

1GC | Family Law

Christopher Sharp QC

Year of Call: 1975 Year of Silk: 1999



Practice Overview

Christopher is acknowledged by Chambers and Partners as one of only 4 star Silks in Family Law in the country and he is in constant demand. He is widely known for his expertise in high-value financial remedy, TOLATA and Schedule 1 cases, including those with a foreign element. He is keen to promote ADR and conduct negotiated settlements but equally happy to run cases to trial if necessary and is renowned for his cross examination skills. His experience in personal injury work also translates to cases involving catastrophic injury to one partner where, in subsequent divorce proceedings, financial complexities surround the damages awarded and the particular needs of the injured party. In children cases he is instructed by both local authorities and parents, as well as the Guardian and Official Solicitor, in cases involving the serious injury or death of a child, in which issues involving complex medical evidence frequently arise and where his expertise in the field of personal injury can also be applied. Issues of privacy, and publicity frequently arise.. He regularly appears in the appellate courts.

A visiting Fellow at the University of the West of England, Christopher regularly lectures to solicitors and barristers on developments in the field of financial remedies and contributes articles to the legal press

Recent case load includes:

- Medium term marriage between mature parties, H having brought a modest business to the marriage which then blossomed. Net assets c. £27m;
- Financial remedies claim having been resolved at trial some years ago, with a joint lives maintenance order, H's business took off for a period. Issues around variation or termination of maintenance;
- Long marriage during which H's career prospered; complicated remuneration package including bonus and share options. Issues of basis of provision for W.
- "Old money" family with very valuable heirlooms: basis for division of assets. (negotiated settlement)
- Business started during relationship floated and providing very comfortable life style. Assets c. £50m. (negotiated settlement).
- Substantial inherited wealth, H suffered catastrophic injury (tetraplegic), long marriage, basis for settlement (negotiated settlement)

Notable Cases

Re JS (A Child) sub nom A County Council v (1) RH (2) KS (3) JS (by his children's guardian) [May 2012]
Re A (suspended residence order) [Jun 2010]
Bath & North East Somerset Council v A Mother & Ors [Jun 2009]
H (A Child) [Jun 2009]
Re D (Children) [Jun 2009]
Bath & North East Somerset Council v A Mother & Ors [Jun 2008]
RP v RP [Jun 2007]
Van Laethem v Brooker [Jun 2006]
Ram v Ram [Jun 2005]
B v B [Jun 2005]
C (A child) v Woolcombe Yonge (A Firm) [Jun 2001]
BRI Children Heart Inquiry [Jun 2000]
Re G [Jun 1998]
N v N [Jun 1997]
S v S [Jun 1995]
B v B [Jun 1995]
Smith v Smith [Jun 1992]
Roberts v Roberts [Jun 1986]
Stockford v Stockford [Jun 1982]

Education

MA (Oxon), Visiting Fellow, University of the West of England, Bristol

Appointments

Recorder and Deputy High Court Judge (Family Division)

Memberships & Associations

Member of the [Family Law Bar Association \(FLBA\)](#)

Founder Chairman of the Bristol FLBA

Member of the [Professional Negligence Bar Association](#)

Member of the [Personal Injury Bar Association](#)

Published Articles

Implementing arbitration awards in financial remedy applications - (Jan 2014)

Financial Remedies: *Nicholas v Nicholas* no longer good law - (Oct 2012)

The jurisdiction to rehear cases involving children - (Dec 2011)

Pre- and post-nuptial agreements - (Apr 2009)

Pre-nuptial agreements: a rethink required - (Aug 2008)

Advocates immunity in common law jurisdictions - (Nov 2006)

Claims against professionals and public bodies in public and private law proceedings under Children Act 1989 - (Jul 2005)

Bigamy and Financial Relief - (Jun 2005)

The Manchester Conjoined Twins Case - (Oct 2000)

Putting Children First - (Dec 1998)