

# Deirdre Smythe

## General Information

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A dual-qualified Barrister at the English and Irish Bar, Dee Smyth has extensive experience in Family and Criminal Law, as well as other aspects of Civil Law.

With an empathetic approach, Dee speaks on behalf of those who may not be able to articulate themselves, including those with a disability and mental health issues. She fights on her clients' behalf to get the best possible case outcome.

Dee's legal career began as a Child Protection Officer and a Children's Rights Advocate. She visited a number of Disabled Children's Homes to ensure their environment was safe and that proper education was provided. Dee has a background in Social Work, the Probation Service and Ministry of Justice ,whilst completing her law degree and post qualifications for the Bar. She also has experience as a County Court Advocate.

As a result, Dee has a unique understanding of the social care system, legal system and prison service and adopts a holistic approach to helping her clients resolve their case. Dee says "As a Barrister, I listen to what my clients have to say. I act as I would want to be represented, with respect, warmth and sincerity."

### Legal Expertise

Family and Child Law – including contested care proceedings and adoption, non molestation orders/ domestic abuse issues and matters concerning family and children disputes including contact agreements.

Criminal Law – including assault, offences involving violence, robbery (gang-related), sexual abuse, substance misuse and terrorism cases

Asylum/Human Rights

Education Law/SEN issues.

Housing and Landlord/Tenant

Personal Injury/ Road Traffic Accidents

Prison Law

Solicitor instructed and Direct Access

Dee accepts instructions from both solicitors and members of the public. She adopts a balanced approach, representing both claimants and respondents, victims and defendants.

### Court appearances

Dee regularly appears in the County Courts, Family Courts and Magistrates Courts, as well as attending the High Court, Crown Court and Court of Appeal. Dee was part of the legal team at the first-ever televised hearing at the Supreme Court in Ireland in which they won their historic case by a majority ruling.

### Pro Bono work

Passionate about access to justice, Dee completes pro bono work for Justice for Women. She also works pro bono for Bail for

Immigration Detainees, representing individuals who are in detention centres.

Professional qualifications

Barrister-at-Law degree; Kings Inns, Dublin

Certificate (Arbitration); Chartered Institute of Arbitrators, London

LLM Master of Law (International Human Rights); Birmingham City University

Post Graduate Diploma (Bar Vocational Course); Inns of Court School of Law, London

Masters degree (Law of the Built Environment); Birmingham City University

LLB Hons (Law); University of Wolverhampton

Beyond her interest in the Law, Dee enjoys martial arts and once represented Northern Ireland at the European Championships in Judo. Dee is a Director of a not-for-profit Community Housing Company. She also works with serious risk offenders in Hostels, working with them on their sentence plans and helping to rehabilitate them back into the community.

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