

Richard Norman – Family & Divorce



YEAR OF CALL: 2009

INN: GRAY'S INN

“ Richard is an excellent negotiator. He does not run weak points, which makes him formidable in opposition. Clients like his no nonsense and matter of fact approach.”

LEGAL 500
DIVORCE AND FINANCIAL REMEDY

Practice Overview

Richard is a family law specialist with particular expertise in financial remedies (Matrimonial Causes Act 1973 and Schedule 1 of the Children Act 1989). Richard was for several years ranked by Chambers UK as the 'up and coming' family law junior on the Western Circuit before moving up the rankings as an expert in his field.

Richard has considerable experience of cases involving complex issues such as companies, partnerships, farms, pensions, trusts, tracing assets, enforcement and international jurisdiction to name but a few. Richard acts in cases with asset bases ranging from hundreds of thousands of pounds to multi-million pound disputes.

Richard accepts instructions on a Public Access basis in appropriate cases.

Areas of Expertise

Family & Divorce

Children Private Law

Richard accepts instructions in children private law disputes under the Children Act 1989. These are often complex and include allegation of sexual, physical and emotional abuse to both adults and children, alienation, along with issues requiring expert evidence (and challenging the expert evidence) of psychologists,

psychiatrists, independent social workers etc. Richard also acts in cases involving an international element including leave to permanently remove from the jurisdiction.

Recent cases include:

- ▶ **Re ED** – representing a young child in 4 year long proceedings concerning unsubstantiated allegations of physical and sexual abuse and multiple psychiatric and psychological assessments culminating in a 5 day final hearing at which a transfer of residence was ordered.
- ▶ **Re RFC** – representing the father in High Court proceedings concerning allegations of murder, ritualistic sexual abuse and international jurisdictional dispute. Successfully reinstated substantial contact arrangements.
- ▶ **W v W** – representing the father in proceedings to remove children from the jurisdiction to Australia and to reinstate contact. Issues include allegations of drug and alcohol abuse, domestic violence and alienation. Contact successfully reinstated.
- ▶ **Re L** – representing the father in proceedings where he stands accused of rape.

Divorce & Financial Remedy

Richard's particular area of interest is in financial remedies and he has developed a strong practice in this sphere. He accepts instructions in cases involving a variety of issues including matrimonial/non-matrimonial property, nuptial settlements, company interests (and valuation issues relating to companies), partnerships, pre/post nuptial agreements and pension issues, to name just a few.

Recent cases includes:

- ▶ Representing the husband in a case involving a multi-million pound chain of convenience stores. Successfully negotiated settlement.
- ▶ Representing the wife in a case involving a partnership running a portfolio of investment properties and accounting issues relating to the distribution of partnership profits. Successfully negotiated settlement.
- ▶ Representing the wife in a case involving disputed valuations of an engineering company, issues as to taxation, Wells sharing and the impact of a health condition.
- ▶ Representing the wife in a case where the husband was successfully held to an agreement to resolve finances notwithstanding his subsequent significant loss of fortune.
- ▶ Representing the husband in a case where the husband argued that all the property held in his sole name was subject to loans repayable to his mother. Successfully negotiated settlement.

- Representing the wife in a case involving a portfolio of multiple commercial and residential properties. Issues included valuation, capital gains tax and arguments relating to non-matrimonial property. Successfully negotiated settlement.

Recommendations

"Richard has been sensitive and understanding towards the client throughout and provided excellent, practical advice. He is calm in court and doesn't get too belligerent yet is still strong in how he presents cases. He is very forensic and has great knowledge."

CHAMBERS UK, 2022
FAMILY/MATRIMONIAL

"He has an excellent understanding of complex technical issues, and his no-nonsense approach wins great favour with clients. He has a fantastic attention to detail, is always very well prepared and has an excellent bedside manner with clients."

CHAMBERS UK, 2021
FAMILY: MATRIMONIAL FINANCE

"Richard is one of my go-to barristers. I find him easy to work with – he is very approachable, and has an excellent manner with clients. I think he is particularly good with cases where businesses are involved, and has an excellent grasp of technical issues."

LEGAL 500, 2021
DIVORCE & FINANCIAL REMEDY

"Richard has fantastic attention to detail, is always very well prepared and has an excellent manner with clients. He is equally strong in private children and financial cases. 'He is technically excellent and has a laser-like focus on achieving the best outcome for his clients.' "

CHAMBERS UK, 2020
FAMILY/MATRIMONIAL

"He has an excellent strategic mind well beyond his years."

LEGAL 500, 2020
FAMILY AND CHILDREN LAW

"Acts in a wide variety of family law matters, including those concerning financial remedies following relationship breakdowns and complicated private children cases. 'Really incisive, thorough and reasonable.' 'Sensible, helpful and effective at court.' "

CHAMBERS UK, 2020
FAMILY/MATRIMONIAL

"Experienced in financial remedy cases."

LEGAL 500, 2019
FAMILY AND CHILDREN LAW

Professional memberships

- ▶ Family Law Bar Association
- ▶ Western Circuit

Qualifications & awards:

- ▶ BA Hons, University of Bristol
- ▶ Graduate Diploma in Law, BPP
- ▶ Bar Vocational Course, City University (Outstanding)
- ▶ Lord Justice Holker Scholarship, Gray's Inn

Additional information:

Richard studied music at Bristol University before moving to London to study law. He completed his Bar Exams at City University, London (formerly the Inns of Court School of Law) and was assessed as 'Outstanding'. Richard returned to the West Country and commenced pupillage with St John's Chambers Family Practice Group in 2009. He was offered a tenancy one year later upon successful completion of pupillage.

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