

Family



'Finding a solution that works for you'

Our Family Practice

Harbottle & Lewis was founded on values of trust, loyalty, and commitment to its clients. Nowhere are these more important than in the context of family work.

The main area in which our clients require advice and representation is on marriage breakdown. Whilst it is very rare now to see a divorce itself being defended, it is also rare for the parties to be able to agree everything about ancillary relief (the division of the parties' assets) and arrangements for children.

Specialist Advice

For this reason it is invaluable to take specialist advice as soon as possible in order to understand and be guided through the legal side of relationship breakdown. For all of our clients in this area our twin objectives are invariably:

1. To act in your best interests in achieving a fair outcome on your behalf;
2. So far as it is possible to minimise the stress of the process to all parties, especially where children are involved.

Our Expertise

As is to be expected, our Family Practice has particular experience of acting for individuals from the media and entertainment industries, many of whom are well known but whose identity we keep confidential.

We have expertise in the following areas of family law:

- divorce
- division of assets (including pensions and trusts)
- arrangements for children
- civil partnerships and pre-civil partnership agreements
- co-habitation disputes
- pre-nuptial agreements, cohabitation and separation agreements
- injunctions and protection from harassment
- asset freezing orders
- disputes with an international dimension and applications to secure jurisdiction

Our Family Practice complies with the Code of Practice for members of Resolution and the Law Society's Family Law Protocol.

'Making use of the firm's media connections, they often advise clients in the entertainment industry on matrimonial finance and private client related work.'

Chambers and Partners 2009

'According to clients, Harbottle & Lewis "can always find the answer to your questions"'

Chambers and Partners 2009

Mediation

As well as offering traditional advice and representation, we also offer mediation. If you are able to approach us as a couple who have decided to separate but would prefer to avoid having to go through the court process then it is an option worth investigating.

What is it?

Mediation is not conciliation or marriage counselling, but is a process where a trained mediator gives you impartial guidance to identify the issues that you need to address and to help you address them. It can be used to address all of the aspects of a separation or can be used for selected issues only.

Solutions that work for you

The mediator will help you examine the issues, explore options for dealing with them, and try to find solutions that work for you. This will include assisting in getting proper financial disclosure so that decisions can be made on an informed basis, and looking with you at relevant implications of that disclosure. The mediator will inform you if in his opinion any proposed terms fall outside the limits of what a court would approve.

Collaborative Law

In the collaborative process, a couple each appoint collaboratively trained lawyers and all four participants sign an agreement to approach resolving the settlement in a problem-solving spirit, with open and frank communication. As part of that agreement, the couple commit to resolving the financial arrangements without going to Court. The collaborative process is flexible and third party professionals can be brought in to the four way meetings to discuss tax issues for example or provide independent financial advice.

The Benefits

Some of the benefits are as follows:

- You make the decisions about your personal lives. They are not imposed upon you by a judge
- You control the timetable of sorting out your arrangements. You don't have to wait for court appointments
- You can avoid the inevitable publicity of going to court. This is an important point to consider as the press can now attend hearings that were previously private
- It is likely to provide savings in time, cost and may improve the chances of remaining on good terms with your partner after the separation

Mediation and collaborative law are not suitable for everyone but given the many benefits it's well worth investigating.



'A skilled mediator can help you focus on the practical arrangements to get through a separation and with their legal experience suggest some options and provide information to allow you to make informed decisions.'

Why us?

Both for traditional advice and mediation, we will be committed to:

- using our expertise to find a solution that works for you
- using our unique skills and experience to reduce the tension and hostility that can accompany family issues
- getting matters resolved quickly and cost effectively

Our experience and knowledge of the media and entertainment business makes us the ideal choice if you have worked in this industry. However we find that clients come to us from a wide variety of backgrounds because they have been recommended our straightforward, honest and sensitive approach.

We have a long history of working with high profile individuals who come to us in complete confidence. If necessary, we will deal with the press and other media on your behalf.

As a full service law firm we can also handle the related areas of tax advice and planning, setting up trusts and handling property transactions.



The Firm's Profile

Harbottle & Lewis LLP provides specialist advice to the media, entertainment and communications industries. It remains unique in having expertise right across these sectors and is consistently recognised as a leading firm by independent sources. Whilst its key practices areas continue to expand, the original values of the firm – to provide efficient legal advice, encourage originality and exceed expectations – remain constant.

For more information contact Tom Amlot on 0207 667 5000 or email tom.amlot@harbottle.com
Tom is a member of Resolution (formally the Solicitors Family Law Association) and is a Resolution mediator.

Contact Information

Harbottle & Lewis LLP

Hanover House, 14 Hanover Square, London W1S 1HP

Tel: +44 (0)20 7667 5000 Fax: +44 (0)20 7667 5100 Dx: 44617 Mayfair Web: www.harbottle.com

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Our Family Lawyers

Tom Amlot



Tom is a Partner and head of the firm's Family Practice. His family work comprises all aspects of divorce work including acting on high value ancillary relief matters, as well as private law cases involving children.

Tom's background is in litigation and where necessary he will use his skills as a litigator to navigate the court process. However when possible he will look to achieve an early negotiated settlement.

Tom sits on the Alternative Dispute Mediation committee of Resolution (previously the Solicitors Family Law Association) and as well as practising as a lawyer for his clients in the usual way Tom is also an experienced Resolution mediator and collaborative lawyer.

"Tom Amlot is spearheading an emerging family practice at Harbottle & Lewis... He impresses senior peers with his level of professionalism", *Chambers and Partners 2008*.

Tom graduated from Manchester with a BA (Hons) and following converting to law qualified as a solicitor in 1999, joining Harbottle & Lewis the same year.

Email: tom.amlot@harbottle.com

Linzi Bull



Linzi is a Senior Associate in the Family Group. She has a wide and varied experience of family law, an area which she has specialised in since qualifying as a solicitor in 2002.

Linzi deals with a broad spectrum of family issues, including divorce, ancillary relief, cohabitation disputes and private law children applications.

Linzi also has considerable experience acting in cases with an international element. This includes recently obtaining a Mirror Order from the High Court in an international children dispute and representing the wife in the reported case of *R v R* (Divorce: Jurisdiction: Domicile).

Linzi graduated with a BA (Hons) from Southampton University and went on to study law at London Guildhall University. She joined Harbottle & Lewis in 2006.

Linzi is also a member of Resolution and her article on the proposed changes to the law on cohabitation in England and Wales has recently been published in *Family Law*.

Email: linzi.bull@harbottle.com

Katie Longmate



Katie is a Solicitor in the firm's Family Practice. Katie has experience in all aspects of private family law including divorce, ancillary relief and injunction proceedings as well as private law cases involving children.

Katie is a member of Resolution, an organisation of lawyers and family justice professionals who believe in a constructive, non-confrontational approach to family matters.

Katie graduated from King's College London with a BA (Hons) in History and gained a distinction in both the Postgraduate Diploma in Law and the Legal Practice Course at the College of Law, London. Katie qualified in October 2007, specialising in Family Law. She joined Harbottle & Lewis in September 2008.

Email: katie.longmate@harbottle.com

Contact Information

Harbottle & Lewis LLP

Hanover House, 14 Hanover Square, London W1S 1HP
Tel: +44 (0)20 7667 5000 Fax: +44 (0)20 7667 5100 Dx: 44617 Mayfair Web: www.harbottle.com