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17 November 2020 De Vere Holborn Bars, London

# The 3rd Annual Bloomsbury Professional Family Law Conference

**Keynote Speaker**  
**His Honour Judge Hess**



**We are pleased to announce recently appointed Circuit Judge HHJ Reardon will be the Chairperson for the day.**

The conference will be split into two sessions covering Children Law in the morning and Current Issues in Family Law in the afternoon. Presented by leaders in these fields, topics will cover Modern Families, Child Abduction, Tax Matters in Divorce and Brexit and Related International Family Law to name a few.

Attendees will gain 7 CPD hours and hear the latest thinking from the experts driving development in these areas.

## **AGENDA: MORNING Children Law**

<b>8.30am</b>	Registration and refreshments
<b>9.00am</b>	Chair's Introduction <b>HHJ Reardon</b>
<b>9.10am</b>	Private Children Law: Changes and Developments <b>Alex Laing and Matthew Richardson, Coram Chambers</b> Changes to the structure of private children law: Cobb J's working group, where are we now? • Latest do's, don'ts and tips from case-law.
<b>9.50am</b>	Surrogacy: The Current Law and Proposals for Reform <b>Martin Kingerley, 36 Group</b> An overview of the Law Commission proposals • Current practice • A 'New Pathway' • The future of Parental Orders
<b>10.30am</b>	International Child Abduction <b>Richard Harrison QC, 1 KBW</b> 1980 Hague Convention • The inherent jurisdiction of the court • Recent developments • Impact of Brexit
<b>11.10am</b>	Coffee
<b>11.25am</b>	Adoption in the New Decade <b>Leslie Samuels QC, Pump Court Chambers</b> The current legal framework • What does the research material tell us? • Comparative views, adoption outside of England and Wales • Contact to adopted children in the digital age.
<b>12.05pm</b>	Vulnerable Witnesses <b>Frank Feehan QC, 1 KBW</b> The system currently in place • Recent case law • The President's working group • Looking forward
<b>12.45pm</b>	Chair's Morning Closing Overview <b>HHJ Reardon</b>
<b>12.55pm</b>	Lunch

**“ A fantastic line-up of well-regarded experts accompanied by the all-important comprehensive notes. ”**  
2019 delegate

## SPEAKERS

**HHJ Reardon** was appointed as a circuit judge in August 2019 following a career at the Bar in which she specialised in all areas of family law. She sits in London, predominantly at East London Family Court.



**Nicholas Allen QC** specialises in matrimonial finance. He was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2018, and has sat as a Recorder of the Family Court in London and the South East since 2016. He was appointed Queen's Counsel in 2018.



**Alex Laing** specialises in children and finance law. He is the most junior member of the Family Bar to be ranked in Chambers and Partners 2020, where he is described as having '...a conspicuously excellent legal brain far beyond his years of call.'



**David Hodson OBE MICarb** is a family law dispute resolution specialist specialising in international cases. He is a member of the English Law Society Family Law Committee, working on Brexit and Family Law.



**Sofia Thomas CTA** is a chartered tax advisor of her own tax practice which focuses on partnering with family solicitors to provide tax advice to their clients on family breakdown. She is a leading expert on tax on divorce in England and Wales.



**Martin Kingerley QC** was elevated to the rank of Queen's Counsel on 16th March 2020. He specialises in all aspects of the law relating to children. His expertise extends to proceedings which concern assisted conception, surrogacy and other aspects of the HFEA 2008. Martin also acts in cases involving vulnerable adults.



**Richard Harrison QC** was called to the Bar in 1993 and took Silk in 2012. He practises from 1KBW and specialises in financial remedies and international children cases. He is ranked by Chambers and Partners in Band 1 for both finance and children.



**Laura Moys** has purposely maintained a versatile practice dealing with both complex financial and children cases. She is recognised for both her skill as an advocate and her ability to assist her clients to resolve difficult and emotionally-charged disputes by agreement.



**Leslie Samuels QC** is an exceptional advocate and is held in high esteem for his expertise in children work both in public and private law cases, in financial remedies cases and in inheritance and probate disputes. He has 30 years of experience as a barrister and took Silk in 2011.



**Frank Feehan QC** has expertise in all areas of family law and is unusual in having successfully represented parties in both financial and children matters, domestic and international, in all levels of court including the Court of Appeal and the Supreme Court in the last 5 years.



**Matthew Richardson's** practice spans all areas of family law, with a specialism in private client matters and children law. His areas of expertise include relocation, 'parental alienation', mental health issues, complex high-conflict relationships and hidden assets and non-disclosure.



Full biographies are available at [bloomsburyprofessionallaw.com/flc](https://bloomsburyprofessionallaw.com/flc)

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

### His Honour Judge Hess



Edward Hess became a Barrister in 1985 and practised at the Bar for 25 years. He became the Designated Family Judge in Wiltshire in 2018 and has been a nominated judge of the Court of Protection since 2017. He was instrumental in the creation of the Financial Remedies Unit in the Central Family Court.

## AGENDA: AFTERNOON Current Issues in Family Law

1.45pm	Chair's Introduction to Afternoon HHJ Reardon
1.55pm	Introduction from Platinum Sponsor: OurFamilyWizard
2.05pm	Keynote Speaker His Honour Judge Hess
2.25pm	Spousal Maintenance – Five Years on from SS v NS: Where are we now? Nicholas Allen QC, 29 Bedford Row Term orders or joint lives orders – is the pendulum swinging once again? • Extension of term orders – is “exceptionality” still required? • The renewed importance of budgets • Investment return and amortisation after Waggott and O’Dwyer • Variation applications – de novo or light touch review?
3.05pm	Tax on Divorce Sofia Thomas, Sofia Thomas Ltd Changes to CGT from 6 April 2020 • Changes to taxation and reporting of income • Tax planning for couples...HMRCs changing view • Making tax digital...increasing transparency of income
3.45pm	Tea
4.00pm	Brexit and Related International Family Law Update David Hodson OBE, The International Family Law Group What happened 31 January 2020? • What is the position in 2020, transition period? • What will happen after 31 December 2020? • What will be global family law opportunities of the UK? • Envisaging international innovations and influencing ideas • Forum criteria, jurisdiction, marital agreements, ADR and more
4.40pm	Reforming the Family Court – What Does the Future Hold? Laura Moys, 1 KBW The Digital Reform Project • Developments in Case Management • Financial Remedies Courts • Openness and transparency
5.20pm	Chair's Afternoon Closing Overview HHJ Reardon
5.30pm	Close



First time attending. Found conference interesting and informative. Speakers were brilliant.



2019 delegate



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