

Teresa Cullen Partner

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Overview

Teresa Cullen a partner in the Dispute Resolution department and the head of the Family department at Fladgate.

She specialises in international and cross-border divorces and high-value financial claims including inter-jurisdictional legal issues in continental Europe, Australia, Asia Pacific and the US. She handles complex disputes relating to children (again often with an international element).

She is a collaborative lawyer and mediator. Teresa also deals with wider family disputes including Contested Probates and advising the potential beneficiaries (often cohabitants) in connection with claims under the Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependants) Act 1975 where it can be established that the deceased failed to provide in their Will for their dependants or certain relatives.

Teresa is a fellow of the International Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers. She is a member of Resolution and cross-qualified as a Psychodynamic Psychotherapist.

She is consistently recommended in the legal directories as a leading family lawyer, including Legal 500 and Chambers and Partners' HNW 2019, where she is described as "*an extremely safe pair of hands at the helm of her department*" and a "*highly competent solicitor who has a strong knowledge of all of the areas in which she works*".

She qualified in 1985 and joined Fladgate in 2014.

Experience

- Contested five day hearing in which a freezing order had to be obtained to protect the family assets. The case raised issues of conduct, fraud, forgery and

Expertise

- Private Wealth
- Dispute Resolution
 - Contentious Trusts
 - Family & Matrimonial

Industry

International

International

Offshore

Location

Fladgate LLP
16 Great Queen Street
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dissipation of assets (in the husband's case of nearly £1m).

- Advising two senior partners of a top five accountancy firm in connection with their divorces and financial matters.
- Advising in connection with acrimonious proceedings within a divorce, where the parties had shareholdings in six family companies. This required advice in connection with the family proceedings and also company advice.
- Dealing with a large number of cases with an international element, either where property is situated abroad, or trusts are very often offshore or where one of the parties is a foreign national, in particular recently in connection with Japanese, Italian, Spanish, Irish, American and Australian individuals.
- Advising in connection with an international divorce case involving assets of £48m in the UK, Europe and the Middle East.
- Advising a foreign embassy in connection with legitimacy claims and advising in connection with the application of relevant laws, and conflict.
- Drafting a pre-nuptial agreement to cover assets in five jurisdictions with a combined asset value in excess of £30m.
- Providing expert evidence to a court in Australia in connection with the mechanics of pension sharing in England and Wales.
- Advising in connection with both financial matters and issues relating to the children of the family. This was against the background of the husband having concerns about the behaviour of the wife, and also a potential threat that the child might have been abducted by the mother and taken abroad.

Testimonials

Teresa Cullen of Fladgate LLP is a highly experienced family lawyer with a strong reputation in the field. She advises high net worth individuals on the financial aspects of family disputes and children issues. Cullen is particularly commended for her experience as a trained psychotherapist and the unique advantage this brings to clients. "It's always quite a relief when I hear that Teresa is on the other side," reports a fellow family law specialist, explaining: "We will always find a solution. She's very competent, very professional and she knows her stuff."

Chambers HNW Guide 2019

Teresa Cullen at Fladgate LLP is an 'extremely safe pair of hands at the helm. She is empathetic and always tries to resolve cases amicably'. Cullen deals with high net worth cases with ease.

Legal 500 2019

Teresa Cullen of Fladgate LLP advises on the financial aspects of family disputes and children issues, and she also has experience in cross-border marital and cohabitation agreements. "Teresa is a highly competent solicitor who has a strong knowledge of all of the areas in which she works," says an interviewee, adding: "When cases contain anything quirky she undertakes research to provide workable solutions. She has a good working relationship with both her clients and the barristers she instructs and is a team player when working with counsel. I have

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always found Teresa to be engaging.”

Chambers HNW Guide 2018

“Teresa Cullen of Fladgate LLP deals with contentious divorce litigation for a high net worth client base, in addition to her mediation practice. Market sources consider her to be ‘outstandingly good’ and to possess a ‘deep knowledge of legal matters but also the necessary understanding of the client’s particularities’.”

Chambers UK

“Teresa Cullen ‘always does her best for every client’ and is particularly recommended for ‘international cases with complex issues of law and fact’.”

Legal 500

“Fladgate LLP is singled out for its ‘excellent handling of high-net-worth finance and private children law matters’. Teresa Cullen ‘looks after her clients very well’.”

Legal 500

“Fladgate LLP’s [contentious trusts] team is ‘excellent’ at handling high-net-worth family finances. Sophia Purkis is rated for her ‘very quick and clear responses’ and is recommended alongside the ‘very competent’ Teresa Cullen.”

Legal 500

“Teresa is exemplary with an excellent manner putting clients quickly at ease. Patient in explaining the law clients have the assurance that she understands their needs and applying a sensible hard headed approach when required. I thoroughly recommend her.”

Citywealth Leaders List (Family & Matrimonial)

“Teresa Cullen is an established family practitioner at Fladgate LLP whose expertise covers both money and private children work. She offers particular experience in divorces involving a cross-border element.”

Chambers UK

“Fladgate LLP fields ‘a knowledgeable team that adopts a personal approach to meet each client’s needs’, and is experienced in international divorces and high-value financial claims. Teresa Cullen is ‘the driving force in the team’; she has ‘a superb bedside manner with clients but can equally be robust when putting their cases forward’.”

Legal 500

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