



Family Section Engagement Programme 2016 – 2017



Our vision

To bring family practitioners together to share best practice and address current issues and challenges in a supportive environment.

The Family Section helps you stay one step ahead.

The Family Section is developed and designed by leading family and children law experts to assist members to meet evolving client needs competitively, respond and adapt to legislative and regulatory changes, improve profitability and market your services effectively.

Membership is open to all family and children law solicitors, as well as professional working within SRA-regulated practices.

The Family Section delivers a programme of targeted support, analysis and guidance designed for you by Law Society experts and dedicated practitioners.

The programme will:

- address hot topics and developments through a series of events and member support activities
- support, promote and represent family lawyers by providing opportunities to share and develop best practice, to exchange ideas and experiences, to learn from peers, and by providing networking opportunities
- help the Law Society to understand and represent family practitioners better.



Events

Over the next year the Law Society will host a range of events on issues that matter to family practitioners. Events will be held across England and Wales.

Details of these events will be published on our [events page](#).

Pensions on Divorce: Another witches' brew

When: Wednesday 15 February 2017, 15:30 - 18:00 (registration at 15:00)
Venue: The Law Society, 5th Floor, Capital Tower, Greyfriars Road, Cardiff
Cost: Free for section members,
From £35 + VAT for non-members

Come and join pensions experts Rhys Taylor of 30 Park Place and financial planning specialist, Paul Cobley at our Family Section event in Cardiff on 22 February.

This seminar will provide practical guidance on what to look out for in light of the changes to state pensions, discuss how the court should approach pensions in light of pension freedoms and focus on financial remedies on divorce namely the practice of offsetting pensions against non-pension assets.

You will have an opportunity to ask our expert panel your questions during a 30 minute Q&A session, followed by networking drinks.

This seminar will focus on:

- How should the court approach pensions in light of pension freedoms?
- Changes to state pensions – a practical guide on what to look out for
- Offsetting – Apples or Pears?

What delegates can expect:

- 2 hour training on pensions and divorce at intermediate to advanced level
- Full analysis of pensions on divorce
- Comprehensive pack of materials to assist back at the office
- Answers to those tricky questions you were afraid to ask

Who should attend:

- Solicitors, legal executives, barristers
- IFAs and Chartered Financial planners
- Family mediators

Speakers:

- **Rhys Taylor** is a barrister and arbitrator (call 1996) based at 30 Park Place, Cardiff and 36 Family, London. Rhys' practice relates exclusively to family finance and TOLATA disputes and he has been noted in the legal directories as a leading practitioner for some years. Rhys lectures the Judicial College on pensions.
- **Paul Cobley** runs his own specialist financial planning practice in Surrey focusing on Pensions and Divorce and has advised in hundreds of divorce cases over the last 14 years. An IFA and Certified Financial Planner™ Practitioner, Paul is also a Resolution accredited specialist and mediator, as well as an adviser for The Pensions Advisory Service on divorce related cases.

For more information on how to book your place, [click here](#).

Joint Family Section and Small Firms Division Setting up shop: how to set up a small law firm

When: Thursday 9 March 2017

Venue: Birmingham

Cost: Free to section and non-section members

Are you toying with the idea of starting your own small law firm? Maybe it's a long-held dream, or possibly you've reached a turning point in your job or life. Whatever the reason or circumstance, this joint Family Section and Small Firms Division event will give you all the encouragement you need to take the first step.

Featuring presentations from small firm entrepreneurs (both experienced and new start-up), the SRA and others, this is your opportunity to hear first-hand testimony and practical advice from experts and practitioners.

Who should attend:

- Solicitors interested in learning how to set up their own small law firm
- Solicitors working in new or small start-up law firms

Speakers will include:

- Robin Charrot, Family Section Advisory Group member and director, Evolve Law
- Tony Roe, member of Law Society Family Section Advisory Group, principal solicitor and Family Law arbitrator, Tony Roe Solicitors, Divorce & Family Lawyers

This seminar will be followed by a Q&A and networking session.

For more information on how to book your place, keep an eye on the Family Section [events page](#).

Joint Family Section and Small Firms Division Complaints Management for smaller firms – how not to make things worse

When: Thursday, 27 April 2017, 17:00 – 18:30

Venue: JMW Solicitors, 1 Byrom Place, Manchester, M3 3HG

Cost: Free to section members

Clients expect more and more from the services you provide. It's in your interest to give high priority to effective complaint management. Learn the top tips for handling complaints and better still how to eliminate them before they start.

Organised by the Small Firms Division and Family Section, this workshop is facilitated by Elisabeth Bellamy, a leading management consultant who delivers the rare combination of the insight of an experienced legal fee-earner with many years of law firm management, and feature contributions from the Legal Ombudsman and a local family law practitioner.

Who should attend ;

- Solicitors working in smaller law firms and sole practices
- Members of the Family Section
- Family law practitioners

This seminar will be followed by a Q&A and networking session.

For more information on how to book your place, keep an eye on the Family Section [events page](#).



Mastering the art of family advocacy

When: May 2017, 17:30 – 20:00
Venues: The Law Society, 113 Chancery Lane, London, WC2A 1PL
Cost: Free for section members
£35 + VAT for non-members

In light of recent criticism of advocacy standards from the family bar, the Family Section has joined up with the Advocacy Section to bring you a seminar focused on providing practical tips on how to master the art of family advocacy and learn how best to put your advocacy skills into practice.

This session will also focus on the skills you need develop your confidence as a family advocate.

The seminar will be followed by a Q&A and networking session.

For more information on how to book your place, keep an eye on the Family Section [events page](#).

Family law and the five pillars of stress

When: Thursday 8 June 2017, 17:30 – 20:00
Venue: The Law Society, The Law Society, 113 Chancery Lane, London, WC2A 1PL
Cost: Free to section members
From £35 + VAT to non-members

Life is not getting any less stressful and never has this been truer than in Family Law. Julian Hall, founder of Calm People, has written about this subject for the Law Society's Family Section website and will now bring it to life in this engaging seminar. Julian will talk about how stress affects us all, why we have it in our lives, where it may benefit us and offer us insights into how we attract it and manifest its presence in our own life and work. While this is a Family Section seminar no matter what area of law you work in, this subject and the five pillars will resonate with you. Why? Because this is about being human.

This session will be led by Julian Hall, founder director of stress, conflict and anger management specialists Calm People.

This seminar will be followed by a Q&A and a networking session.

For more information on how to book your place, [click here](#).

Dealing with TOLATA cases: the unwritten rules

When: October 2017, 17:00 – 19:30

Venues: The Law Society, 113 Chancery Lane, London, WC2A 1PL
Leeds venue TBC

Cost: Free to section members
From £35 + VAT to non-members

The Family Section will be hosting two regional seminars in spring 2017. The purpose of these seminars will be to address the complex issue of Trusts of Land and Appointment of Trustees Act 1996 (TOLATA) litigation, the reoccurring misconceptions in such cases and provide practical guidance on how to overcome these obstacles.

This seminar will be followed by a Q&A and networking session.

For more information on how to book your place, keep an eye on the Family Section [events page](#).



Webinars

Over the next year the Law Society will host a range of webinars on issues that matter to family practitioners.

Details of these webinars will be available on our [webinars page](#).

Conducting care proceedings

When: Available as a recording
Cost: Free for section members
£45 for non-members

This webinar, inclusive in Family Section membership for 2016, provides a practical overview and advocacy tips, including on threshold, evidence, fact-finding and expert witnesses. Listen now!

Listen to Joy Merriam, McCormacks Law Ltd and June Venters QC, Venters Solicitors, as they provide a practical overview of and advocacy tips for conducting care proceedings in the Family Court.

[To listen back to this webinar, click here.](#)

Setting aside financial orders

When: Thursday, 23 March 2017, time TBC
Cost: Free for section members
£45 for non-members

The aim of this webinar is to provide an overview of setting aside financial orders. This webinar will be presented by Ros Bever, Partner at Irwin Mitchell.

For more details and information on how to book on to this webinar, keep an eye on the Family Section webinar page.

Children arbitration overview

When: May 2017, time TBC
Cost: Free for section members
£45 for non-members

The aim of this webinar is to provide an overview of children arbitration and will be led by Penny Scott, Managing Partner at Cartridges Law.

For more details and information on how to book on to this webinar, keep an eye on the Family Section webinar page.

A guide to trusts from a family law perspective

When: November 2017, time TBC
Cost: Free for section members
£45 for non-members

The aim of this webinar is to provide a practical guide to trusts from a family law perspective. For more details and information on how to book on to this webinar, keep an eye on the Family Section webinar page.

Member Offer

E-newsletter

The Family section has a dedicated e-newsletter for family practitioners. Our e-newsletter includes updates on our Family Section advisory group, news, features, events and activities relevant to our family members. Issues will be emailed directly to members and available on the Family Section [website](#).

Exclusive free access to Family Law Hub content

The Family Section offers free exclusive access to topical webinars and monthly case notes from Family Law Hub. Keep an eye on the [Hub area](#) of the Family Section website for the latest instalments.

Spotlights, Features and News

Visit our website for best practice and guidance written by experts in their field. You will receive spotlight features direct to your inbox on new developments and issues.

LinkedIn

The [Family Section LinkedIn](#) group is a forum for members to share news, features, events and other relevant activities. We encourage you to increase your legal network and join the group.

Website

The [Family Section website](#) is a one-stop portal of information for family solicitors. The website provides practical guidance, news and updates, details of upcoming events and webinars and more.

We want it to remain relevant and useful so if there is something missing or if you have any feedback, get in touch at familysection@lawsociety.org.uk



Advisory group

Thank you to our advisory group members

This programme of engagement was created in close consultation with the Family Section advisory group to ensure it is relevant and timely.

The Family Section advisory group meets up to four times a year to discuss the key issues facing the family legal community. The advisory group advises how the Law Society can best support its members who work as family and children practitioners.

The Law Society thanks all of the members on the group for their time, commitment and contribution.

| Advisory group Member | Organisation | Role |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|
| Robyn Allardice- Bourne | Setfords Solicitors | Senior Consultant Solicitor & Accredited Family Mediator |
| Robin Charrot | Evolve Family Law | Managing Director |
| Claire Darley | Higgs & Sons | Partner |
| Karen Dovaston | Jefferies Law | Solicitor, Deputy head of family law department |
| Joanne Radcliff | Brabners LLP | Associate |
| Tony Roe | Tony Roe Solicitors | Principal and family law arbitrator |
| Mena Ruparel | Law CPD Solutions LTD | Solicitor, trainer and arbitrator |
| Ian Winrow | Hughes Parry Solicitors | Solicitor |

Representation and policy

The Law Society's works closely with policy committees to develop, inform and influence policy, legal reform and legislation in England and Wales and, where relevant, Europe. Through this we aim to protect and promote access to justice, the rule of law and to create a favourable environment for our members. Regulation, administration of justice and ensuring fair competition within the legal environment are key areas of focus.

Relevant committees for family solicitors include:

- Family Law Committee
- Children's Law Sub Committee

If you are interested in getting involved, contact us at governanceteam@lawsociety.org.uk

You can find out more information at www.lawsociety.org.uk/governance



About the Law Society

The Law Society exists to represent, promote and support all solicitors, so they in turn can help their clients.

We also work to ensure that no-one is above the law and to protect everyone's right to have access to justice. We promote England and Wales as the jurisdiction of choice and the vital role legal services play in our economy. We work internationally to open up markets to our members and to defend human rights while supporting our members with opportunities in the domestic market.

The Law Society helps members by:

- representing solicitors by speaking out for justice and on legal issues
- promoting solicitors through publicising the value of using a solicitor at home and abroad
- supporting solicitors by helping them develop their expertise and their business, respective of whether they work for themselves, in-house or for a law firm

The Law Society represents the profession by:



- campaigning on the rule of law, human rights, access to justice and regulation. This includes lobbying in Brussels, Westminster and Cardiff and in the media.
- working with international legal bodies to position the Law Society as a thought-leader on global issues
- intervening in cases where solicitors and the law are under threat in the UK and abroad
- helping our members to represent key issues impacting the profession to their MP, AM or MEP
- using the law to challenge changes which will impact negatively on the profession and society
- championing and facilitating pro bono work

The Law Society promotes the profession by:



- internationally working to open and grow markets for English and Welsh law such as inward visits of foreign lawyers and trade missions
- providing and increasing awareness of Find a Solicitor – our website enabling consumers and businesses to find a solicitor who can meet their needs
- hosting our annual Excellence Awards which highlight and celebrate outstanding contributions across the profession
- recognising the contribution solicitors make to civil society and communities
- publicising the value of legal of the legal services to the UK economy

The Law Society supports the profession by:



- identifying issues and market trends affecting solicitors to help the prepare for the future
- developing a comprehensive and cohesive education and training offer
- providing practice notes and guidance on issues important to members
- giving advice through our library and helplines
- running accreditation schemes to support and demonstrate effective practice
- creating communities of members based on who you are and what you do
- supporting those who find it difficult to enter the profession through our Diversity Access Scheme
- offering consultancy services for members who want more detailed help
- assisting members who wish to practice abroad



The Law Society

How the Law Society works

Solicitors pay their annual practising certificate fee to the Solicitors Regulation Authority. The Law Society receives around 30 per cent of this fee to support, represent and promote the profession. Other funding comes from commercial activities.

The Law Society Council governs the Law Society's work. Council members are elected to represent members from England and Wales, different demographic groups and parts of the profession. The Law Society harness the knowledge of the Council members and around 300 volunteers to deliver the advice, support and service members want. The Council has 100 seats, 61 for geographical constituencies and 39 for special interest groups and areas of practice.

For more information please visit www.lawsociety.org.uk

 **FamilySection**

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