Peter Wilkinson



Year of Call: 2003
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Overview

Peter Wilkinson is a seasoned family barrister and arbitrator with over twenty years experience in family law disputes. He regularly appears in contested cases in the High Court, specialising in matrimonial finance cases and is experienced in acting in any disputed financial settlements and advising on Xydhias agreements. He particularly focuses on helping high-net worth individuals and those with company, partnership, pension and trust assets.

Called to the Bar in 2003, Peter spent a number of years before in business management and engineering. A first-class law degree student, Peter was awarded a scholarship by Inner Temple.

Peter is particularly well placed for instruction in complex financial cases which require detailed scrutiny of financial and corporate assets. Having previously managed his own business - with five profit centres, thirty staff with over £10m annual turnover and preparing his own accounts - Peter is an expert at reading into company accounts and extracting relevant information. .

Well respected in financial and children disputes, Peter is experienced in work with an international dimension, with cases ranging from international child abduction to overseas marriages, and international assets as well as Trust of Land claims between co-habitants and within contested matrimonial proceedings, where extended family assets are in dispute. Peter is also much in demand for advice and drafting of pre and post nuptial agreements, Schedule 1 Children Act claims.

Peter is ranked by Legal 500 for divorce and financial remedy and described by them as "a strong advocate. He cuts to the chase and uses his wealth of experience to focus on the most relevant issues in a case."

Peter is a committed advocate who engages in advisory and practical work. Available on a direct-access basis, he is popular with solicitors and clients alike for his pragmatism, approachability, excellent communication skill, and his unwavering commitment to his clients.

Despite a busy caseload, and his position as advocate of choice for a number of prominent solicitors, Peter will always endeavour to see a case through from beginning to end and provides invaluable support to clients and solicitors.

Peter sits as a part-time Judge on private children matters and also in the Financial Remedy Court, based in the Central Family Court. He has been named on Lady Chief Justice Carr's Pro Bono Recognition list in 2026.

Outside work, Peter is a keen cyclist and cook who enjoys travelling and music.

Family

Peter Wilkinson is a busy and experienced matrimonial finance and co-habitation dispute barrister and arbitrator.

His practice covers many areas of dispute in the Family and High Courts as well as advisory work, namely:

- Family Finance
- Private Children Law
- Matrimonial Finance
- Financial Remedy Arbitrations
- Pre and Post Nuptial Agreements
- International Child Abduction and the Hague Convention
- Leave to remove children from the jurisdiction (permanent or temporary)
- Trusts of Land, particularly claims arising from the breakdown of personal relationships
- Xydhias Agreements
- Mareva Injunctions
- Intervenor Cases
- Schedule 1 Children Act 1989
- Defended Divorces
- Validity of Marriage
- International marriage and divorce
- Third-Party Contact
- Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependents) Act 1975
- Quantification of and division of matrimonial and non-matrimonial assets
- International Assets

Reported/Notable cases

M v M [2020] EWFC 41: Financial remedy proceedings involving conflict between W's family and H, played out in the Family Court in a proxy battle. Significant element of family support from W's family, H relying on proposition that W's needs should be measured by reference to available family support. Analysis of the application of Thomas v Thomas and the associated principles.

H v DP [Feb 2017] High Court: Unreported case with a cross application for living with order and re-location order to USA in respect of 7 year old child. M unlawfully removed child to USA. Father not biologically related to child and parties having never been married. Consideration of relevance of biological relationship in welfare analysis. Use of US statute UCCJEA to secure return of child from USA. Order made for child to live with F in UK and for M to have supervised time with the child for the foreseeable future.

Naveed v Raja [May 2007/LAG June 2007]: Unlawful eviction after reinstatement by Court. Aggravated and Exemplary damages. Measure of damages.

R v Osbourne [2004] EWCA Crim 2427: Vulnerable defendant with suicidal tendencies sentenced to term of imprisonment for first offence on a guilty plea to a Public Order Act offence. Appeal to Court of Appeal. Sentence wrong in principle.

SSHD v Szabo [January 2005] IAT: Immigration appeal. Change of circumstances. Client becoming dependent on UK sponsor after entry into country. Leave to enter or remain. Exceptional compassionate circumstances. Interpretation of Rule 317.

Recommendations

Company, pension, and trust assets are notable areas of expertise for Peter Wilkinson, who is also skilled in cases featuring international elements.
Legal 500 2027/Divorce and Financial Remedy/Leading juniors/London
Legal 500 2027/Divorce and Financial Remedy/Leading juniors/South Eastern

'Peter is a very sharp and focused advocate, and he is supremely diligent in his preparation and has the ability to cut across various issues while remaining on point. Peter is forceful on his feet, very persuasive and gives clear and thoughtful advice which instils utter confidence in the client.'
Legal 500 2026/Divorce and Financial Remedy/Leading juniors/London

'Peter is a strong advocate. He cuts to the chase and uses his wealth of experience to focus on the most relevant issues in a case.'
Legal 500 2025/Divorce and Financial Remedy/Leading juniors/London

Academic qualifications

- LLB, First class, University of Kent at Canterbury
- Bar Practice Course, Very Competent, Nottingham Law School

Scholarships

- Horace Avory Scholarship, Inner Temple
- Judge Rook Advocacy Prize
- Sweet and Maxwell Prize
- ICLR Mooting Prize
- Kent Law School Mooting Prize
- Blackstone Prize, for outstanding contribution to the work of the Kent Law Clinic
- Hallett Prize and Cavendish Prizes, top marks in both second and first year law

Professional qualifications & appointments

- Accredited Arbitrator (Financial Remedy Scheme)
- Bar Council Public Access Scheme

Professional bodies

- Family Law Bar Association
- Chartered Institute of Arbitrators
- Institute of Family Law Arbitrators
- Inner Temple
- Member of the Pro Bono Recognition List
- Kent Law Clinic

- Hon. Member of the Kent Law Temple Society
- Hon. Member of the Kent Student Law Society

Direct Access

Peter Wilkinson is qualified to accept instructions directly from members of the public and professional clients under the Direct Public Access scheme.