



Cross-Examination of Vulnerable Witnesses in Children Proceedings

MONDAY, 19 MAY 2025 at 6:00pm to 9:00pm

Coram Children's Legal Centre

The Lecture Hall & Fielding Rooms

Queen Elizabeth II Centre

41 Brunswick Square, London WC1N 1AZ

You are cordially invited by the London Children's Lawyers and Coram Children's Legal Centre to attend a free training event/panel discussion with an interactive case study.

· PRESENTERS:

· **DEBORAH PICCOS:** (*Panel Chair*) Deborah qualified as a solicitor in December 2001 and specialises in public law children matters at *TV Edwards Solicitors*. She was the Chair of SAHCA – The Solicitors' Association of Higher Courts Advocates from 2020-2022. Deborah was a finalist in the Legal Aid Practitioners' Group's family legal aid lawyer of the year for 2022 and 2017. She also sits as a Recorder in family law and as Deputy District Judge on the South Eastern Circuit.

· **ARTIS KAKONGE:** Artis is Deputy Head of Family at *No 5 Chambers*. She is a skilled advocate in the Family Courts and Court of Protection, handling both health and welfare, and property and financial matters. Artis acts for individuals, local authorities, health bodies, and the Official Solicitor. With a background in local government, Artis has extensive experience advising on capacity issues, including for care leavers and children with disabilities, and brings particular expertise in deprivation of liberty cases. Her strong family law background makes her especially effective in cases where family and Court of Protection matters intersect.

· **DANIEL LONGE:** Daniel Longe is a highly experienced solicitor-advocate with over 17 years of expertise in family law and children safeguarding. He undertakes advocacy for Local Authorities with *the Freelance-Advocats' Virtual Chambers (TFAVC)*. His extensive background includes advocacy in contested hearings, multi-day trials, and strategic legal advising. He has held significant in-house roles across various London boroughs, culminating in a principal solicitor position. His practice is underscored by a strong commitment to delivering thorough legal representation and advice in complex and sensitive matters.

· **RAMAN RAI:** (*Panelist and Co-Facilitator of Case Study*) Raman joined *JD Spicer Zeb Solicitors* during July 2008. He was made a Partner and Joint Head of the Family Department in March 2013. Raman has been an accredited member of the Law Society's Children Panel from 1st December 2007 to date. He advises and represents clients within complex Children Law proceedings, child abduction proceedings, and high net worth divorce and financial relief matters. Raman is consistently instructed by Children's Guardians to represent children within care proceedings and Rule 16.4 children proceedings across London. In addition, Raman often represents vulnerable parents within care proceedings.

· **VICTORIA ROBERTS:** Victoria is a barrister at *Coram Chambers*. Having initially practised in criminal, civil and family law, Victoria now practises exclusively in family law and the Court of Protection specialising in the law relating to children. She is particularly experienced in public law cases. Known for her empathy and excellent client care, she is careful to promote the needs of vulnerable clients and regularly represents older children directly. Victoria regularly delivers lectures, seminars and training for solicitors and other professionals on matters relation to children's proceedings.

· **ELIZABETH WARK:** (*Co-Facilitator of Case Study*) Elizabeth is a barrister at *3DJB Chambers*. She specialises in the field of Family/Children Law and Domestic Abuse. Prior to coming to the Bar, Elizabeth practised as a Registered Nurse at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in her hometown of Sydney, Australia. She completed a two-year post-graduate training programme in the Intensive Care Unit (ICU). This experience gives Elizabeth a unique insight into complex family problems and the difficulties individuals have in navigating the system when dealing with extreme stress, trauma and mental or physical ill health.

**FREE EVENT - Doors open at 6:00pm. Event commences at 6:30pm
1.5 training hours. Social/Networking Meet-Up from 8:00pm to 9:00pm**

Please obtain a free e-ticket via the Eventbrite QR-Code below:



Questions: Please contact [vyvy.lewis\(at\)coramclc.org.uk](mailto:vyvy.lewis@coramclc.org.uk)