



## Matthew Brett

Call: 1987

Matthew is a very experienced family lawyer with a background in general common law and property litigation who has been practising from Harcourt Chambers for more than 30 years.

He practises in all financial and property aspects of family work, both in the context of divorce proceedings and disputes between former cohabitants, including representation on Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependants) Act 1975 claims and claims under Schedule 1 to the Children Act 1989.

As someone whose practice has always included some real property litigation, he is particularly interested in cases involving trusts, probate or conveyancing issues. He is instructed in a growing number of disputes between former cohabitants as to their respective property interests.

Matthew also accepts instructions in real property and contentious probate matters. His advice in all practice areas is known for its clarity and robustness.

## Family Finance

Matthew's principal expertise is in complex or difficult financial matters, whether or not of high value. His experience includes cases involving discretionary trusts, offshore structures and the valuation of substantial business interests, as well as farming cases and matters in which conduct is relied on. He has extensive experience of intervener proceedings; he has been involved in two of the leading cases concerning third party assets in financial remedy proceedings, in which he successfully fought to reintroduce greater intellectual rigour to the functioning of the family court. He has a particular interest in cases involving non-matrimonial assets, whether by way of inheritance or acquisition from outside the marriage.

### London

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## Notable Family Finance cases

- **TL v ML & Others (Ancillary Relief: Claim Against Assets of Extended Family) [2005] EWHC 2860**
- **Fisher Meredith v JH & PH (Financial Remedy: Appeal: Wasted Costs) [2012] EWHC 408**
- **Birch v Birch (2019 - Unreported)**  
Obtained compensation for husband following the Wife's successful appeal to the Supreme Court varying her undertaking to sell the family home.

## Civil Law & Other Areas of Expertise

Matthew advises and acts in all aspects of the law affecting real property, including boundary disputes, easements, restrictive covenants, landlord and tenant and trusts of land. He also has some experience of contentious probate matters and claims under the Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependents) Act 1975.

## Alternative Dispute Resolution

Matthew has extensive experience of civil mediation as well as more recent experience of arbitrations in the Family Court. He is available for instruction as the tribunal in private FDRs.

## Direct Access

Matthew is qualified to accept instructions directly from members of the public under the Direct Access Scheme in appropriate circumstances.

## Appointments

- Vice Chair Independent Monitoring Board, HMP Grendon and Springhill

## Publications

- Practice note, Joinder of third parties and intervenors in financial remedy proceedings, Practical Law

## Education

- Diploma in Law, City University
- BA Hons, English, Exeter College, Oxford University

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