



Piers Martin – Barrister

Called 1997

SUMMARY

For over 10 years Piers's family practice has focussed exclusively on financial remedies (formerly known as 'ancillary relief') disputes arising out of marriage, civil partnership and co-habitation, including high net worth matters together with cases involving more modest assets but with complicating factors such as intervening third parties (eg. where other family members are claiming an interest in assets of the divorcing couple), obscure company structures (eg. where one of the divorcing spouses organises their financial affairs using a company thereby obscuring their financial position) and offshore assets and trusts. He has also dealt with a number of cases involving division of assets by English courts following a foreign divorce.

In addition to his financial remedies work he also has considerable experience of Trusts of Land cases (ie. where an unmarried co-habitee seeks to claim a share in a property that may be legally owned by only one of them) and applications relating to children of unmarried parents under Schedule 1 Children Act 1989 (eg. obtaining financial support for a child from an unmarried parent)

As well as representation at Court he is often instructed to provide advice at an earlier stage in proceedings and to draft documentation required by the Court such as questionnaires, chronologies and statements of issues, together with offers of settlement and letters to experts.

Piers has a reputation for providing excellent client care in a field of law where emotions often run high and for helping his clients keep focussed on the factual and legal issues in their case which will achieve the best outcome for them. This is achieved through a manner which is both personable and empathetic. He is able to explain the sometimes complex financial aspects of divorce in a digestible and down to earth way and has considerable experience dealing with vulnerable clients.

While Piers recognises that the stress of marital breakdown means that the vast majority of cases are best resolved by sensible but robust negotiation, on the occasions where this is not possible and a matter requires a contested court hearing his regular trial experience in the other area of his practice enables him to be an effective and tenacious advocate.

WORK UNDERTAKEN

- Interim maintenance, financial provision and property adjustment orders including pension sharing and attachment orders (eg. the range of financial orders made when couples divorce);
- Variation applications (eg. where there is already a Court order for maintenance in place and one party wants to alter it so they receive more or pay less)
- Restraining future disposals and avoidance of disposition orders (eg. where one party is trying to spend or hide assets to keep them out of reach of the other before Court proceedings commence)
- Applications for 'Legal Services Payment Orders' (where a spouse who has limited means can ask a Court to order the other spouse to provide funds to enable them to advise or act for them in ongoing financial remedy proceedings)
- Applications under Schedule 1 of the Children Act 1989
- Trusts of Land and Appointment of Trustees Act 1996 ("TOLATA") claims.

COSTS

Piers is conscious that clients are often concerned, having heard and read anecdotal stories, about the risk of substantial legal bills being run up in the course of divorce proceedings, often leaving very little in 'the pot' to be divided.

The advantage of Direct Access barristers is they can offer a bespoke fixed price for each part of the work you ask them to do. A client decides what they need from the barrister and they only charge for the work which has been agreed in advance. This ensures that the client remains in full control of the overall legal costs and can often do much of the preparation and administrative work themselves. Unlike solicitors Direct Access barristers never have the 'meter running' unless a client specifically asks them to work on that basis.

EDUCATION & QUALIFICATIONS

Inns of Court School of Law, London
Inner Temple Scholar
UEA (LLB) (2:1)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Family Law Bar Association
Employment Lawyers Association

RECENT ARTICLES /PUBLICATIONS

["Setting aside a certificate of entitlement to decree nisi: defending the indefensible?"](#) - Lexology - 22.5.14

["Central Family Court accelerated First Appointment pilot scheme"](#) - Lexology - 15.6.14

CONTACT DETAILS

Telephone: 0207 822 7000
Fax: 0871 288 5693
Email: clerks@4kbw.co.uk