



FAMILY AND COP TEAM NEWSLETTER

EDITORIAL



This summer's newsletter comes at the great time of year just before everyone goes on summer holiday. That means you can read this beside the pool at some exotic and expensive foreign holiday resort. What better way to spend a few hours on holiday than reading a legal newsletter from the Deans Court Family and COP teams??

In this issue we have the children law update from yours truly, then a number of other topical and (probably infinitely more interesting) articles. We have a Court of Protection case law update from our resident COP specialist Jack, and then a really timely article from Annie entitled 'Smile for the Camera' which deals with the FJC's recent guidance on covert recordings- that is a must read (as are all of the articles herewith). We then have a contribution from our head of team, Peter, which deals with the termination and suspension of parental responsibility, including the recent amendments to the legislative provisions relating to the latter.

Moving on to financial remedies work, a joint effort has been produced by Liam, Taran and Joe, dealing with the sharing principle, post Standish (apparently there is a Supreme Court judgment which is currently big news, but as I don't do any money work, this goes completely over my head). Finally, Olivia has provided her now standard update on recent social events (complete with pictures).

So please take some time, sit back, and enjoy feeding your superior legal intellects with the content of the DC summer newsletter. We hope you enjoy it.

MICHAEL JONES KC
EDITOR



ARTICLES AND UPDATES



SMILE FOR THE CAMERA?

AN OVERVIEW OF THE FJC'S GUIDANCE ON COVERT RECORDINGS

In May 2025 the Family Justice Council issued guidance on the issue of covert recordings in family proceedings concerning children. This article will look at the FJC's guidance on Covert Recordings.

[Read more... HERE](#)



TERMINATING AND RESTRICTING PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

This article looks at the circumstances in which it is appropriate for parental responsibility to be removed or restricted in the interests of children, and some upcoming changes in the law

[Read more... HERE](#)

COURT OF PROTECTION UPDATE

The last two or three months have at times, been unusually quiet in respect of notable decisions from the Court of Protection. Nevertheless, there have been some noteworthy Judgments to provide some evening reading. One in particular is worth reading in full but is summarised here as best as I can. It deals primarily with the issue of capacity in a rather thorny case including a potential atypical situation of fluctuating capacity.

[Read more... HERE](#)



ARTICLES AND UPDATES



STANDISH: CLARIFYING THE LIMITS OF MATRIMONIALISATION AND THE REACH OF THE SHARING PRINCIPLE

The Supreme Court's judgment in *Standish v Standish* [2025] UKSC 26 has delivered a significant and clarifying statement on the treatment of non-matrimonial property in financial remedy proceedings following divorce. At the heart of this high-net-worth dispute lay an £80 million asset transfer from husband to wife, framed by inheritance tax planning and tested against the principles of fairness and asset sharing. The final ruling, which confirmed the Court of Appeal's reduction of the wife's award to £25 million from an initial £47 million, sheds critical light on how the law draws the line between "what is mine" and "what is ours" in marriage breakdowns

[Read more... HERE](#)



CHILDREN LAW UPDATE

As summer holidays rapidly approach, it falls upon me to provide some holiday reading material in the form of my standard case law update (obviously this is exactly what members of the bar and solicitors want to take away as pool side leisure reading).

[Read more... HERE](#)



RECENT NEWS



PRO BONO AWARDS (PART 3 OF...?)

As alluded to in our last edition, members of our excellent team had been recognised by nominations at the 2025 Bar Pro Bono Awards. Our huge congratulations to Liam Kelly for getting a Special Mention for the John Collins Pro Bono Excellence Award, his hard work and dedication remains an inspiration to the rest of us.

CUMBERLAND LODGE

Susan Grocott KC's accolades are vast. They include being the Joint Chair of the Manchester Committee for the FLBA, and the FLBA rep for the Manchester Family Justice Council. Honouring her roles, she headed to the annual Cumberland Lodge weekend held by the FLBA and a great time was had.



WE'RE GOING TO IBIZA!

Alas, we might not have been accompanied by the Venga Boys themselves, but a cohort from Deans Court Chamber's Family Team had a great time in Ibiza for the 5 Jurisdictions Family Law Conference. In sunny Ibiza, an excellent balance was struck between sun-worshipping, learning, and having great fun. Pictured is the view captured by our own Toby Craddock (also pictured hard at work) – I hope I'm not the only one who is jealous...



RECENT NEWS



MANCHESTER LAW AWARDS 2025

The dress code: glamorous. The evening: great fun. The Team glammed up for a night out at the Manchester Law Awards, where we're extremely proud to say that Deans Court Chambers was nominated for Chambers of the Year!



COURT SKILLS TRAINING

Anna Bentley and Toby Craddock put their heads together and their experience to excellent use as they delivered Court Skills Training at the Civil Justice Centre in Manchester. Almost 80 social workers attended the event, which was held on behalf of Manchester FLBA in June.



ALL WORK, BUT SOME PLAY!

Contrary to popular beliefs, we barristers can strike a healthy work-life balance, and we have been using our free time in the last quarter accordingly. Notably, a wonderful time was had at the Con Club for drinks with Myerson's in May, and at Roxy Ballroom for drinks with Slater Heelis in June!

CHAPEL OF LOVE

Our most heartfelt congratulations to Hannah Whelan and her new husband, Harry, who got married in June. It was the loveliest day, and the Team were out in full force to celebrate this most gorgeous of couples. Fear not, although Hannah may have a new name in her day-to-day life, you can continue to instruct our dear Hannah Whelan.





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July 2025



Upcoming Events

2025....

17th July – Chambers' Summer Party

26th September – Cumbria Family Justice Conference, Kendal.

9th October – In-house Private & Public Law Seminar (TBC)

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