

1GC | Family Law

Simon Sugar MCI Arb

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, is an accredited CEDR mediator and a private FDR judge.

Family Finance & Property

Recent cases of interest include:

P v Q (Financial Remedies) [2022] EWFC B9 (10 February 2022)

Mansfield v Mansfield [2017] Court of Appeal case involving a 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 the son of deceased iconic UK celebrity in a case where the 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 Huntingdon'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 Willdave* [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).

Mediation

Simon is a qualified family mediator and an accredited CEDR mediator. He undertakes mediation work in TOLATA claims, cross over TOLATA/schedule 1 claims, Inheritance Act claims and family law professional negligence actions'

Simon is the editor of the Mediation section for Butterworth's *Civil Court Precedents*.

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.

What the directories say

"He's confident and pragmatic in what he does." **Band 4 - Chambers and Partners, 2025**

"A really effective barrister with a great reputation. He's a very good cross-examiner, who's really on top of the chancery side of the law as well as the family matrimonial side." **Band 4 - Chambers and Partners, 2025**

"Simon is diligent, on top of all the facts, and simply brilliant with clients. A focused and pragmatic barrister." **Tier 4 - Legal 500, 2025**

"A really effective barrister with a great reputation. He's a very good cross-examiner, who's really on top of the chancery side of the law as well as the family matrimonial side" Band 4 - Chambers and Partners, 2024

"He is excellent at getting to the heart of the problem and he gives sound advice." Band 4 - Chambers and Partners, 2024

"His no-nonsense approach straightens out opponents who would otherwise seek to waste court time with bad arguments." Band 4 - Chambers and Partners, 2024

"He knows the case inside out, is always extremely well prepared and is great at thinking on his feet." Band 4 - Chambers and Partners, 2024

"Simon is diligent, on top of all the facts, and simply brilliant with clients. A focused and pragmatic barrister" Legal 500, 2024

"Simon has a great bedside manner putting clients at ease. He provides straightforward, practical advice. He is very approachable to his instructing solicitor." Legal 500, 2024

"Simon is very concise, very clear and very good on pleadings. He's a real pleasure to work with as he operates at the right level such that you feel that he's working as part of a team. He's very knowledgeable and you can put your clients in front of him with confidence." Band 4 - Chambers and Partners, 2023

"Simon is very, very good at what he does. Engaged with the client, he's very effective and easy to deal with." Band 4 - Chambers and Partners, 2023

"Simon is an excellent advocate, very knowledgeable and highly empathetic with clients." Legal 500, 2023

Education

LLB (Hons), Warwick University

Accredited CEDR mediator

Appointments

Simon is a member of the Resolution Family Law Cohabitation Committee

Memberships & Associations

Chancery Bar Association

Family Law Bar Association

Public Access Bar Association

Resolution

Publications

Simon is the editor of the **Mediation section** for Butterworth's **Civil Court Precedents**.

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 a former member of the Advisory Board for Family Law for Family Law.

Published articles on pensions [2020] Fam Law 1352 and soft loans [2022] Fam Law 1163

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.

He gave two webinars as part of the 1GC Family Law Webinar Series. The first of these covered "Is Covid-19 a Barder Event" and the second focused on "Probably the Most Important Pensions Case of 2020" (May - June 2020)