

1GC | Family Law

Caroline Willbourne

Year of Call: 1970



Practice Overview

Caroline has specialised in financial remedy work, which includes Schedule 1 Children Act claims, Inheritance Act disputes and cases for financial provision for unmarried parties.

Caroline's work now mainly consists of mediation/ENE. A significant part of her work is Private FDRs which require the swift absorption of facts and the ability to indicate concisely to the parties what the likely outcome will be. About 90% of her PFDRs are resolved by agreement on or shortly after the day of the hearing.

ENE / Private FDR

Having qualified as a mediator in 1993, Caroline is a seasoned and experienced practitioner both in the UK and abroad: mediating their disputes allows each party to focus on what is important to them and to craft their own agreement, which Caroline can facilitate.

An important part of mediation is Early Neutral Evaluation (ENE), where Caroline draws on her judicial experience to advise parties of the likely outcome of their case. She prides herself on her ability to encourage parties to see the benefits of reaching agreement through mediation.

Caroline also accepts instructions to conduct private FDRs, in the interest of the parties reaching settlement early in the process. This is a cost-effective process, emotionally less damaging for both parties.

Education

BA (Joint Hons), Classics & Philosophy, University of London (1967)

Qualified as a sole mediator in 1995

Appointments

Deputy District Judge Central Family Court (from 1993 to 2022)

Court of Appeal panel mediator for Family cases (1993)

General Commissioner of Taxes (1998 - 2008)

Bar Tribunal Appointments Body (2012 re-appointed 2017)

Hon Fellow Royal Holloway College, University of London (2021)

Hon Fellow of the Royal Society of Medicine

Fellow Oxford Symposium of School-Based Family Counselling, University of San Francisco

Memberships & Associations

Member [Family Law Bar Association](#) (committee member for 6 years)

Member [International Bar Association](#)

Member [Institute of Fiscal Studies](#)

Seminars and Lectures

Royal Society of Medicine: Caroline offers training to doctors in how to give expert evidence in court.

She was invited to give the annual lecture in the Inner Temple series, 2007, entitled: 'Marriage: but not as we know it – the Law Commission's proposals on financial consequences of cohabitation breakdown'.

Personal

Opera, theatre, ballet, good food and wine.