

# 1GC | Family Law

## Simon Sugar

Year of Call: 1990



## Practice Overview

Simon practices exclusively in family law; predominantly in the law of financial remedies following the breakdown of marriage but also in cohabitation disputes, schedule 1 claims and inheritance actions. Simon is one of very few counsel who are members of both the Family Law Bar Association and the Chancery Bar. Consequently, in addition to more straightforward claims, he is at home dealing with complex financial remedy claims involving companies, business assets, farms and trusts. Simon writes and lectures extensively on family law issues and amongst other works is the co-author of ***Unlocking Matrimonial Assets on Divorce***. Simon also accepts public access work.

## Family finance & property

### Recent cases of interest include:

*Mansfield v Mansfield* [2017] Very recent Court of Appeal case involving large fruit farm.

*Landsberg (practising as Barnet Family Law) v Minkin* [2015] EWCA Civ 152. Professional negligence claim in respect of drafting consent order.

Advising Bermudan lawyers on a huge money ancillary relief case involving complex offshore trusts;

Advising and representing a wife in a 5 day final hearing in which the husband was found to have sent large sums of money out of the jurisdiction and which resulted in a costs order of £100,000 in favour of the wife;

Advising and representing an unmarried father of unplanned child in a heavily contested case for financial provision under schedule 1;

Advising and representing son of deceased iconic UK celebrity in a case where wife was seeking to attack the family trusts as a resource of her husband;

Advising on terms of settlement reached in a case involving one of the wealthiest families in the UK;

Advising and representing a former minister of state of an African country in ancillary relief proceedings;

Acting for the Official Solicitor for a patient with Huntington's Disease;

Advising and representing a senior police officer in a case dominated by his £1.7 million pension;

Acting as an expert witness on English law in proceedings in British Columbia;

Advising and representing CEOs of FTSE listed companies in financial remedy proceedings where significant issues arose in respect of complex share option schemes.

Prior to specialising exclusively in family law, Simon had a mixed practice which included advising in the Dorothea Allen intestacy (one of the largest ever intestate estates), representing well known boxing promoters on a number of cases (both in the High Court and in front of the British Boxing Board of Control), *Apple Corps Ltd v Cooper* [1993] FSR 286 (a copyright claim in respect of the Sgt Pepper album cover), *Wittman v Willdov* [2007] BLR 509 CA (a leading case on guarantees), *India Herbs v Hadley & Ottaway* (cited in *Clerk & Lindsell on Torts at 14-46*) and *In re Chittock* (5th April 2000) TLR (lead case on time for rectification of wills)

## International family law

Simon has a particular interest in the international elements of family law insofar as they relate to marriage, divorce and financial claims. In 2018 he will start writing on the subject for Resolution with articles appearing in *The Review*.

## Mediation

Simon is a qualified family mediator and undertakes mediation in family finance, Inheritance Act and TOLATA claims.

## Professional Negligence

Simon appeared in the recent leading professional negligence/family law case of *Landsberg v Minkin* [2015] EWCA Civ 152 and acts both for claimants and also for insurers acting for family law solicitors against whom claims of professional negligence have been made.

## Education

Warwick University LLB (Hons)

## Memberships & Associations

Family Law Bar Association  
Chancery Bar Association  
Public Access Bar Association  
Resolution

Publications

Co-author of ***Unlocking Matrimonial Assets on Divorce (pub. Family Law)***. The book, now in its third edition, deals with the more complex areas of the law of financial remedies and has been described as 'a most worthwhile addition to the ancillary relief practitioners' library of indispensable texts'.

Co-author of ***DIY Divorce and Separation: The Expert Guide to Representing Yourself (pub. Family Law)***.

Co-author of 1GC book on ***Schedule 1 Claims (pub. Family Law)***.

Regular contributor of Finance Case Digests for ***The Review***.

Simon is also a member of the Advisory Board for Family Law for Family Law.

#### Seminars and Lectures

Simon has lectured extensively over the years for Family Law, Simon Gore, regional Resolution groups and in-house for firms of solicitors. He has recently spoken at Gordon Dadds and Vardags.

Keep up to date with the latest legal developments and receive practical tips by following Simon on Twitter @familybarrister.

Simon has also lectured at the University of Warwick as part of their family law module.