

Louise Thomson

Call: 2019

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Louise has a busy common law practice across all of Chambers' specialisms and appears in court on a daily basis. Louise regularly appears in the Crown Court, Magistrates' Court, Family Court and County Court. Alongside her court-based practice she is keenly developing a paper-based practice. Louise also has experience in representing the police and other public bodies in applications for civil orders, such as, account and cash forfeiture, injunctions, closure orders, sexual harm prevention orders and stalking protection orders.

Prior to coming to the bar, Louise worked at HSBC Bank for two years on their Global Liquidity and Cash Management Graduate Scheme where she completed placements in sales, client management, product management and financial crime compliance. Before commencing pupillage, Louise obtained a volunteer legal internship with the Arizona Capital Representation Project in Tucson, where she supported the lawyers representing people on death row who were appealing their sentences/convictions. When Louise returned to the UK, she worked as a paralegal for Lambeth Council on the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse.

Louise is particularly interested in encouraging diversity at the Bar. Louise helped found the Stamford Anti-Racism Group, in her hometown. She chaired the group from 2020-2021, before returning to London to start her pupillage. She now sits on the anti-racism committee, EDI committee and wellbeing committee in chambers.

Areas of Expertise

Crime

Louise is a CPS Grade 2 Prosecutor and accepts instructions to both prosecute and defend. She has conducted trials in Crown Courts across London and the South East. Louise has dealt with difficult trials involving vulnerable witnesses, expert evidence and dealt with victimless prosecutions. Louise has experience of sensitive cases involving controlling or coercive behaviour, domestic violence, robbery and firearm offences. She is familiar with conducting virtual and hybrid hearings.

Family Law and Court of Protection

Louise regularly represents Local Authorities and parents in care proceedings. She is often instructed in Interim Care Orders, Emergency Protection Orders, issue resolution hearings, case management hearings and final hearings. She is regularly instructed in cases involving substance abuse, neglect, domestic violence and inflicted injury. Louise has also been instructed to make applications for a deprivation of liberty orders under the inherent jurisdiction of the High Court. She is also instructed by the police in applications for the disclosure of family proceedings to assist and inform criminal investigations. Her experience in criminal and police work provides valuable insight in cases which involve proceedings in both the family and criminal courts or have particular disclosure issues.

Outside her public family practice, Louise also accepts instructions in private family proceedings and has represented parties in financial proceedings, applications for Child Arrangement Orders and for non-molestation orders.

Louise is regularly instructed by Local Authorities and Health Boards in Court of Protection proceedings. She has experience across the full breadth of applications and has chaired round table meetings for the Local Authority.

Personal Injury

Louise has a busy personal injury practice, which sees her regularly acting for both Claimants and Defendants in fast track and multi track cases, small claims, stage 3 hearings, infant approval hearings and other interlocutory applications. She undertakes the full spectrum of personal injury cases, including occupiers liability, employers liability and road traffic accidents. In addition, her common-law practice means she is well placed to consider claims against the police.

In addition to her court work, Louise accepts paperwork instructions and advises on liability and quantum in matters of personal injury, credit hire, employer liability and public liability claims.

Louise has experience dealing with claims for rental arrears and possession of property in the County Court.

Police Law

Louise is quickly developing a busy police law practice and is frequently instructed by police forces across the country to provide representation and advice on technical issues in a range of applications including:

- Forfeiture Orders under POCA
- Sexual Harm Prevention Orders
- Domestic Violence Protection Orders
- Closure Orders
- Civil Injunctions

Education

- 2016 – Law LLB, Newcastle University: 2:1
- 2019 – BPTC, University of Law: Very Competent. BPTC LLM, University of Law: Distinction

Memberships

- Inner Temple
- Personal Injury Bar Association
- Criminal Bar Association
- Family Law Bar Association

Appointments

- CPS Advocate Panel General Crime Level 2

Awards

- Exhibition scholarship from the Honourable Society of Inner Temple
- University of Law prize for Personal Injury and Clinical Negligence