



# SHABANA SALEEM

Barrister & Family Mediator | Founder, Family Reframed



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## QUALIFICATIONS

- MA, MENA Law  
Queen Mary University of London, 2011
- LLB English & European Law (Hons)  
Queen Mary University of London, 2009
- Bar Practice Training Course  
Inns of Court School of Law, 2013

## ADMISSIONS

- Called to the Bar, England & Wales (2014)
- The Honourable Society of Gray's Inn
- Resolution; Family Mediation Council (UK)
- Chair, Family Mediation Committee, The Mediation Hub (MENA)

## AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Cross-border family mediation
- Pre/post-nuptial & Islamic marriage agreements
- Divorce & financial settlements
- Custody & parenting plans
- Private wealth & foundation disputes

## LANGUAGES

- English
- Urdu / Hindi
- Punjabi

## Overview

Shabana is a barrister and mediator with over ten years' experience advising on cross-border family, private wealth and regulatory matters across the United Kingdom, Middle East and Asia. She has worked in leading family law teams at Forsters and Charles Russell Speechlys in London, and since relocating to Dubai in 2022 has practised from Outer Temple Chambers and Al Tamimi & Co, advising international families on divorce, custody and complex financial settlements.

Shabana founded **Family Reframed**, a specialist family practice focused on mediation and related dispute resolution methods to help couples reframe the conversation around family transitions to reach practical, lasting agreements. The practice offers a confidential, neutral and child-focused alternative to court proceedings, with structured sessions covering family law matters across different countries, cultures and legal systems. Clients can instruct lawyers before or during the process, and sessions can take place in person in Dubai or remotely for couples managing separation from different jurisdictions. Drawing on her background as both a litigator and a trained mediator, Shabana helps couples understand their legal position while keeping discussions constructive, working alongside family therapists where appropriate to support the wellbeing of any children involved.

Shabana holds an MA in MENA Law from Queen Mary University of London and is regularly instructed to prepare expert reports on the application of Sharia law in family matters, with particular focus on the Middle East and North Africa region. This cross-jurisdictional insight allows her to guide clients through the interaction between Sharia-influenced personal status laws and foreign legal frameworks.

## Selected Publications & Speaking

- Speaker, *Personal Status Laws and Family Mediation*, American Bar Association, 2026
- Speaker, "Keeping it in the Family: Arbitration for Billionaires", *Dubai Arbitration Week*, 2023
- Author, *Building Better Foundations: the DIFC Foundation Law*, *Oxford Journal of Trusts & Trustees*, 2023
- Cited, Court of Appeal (Civil Division): *Akhter v Khan & Others [2020] EWCA Civ 122*
- Co-author with Professor Rebecca Probert, *Legal Treatment of Islamic Marriage Ceremonies under English Law*, *Oxford Journal of Law & Religion*, 2018

## Memberships & Recognition

- Committee Member, Young Barristers' Committee, *The Bar Council*
- Honourable Mention, Best Advocate, VIS Moot (Vienna)
- President, Association of Gray's Inn Students
- Scholarships: *Worshipful Company of Arbitrators (2018)*; *Ann Felicity Goddard Scholarship, Gray's Inn*

## Interests

Outside practice, Shabana enjoys hiking, most recently the peak at Nathia Gali in Pakistan and a trek through the mountains of Vietnam, and is a keen swimmer who scuba dives whenever the opportunity arises. Above all, she enjoys playing 'make believe' games with her two young children.