

Adanna Akinfenwa

YEAR OF CALL: 2023

Adanna is a first six pupil. She accepts appropriate instructions in all areas of family Law.???

Adanna began her pupillage in October 2026 supervised by Jane Carter?

Prior to commencing pupillage, Adanna gained extensive experience across a broad range of family law proceedings, with experience in private children matters, domestic abuse and financial remedies.

Adanna previously worked as a Legal Adviser within the Family Court, where she advised the judiciary on matters arising under the Children Act 1989 and Family Law Act 1996. This provided her with valuable insight into judicial decision-making and the practical operation of the Family Court.

Adanna is also the Founder of Access Law Legal Services, an award-winning family law legal services organisation established to improve access to justice for individuals unable to afford traditional legal representation. Under her leadership Access Law Legal Services was named "Family Law Service of the Year"

Alongside her legal practice, Adanna serves as a Trustee of a domestic abuse charity. As part of her role, she has responsibility for developing legal resources designed to assist victims of domestic abuse in understanding and navigating the family justice system.

Education

Bar Course (Called in 2023): Competent

Law and Criminology LLB: 2:1

Scholarships

Inner Temple Pegasus Access Scheme Scholar (2023)

Professional Memberships

The Honourable Society of the Inner Temple

Family & Children

During pupillage, Adanna is developing a broad family law practice, with interests in:

Children – Private Law

Adanna accepts instructions in private children's proceedings and brings pre-pupillage experience to this area.

Her experience includes child arrangements, prohibited steps and specific issue applications, enforcement proceedings, and cases involving allegations of domestic abuse, coercive and controlling behaviour and parental conflict. As a paralegal, she assisted solicitors in complex cases involving allegations of sexual abuse and cases with an international dimension.

Prior to commencing pupillage, Adanna worked as a Trainee Legal Adviser in the Family Court, advising the judiciary in Children Act proceedings. She has also supported litigants throughout private children proceedings, giving her insight into cases from both the judicial and litigant perspective.

Adanna has a particular interest in cases where allegations of domestic abuse intersect with child arrangements, including the application of Practice Direction 12J, fact-finding hearings

and the welfare implications of disputed allegations.

Children – Public Law

Adanna is developing her practice in public law children proceedings and brings experience from her previous role as a Trainee Legal Adviser.

As a Trainee Legal Adviser, Adanna advised the judiciary on Children Act proceedings and gained experience of the procedural and evidential issues arising in cases involving local authorities, parents and children. Her role required her to identify the relevant legal framework, advise the bench and assist with the effective case management of proceedings.

Her experience within the court has provided her with an understanding of the progression of public law proceedings and the importance of rigorous case management where significant decisions concerning children and families are being made.

Adanna welcomes instructions across the spectrum of public law children work and is keen to develop this area of her practice during pupillage.

Domestic Abuse

Domestic abuse is a particular area of interest for Adanna and one in which she brings experience extending beyond her work as an advocate.

Her experience includes applications for non-molestation and occupation orders, together with private children proceedings involving allegations of coercive and controlling behaviour, physical and sexual abuse, threats and other forms of domestic abuse.

Adanna's experience as a Trainee Legal Adviser included advising the judiciary in proceedings under the Family Law Act 1996, including matters concerning undertakings and allegations of threats and violence.

She is also a Trustee of a domestic abuse charity, where she has responsibility for developing legal resources to assist victims and survivors in understanding and navigating the family

justice system. This work complements her legal experience and has developed her understanding of the practical barriers that victims may encounter when engaging with family proceedings.

Financial Remedies

Adanna has a particular interest in financial remedies and intends to develop a substantial practice in this area.

Prior to commencing pupillage, she gained extensive experience assisting with financial remedy proceedings, including the preparation and analysis of Forms E, questionnaires, schedules of assets and financial disclosure.

As a paralegal she has assisted in cases involving substantial property portfolios, numerous bank accounts, disputed transactions and unexplained movements of funds. She has experience scrutinising banking and documentary evidence, identifying inconsistencies in disclosure and isolating matters requiring further investigation.

International Family

Adanna has a developing interest in international family law and welcomes opportunities during pupillage to build experience in this area.

She is particularly interested in cases where family proceedings cross jurisdictional boundaries, including international children matters and the jurisdictional issues which can arise following relationship breakdown.

Her interest in international family law complements her broader developing practice in private children and financial remedies.