

## **PROFILE – HELEN PERKINS**

Helen Perkins is a Legal Team Manager based in the West Midlands at the Sandwell Magistrates' Courts. In addition to acting as a legal adviser herself, she manages a team of 11 barristers and solicitors, of which 10 deal with family proceedings work.

She began her legal career working for the Midland News Association Group and the Express and Star Newspaper as an adviser on advertising law and standards. From there she moved to Wolverhampton Magistrates' Court in 1989 and remained there until 2000 when she was appointed to her present post.

Whilst at Wolverhampton she developed an expertise in family work and was also responsible for Panel and Legal Adviser training.

Helen has been a member of the Society since 2001 and a Council member since 2005. She is also a member of the JCS Family Law Network.

Helen sits on the Family Business Skills Committee which reports to the Learning and Development Board as to the training needs of County Court and FPC Administrative Staff. More recently she, together with other members of the Family Law Network, has been working with the Judicial Studies Board, devising an induction training programme and accompanying materials for legal advisers in the Family Proceedings Court. These materials are presently being piloted in the West Midlands and West Mercia with a view to national roll out in 2007.

She is a solicitor and has a Masters Degree in Criminal Justice Studies.

She has also gained an insight into the child protection systems in other jurisdictions having spent vocational time in the USA and in India with various government departments, charitable organisations and NGO's.