



FAMILY AND COP TEAM NEWSLETTER

EDITORIAL



It is time for the publication of the first DCC Family/COP newsletter of 2025. I know readers will have been excitedly awaiting this like Harry Potter fans awaiting the last Harry Potter book, or George RR Martin fans awaiting that next Game of Thrones book which he constantly says is being written but is never actually published. The excitement is over and I am pleased to say that this edition offers some amazing contributions (including, obviously, my now standard children law update).

We have Jack providing his COP update, which is as thorough as ever, whilst Kate has written a topical article on the issue of parental alienation. As if that wasn't enough, Liam has penned an update financial matters, with a great money article by our current pupil Taran. Finally, Emily has produced a brilliant article on the Re J case relating to deprivation of liberty.

I really hope you enjoy reading these as much as I have. We are now moving into the summer months and what will hopefully be a period of warm weather and sun (albeit I appreciate that this rarely ever occurs in Manchester). Our recent children law seminar at Manchester chambers was really well attended, as was our COP seminar- hopefully another attended seminar afternoon will be set up towards the end of summer and it goes without saying that we will look forward to seeing familiar faces in the audience (n.b free food, drink and CPD points are available). Here is to what will hopefully be a positive 2025 for all of our readers.

MICHAEL JONES KC
EDITOR



ARTICLES AND UPDATES



ALIENATING BEHAVIOURS – FAMILY JUSTICE COUNCIL GUIDANCE

Published in December 2024, following consultation in 2023 generating almost 100 responses – one of the largest consultations in the history of the FJC which is perhaps an indicator of how polarising the issue of parental alienation is.

[Read more... HERE](#)



FINANCIAL REMEDIES UPDATE

It's been a quarter of growth for the Financial Remedy Team who have welcomed HH Alan Booth back to chambers as an Associate Member following his retirement from the bench. Alan will be undertaking private FDR's and early neutral evaluations. Adam Singh Hayer has also joined the team, and now Taran Sanghera has commenced her second six and is accepting instructions in all aspects of financial remedy work.

[Read more... HERE](#)



COURT OF PROTECTION UPDATE

As we head into the summer, it is good to take a look back over the last few months and a couple of cases from the Court of Protection and the Family Division which may be of interest to those reading.

[Read more... HERE](#)



ARTICLES AND UPDATES



DEPRIVATION OF LIBERTY ORDERS

This article will not necessarily seem on the face of it to be of direct relevance to those whose practices are strictly related to the Court of Protection and do not deal with matters involving children under the age of 16. The Mental Capacity Act 2005 applies strictly to young persons and adults aged 16 or over, but I wanted to provide an update addressing the case of Re J given that the appeal was heard not long ago on 5th February. So although it falls under the realm of deprivation of liberty in respect of children, Re J and the lead up to the appeal is hopefully captivating enough for all practitioners who regularly deal with deprivation of liberty matters.

Read more... [HERE](#)

CHILDREN LAW UPDATE

Kicking off this the first children law update of 2025, we will get started with the issue of risk assessments, or 'assessing risk' in care proceedings.

Read more... [HERE](#)



RECENT NEWS



WELCOME, WELCOME, WELCOME...BACK?!

We say hello to Adam Singh Hayer who has recently joined us, but who has slotted right into the Deans Court family.

We also raise a glass to our team's pupil, Taran Sanghera, who is officially on her feet and accepting instructions. Having completed her first six under the watchful eye of Helen Wilkinson, we have no doubt Taran will excel.

We also say a huge Welcome (back) to HH Alan Booth, who has joined us as an associate member to join the Financial Dispute Resolution team. Now that he has retired from the bench, he is available to help divorcing couples resolve their financial issues smoothly and privately by conducting private FDRs. We are very glad to have him back.



Finally, we all wish to extend the warmest of welcomes to our youngest member of the Team, Constance Elizabeth Beaumont Lee. Our heartfelt congratulations to her amazing mother, Prudence Beaumont. Selfishly, we can't wait to have her back off maternity leave in June!

RECENT NEWS



PRO BONO AWARDS (PART 2 OF...?)

Another edition of the newsletter, another headline to show Chambers' (and in particular, these members') commitment to pro bono work. The 2025 Bar Pro Bono Award nominees include Michael Jones KC as Pro Bono KC of the Year, and Liam Kelly for the John Collins Pro Bono Excellence Award. Deans Court Chambers is also one of two nominated for the Pro Bono Chambers of the Year Award.

EVIDENCE IN THE HOUSE OF LORDS

Our own esteemed Susan Grocott KC appeared in the House of Lords in her capacity of co-Chair of the Bar Council Legal Services Committee. Susan gave evidence to the Public Services Committee regarding its inquiry into interpreting and translation services in courts. For those interested in this topic, which reaches far and wide amongst a variety of family cases, both private and public, Susan has written an excellent article on the topic which can be found here:

<https://www.counselmagazine.co.uk/articles/disconnect-the-state-of-court-language-services>



JUNIOR COUNSEL TO THE CROWN

We are immensely proud of Liam Kelly, who has been appointed to the Attorney General's Regional C Panel of Junior Counsel to the Crown. His appointment started on 01 March 2025 for a period of 5 years. Yet another feather in young Mr Kelly's already overflowing cap!

RECENT NEWS

DEANS COURT ABROAD!

The international nature of our Chambers has been shown in its most literal sense through the adventures of Hannah Whelan and Toby Craddock. Hannah took a 24 hour journey to the Falklands, some 8000 miles away from home, not only to see penguins (although she did see plenty) but more importantly to represent her client in a directions hearing. Toby took part in the Anglo-Dutch Exchange which saw him spend time going to Amsterdam, Rotterdam and the Hague – we are very proud of both of our ‘jonge advocaten’.



SOCIAL BUTTERFLIES!

All of the above is not to say that we in the family team at Deans Court are all work and no play – we believe in a healthy work/life balance as described (and pictured) below:

- We attended Manchester Resolution’s Black Tie Awards Dinner, which was an event close to our hearts given Liam Kelly received a nomination for Barrister of the Year;
- A number of us attended the Women in Law dinner, again in our glad-rags and our finery; and
- Attendance was high from Deans Court Chambers at both the Trafford Law Society and the Blackburn Law Society dinners.



RECENT NEWS



COMMITTMENT TO THE FUTURE

Deans Court's dedication to training, education, and access cannot be overstated given the number of events that Chambers has hosted and/or contributed to, including (but not limited to!):

- Edward Boydell KC spoke in the White Paper Conference 2024;
- Patrick Gilmore spoke at the Lancashire Family Justice Board conference;
- We hosted the training day on therapeutic skills for barristers;
- We held a Court of Protection seminar where Michael Jones KC, Bansa Singh Hayer, Emily Price, Olivia and Mukherjee and Jack Barber delivered seminars;
- We provided a half-day conference on family law, with Kate Akerman, Annie Sayers and Peter Rothery providing private law updates/seminars, and Olivia Mukherjee, Michael Jones KC and Rebecca Gregg closing with public law talks;
- Anna Bentley, assisted by Taran Sanghera, organised a Sutton Trust event in conjunction with Irwin Mitchell to provide placements for students from underrepresented backgrounds;
- Michael Jones KC, Joanna Moody, Hannah Whelan, Liam Kelly and Katie Lynch attended a 'meet the barristers' event at BBP Law;
- Joanna Moody attended the careers evening at Stretford Grammar School looking for the next rising stars for the Bar; and
- Olivia Mukherjee chaired a panel of three judiciary as part of a Grays Inn event regarding judicial aspirations and the best way to approach applications





DEANS COURT
CHAMBERS



FINANCIAL REMEDIES Seminar

Deans Court Chambers are delighted to invite you to our Mock Private FDR seminar taking place at the People's History Museum, Manchester.

With a stellar line up including Sir Nicholas Francis KC, HH Alan Booth, Edward Boydell KC, Sonny Flood and Liam Kelly as they expertly take us through the sorts of scenarios that are encountered during Private FDR hearings. This promises to be an unmissable event.

The session will be followed by networking drinks.



THE PEOPLE'S HISTORY MUSEUM, M3 3ER



4TH JUNE 2025



14:00 – 17:00 (REGISTRATION FROM 13:30)

RSVP to ajenkinson@deanscourt.co.uk to
secure your place.



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Spring Issue
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Upcoming Events

2025....

4th June – pFDR Seminar, People’s History Museum

18th July – Chambers Summer Party

Request for Feedback!

If you have any feedback on the content or presentation of this newsletter, please do get in touch as we’d love to hear your thoughts!

Please contact

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See more Chambers News....

HERE

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