

# 1GC | Family Law

## Andrew Venables

Year of Call: 2013



## Practice Overview

Andrew undertakes a mix of private client work, from matrimonial finance to estate administration. Andrew is praised for his attention to detail, his ability to analyse complex issues from multiple angles and his rigorous analysis of the legal issues.

Andrew has experience of appellate advocacy, having appeared on several occasions before the Court of Appeal both with and without a leader. Prior to tenancy, Andrew spent six months as a Judicial Assistant in the Court of Appeal, and he has developed a detailed knowledge of practice and procedure before the Court of Appeal.

In early 2019, Andrew was a Pegasus Scholar stationed in Uganda.

## Family finance & property

Andrew has acted in a wide range of financial remedy proceedings, including Schedule 1 and Part III proceedings. He has experience of cases involving allegations of non-disclosure of assets, misconduct by company directors, misappropriation of funds held on trust, and enforcement. He is skilled at combining a rigorous legal analysis of any contractual, company or insolvency law issues with a pragmatic family law approach. Andrew has acted on behalf of intervenors asserting a beneficial interest in property and on behalf of trustees, and he is frequently instructed to draft statements of case in proceedings with intervenors.

Andrew is regularly instructed in cases proceeding under TOLATA, whether as between cohabitants or between members of the broader family. Andrew is regularly instructed all stages from pre-action advice, settling letters before action, drafting statements of case and witness statements, and advocacy through to trial. Prior to specialising in Family law, Andrew was a tenant at a large civil and family set where he developed significant experience of the tactics and practice of civil litigation.

## Court of Protection

Andrew accepts instructions in both Health & Welfare and Property & Affairs cases. He has a particular interest in cases involving alleged misconduct by Attorneys and Deputies, both in terms of applications to remove them and claims founded in breach of trust designed to recover misapplied assets.

## International family law

A significant number of Andrew's cases have an international element. He has appeared in applications for summary return under the Hague Convention 1980, applications in wardship, and applications for recognition and enforcement under Brussels II revised.

Andrew also has experience of forum disputes upon petition for divorce and applications for recognition of a foreign divorce. He has appeared in applications for financial remedies after a foreign divorce (under Part III of the Matrimonial & Family Proceedings Act 1984).

Prior to joining High Court in November 2015, Andrew was the Judicial Assistant to Lady Justice Black (as she then was). During his time in the Court of Appeal Andrew worked on a number of cases involving questions of international family law and developed a detailed knowledge of the various legal frameworks.

## Children (private law)

Andrew is regularly instructed in a wide range of private law disputes about children. He regularly deals with international issues (see below), cases of alleged parental alienation, allegations domestic violence and fact-finding hearings, drug and alcohol misuse. Andrew is praised for his ability to put nervous parents at ease and for being able handle vulnerable litigants sensitively.

Andrew appeared for one of the parents in one of the very first arbitrations under the IFLA Children Scheme. He is an advocate for greater use of arbitration in family law cases and is always happy to discuss whether he thinks a case is suitable for arbitration.

## Trusts & Estates

In addition to his work acting on behalf of cohabitants in Trusts of Land disputes (see Family Finance and Property), Andrew also accepts instructions in probate cases and in matters concerning the administration of estates. Andrew has advised and appeared on behalf both claimants and defendants in proceedings challenging the validity of wills and in applications under the Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependents) Act 1975.

Andrew also has experience in advising the personal representatives of estates in matters concerning the administration of estates (and advising persons contemplating making claims against an estate). He has a particular interest in the position of executors when attempting to collect in estates in circumstances where the deceased has made a potentially invalid or ineffective disposition of property prior to death.

## Notable Cases

*SA v FA* [2017] EWHC 1731: Appeared on behalf of a mother applying to set aside a consent order in child abduction proceedings on the grounds of duress.

*B v A & C* (2017, unreported): Successfully acted for co-defendants in a proprietary estoppel claim brought by a member of the defendants' extended family.

*Re Y* [2016] EWCA Civ 971: Permission to appeal and successful appeal hearing in care

proceedings concerning a mother with learning disabilities.

*Re G* [2016] EWCA Civ 297: Appeal arising out of Hague Convention 1980 proceedings. Cited in Family Court Practice as authority that a party cannot invite the Court of Appeal to introduce undertakings after an appeal has been withdrawn.

*Re X* [2016] EWFC B31: Acted for the mother in a local authority's application in the inherent jurisdiction for authorisation of a deprivation of liberty of a child in care. The key issue was the duration of the declaratory and how reviews ought to be conducted.

## Education

BMus Music, Newcastle University (First)  
GDL, Northumbria University (Distinction)  
BPTC, Northumbria University (Distinction)

## Memberships & Associations

Family Law Bar Association  
Middle Temple

Personal

Andrew is a keen sailor, wakeboarder and kitesurfer. He also enjoys playing tennis, albeit quite badly.