care skills are excellent, and she routinely achieves the desired result. Andréa was a pleasure to work with professionally and personally." – Beck Fitzgerald Solicitors

"Andréa's excellent advocacy and assistance to date has been invaluable. On behalf of the client, our sincere thanks & much appreciated!" – Thompson & Co Solicitors Ltd

Immigration Law

In immigration law, Andréa regularly appears in the First-tier Tribunal. She has experience representing clients in their substantive asylum, human rights, EUSS and deportation appeals, as well as bail applications. She accepts instructions on a pro-bono basis and regularly accepts work from organisations such as Bail for Immigration Detainees (BID) and RAMFEL.

Andréa has a particular expertise in the intersection between immigration and family law and has extensive experience with complex Appendix FM cases, as well as unaccompanied minors and adult dependent relatives.

Andréa has been commended by instructing solicitors for her ability to think outside of the box and obtain favourable outcomes in complex appeals.

"Working with Andrea was such a pleasure. Her knowledge on Immigration and complex human rights appeals has been instrumental in navigating the intricacies of our client's case. Her advocacy, not only extensive but also executed with a level of precision and conviction that significantly contributed to the positive determination of the appeal."

Andrea approached our client's appeal with meticulous attention, and with a level of commitment that was evident throughout. Her thorough examination and consideration of every nuance ensured a comprehensive and compelling argument in favour of our client." – Times PBS Solicitors

"Andréa successfully appealed the Home Office's decision to refuse political asylum to a DRC national on the basis that the regime in DRC had changed and his appeal had no merit. This is a particularly exceptional outcome as the narrative around DRC claims is that they have no merit – which is both misleading and dangerous. Well done Andréa!" – Montague Solicitors

Previous Experience

Before coming to the Bar, Andréa was awarded the Middle Temple Bristow Scholarship which enabled her to spend six months at the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg. She worked as a Stagiaire (Judicial Assistant) to Advocate-General Eleanor Sharpston KC and Judge Vajda, developing her knowledge of EU and Immigration & Asylum Law.

Prior to joining chambers, Andréa worked as an Outreach Adviser at Citizens Advice Kensington & Chelsea where she provided advice to clients on matters including Family, Immigration, Welfare Benefits, Debt and Employment.

Interests

Outside of work, Andréa is a Singer-Songwriter. She released her debut Gospel EP, Perfect Intimacy, in 2021 and her latest single 'Rest' is available on all streaming platforms. Andréa plans to continue releasing music alongside her busy practice and finds that music serves as a creative outlet.

Andréa also sits on Exeter's Race Equity Advisory Board and is passionate about racial justice.

Education

BA (Hons) History & Politics, University of Exeter

GDL, BPP University Law School

BPTC with LL.M, BPP University Law School

Memberships

Family Law Bar Association (FLBA)

Human Rights Lawyers Association (HRLA)

Young Legal Aid Lawyers (YLAL)

Black Women in Law (BWIL)

Languages

French (Native/Bilingual)

Awards

The Hon. Sir Peter Bristow Overseas Scholarship, European Court of Justice (Middle Temple)

Access to the Bar Award (Middle Temple)

Law School Dean's Scholarship (BPP Law School)

CASES

MB (Afghanistan) v SSHD

Andréa, instructed by Times PBS Solicitors, successfully represented an Afghan national in her appeal to join her son and grandson as an adult dependent relative under Appendix FM of the Immigration Rules. Andréa made effective submissions, inviting the Court to find that the appellant was unable to access adequate medical treatment in Afghanistan due to the Taliban takeover and that refusal would amount to a disproportionate breach of the sponsors' Article 8 rights. The appeal was allowed by the First-tier Tribunal judge. Instructing solicitors shared the following feedback:

"Working with Andrea was such a pleasure. Her knowledge on Immigration and complex human rights appeals has been instrumental in navigating the intricacies of our client's case. Her advocacy, not only extensive but also executed with a level of precision and conviction that significantly contributed to the positive determination of the appeal.

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Related Barristers:

[Andréa Hounto](#)

A v E

The Applicant Father sought a shared care order in respect of the subject children and raised 18 allegations of parental alienation by the Mother. Andréa made persuasive submissions to the effect that context is important: the Mother had always done her best to raise and protect the children, reminding the Court that the test was not whether M was a perfect parent, but whether she was a 'good enough' parent – which is to be considered on a case-by-case basis. Furthermore, Andréa invited the Court to note that the Mother had engaged with the professionals, implemented their advice and promoted contact between the children and the Father, arguing that it was in their best interests to live with the Mother and spend time with the Father in a stepped-up, gradual way.

The Court found 17 of the 18 allegations of parental alienation proved on the balance of probabilities, however, it was found that the alienating behaviour had reduced over time and that the Mother was engaging with professionals and facilitating contact between the Father and the children. The Court made a final order in the Mother's favour (lives with Mother, spend time with the Father).

Andréa was instructed by Alexander Rose Solicitors. She was thanked by her client for "perfectly describing her life to the Court and being a voice for her children."

Related Barristers:

[Andréa Hounto](#)

CFC: non molestation order

Andréa Hounto represented the Applicant mother in a complex Non-Molestation Order (NMO) and committal hearing. The application was made following the father's repeated breach of a final child arrangement order, which precluded him from contacting the mother or the child. The Judge was reluctant to make an NMO on the basis that an undertaking would have the same effect, and that the most recent incident had occurred almost 2 months prior to the hearing date, with no further incidents. Andréa made submissions arguing that an undertaking would not be appropriate in this case due to the pattern of behaviour exhibited by the father. She submitted that the repeated breaches amount to a complete disregard for court orders and invited the judge to consider this case as an exceptional one. The Judge subsequently ordered an NMO with a zonal restriction against the father for the duration of 12 months.

Where: Central Family Court, before of HHJ Oliver

Outcome: Judge ordered an NMO for 12 months, including a zonal restriction against father.

Instructed by: Beck Fitzgerald.

Andrea Hounto was able to accept instructions from April 2023

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