

## Julia Shillingford

Call: 2002



Julia studied law at Oxford University. She is a specialist in all areas of private family law.

Julia accepts instructions in all areas of private family law work, including matrimonial and civil partnership finance, cohabitee disputes, applications under Schedule 1 to the Children Act, and all aspects of child arrangements, including specific issues such as education.

In each case, Julia is focused on giving practical and realistic advice to parties and striving to achieve settlement where possible. Where matters cannot be resolved by negotiation and consent, Julia is a fearless and tenacious advocate.

Julia is a native French speaker and has basic knowledge of both Russian and Italian. In her spare time, Julia enjoys travelling, running, walking, climbing, skiing, and wild swimming in the great outdoors.

## Family Finance

In finance cases, Julia has extensive experience in acting for parties at each stage of proceedings from first appointment, through dispute resolution – including both private and court FDR, and up to final hearing or arbitration. She also represents parties in applications for maintenance and enforcement.

Julia regularly acts in high net worth and complex cases involving business assets, shareholdings and investments, multiple real properties, development property, overseas assets and family trusts, and in cases where income is comprised of bonuses or dividends, and where assets are asserted to be non-matrimonial, whether premarital, inherited or otherwise, and intervener cases.

Julia also acts in difficult 'needs' cases or where financial and/or litigation misconduct is alleged.

### London

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### Oxford

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Julia acted at all tiers up to the Supreme Court in a case concerning variation of an undertaking in a matrimonial finance case, see [Birch v Birch \[2017\] UKSC 53](#).

## Notable Family Finance cases

- **Birch v Birch [2017] UKSC 53**

Julia acted at all tiers up to the Supreme Court in this case concerning variation of an undertaking in a matrimonial finance case, where the wife sought to extend time for the sale of the matrimonial home.

## Private Law Children

Julia has extensive experience in all areas of private children law, including disputes about:

- with whom a child lives;
- the time they spend with each parent;
- allegations of harm or domestic abuse;
- parental alienation;
- specific issues and prohibited steps; and
- Internal and external relocation cases.

Julia has a particular interest in cases concerning specific issues such as the religious education of children, see [Re C \(Child: Involvement in Jehovah's Witness Religion\) \[2017\] EWFC B29](#), in which Julia acted for the mother throughout.

Julia is exceptionally experienced in handling fact finding cases – with multiple allegations, and cross allegations, of domestic abuse or of significant harm to a child. She has a wealth of experience in dealing with cases involving alleged abuse, coercive and controlling behaviour, and parental alienation. Julia also represents parties in Family Law Act proceedings.

Julia's extensive experience of dealing with vulnerable clients has been invaluable in allowing her to support them through the court process, and the rigours of giving evidence. Such parties require a high level of client care and Julia is highly focussed on enabling them to give their best evidence.

## Notable Private Law Children cases

- **F v M [2025] EWFC 115 (B)**

Child arrangements proceedings, where the mother had relocated to another part of the UK. Ordered that child live with father during term time, with contact to mother, and holidays be shared.

- **Re B (A Child) [2015] EWCA Civ 974**

Julia appeared at first instance in this case concerning allegations of physical abuse to a four-year-old child, and subsequently prepared the skeleton argument and grounds for permission to appeal, which was duly granted.

- **Re C (Child: Involvement in Jehovah's Witness Religion) [2017] EWFC B29**

In this case concerning a child's religious education, Julia acted for the mother throughout proceedings to their conclusion in 2020 – achieving an excellent result for her client.

## Memberships

- Family Law Bar Association

## Education

- BVC, Inns of Court School of Law
- BA Hons Law (Jurisprudence), Oxon

## Prizes

- Jules Thorn Scholar
- Harmsworth Exhibitioner, Middle Temple

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