

# 32nd National Conference

Incorporating AGM  
and dinner dance

**27 – 28 March 2020,  
Hilton Brighton Metropole**

**Keynote speaker:**

The Hon Mrs Justice Theis DBE

10 CPD hours

# Conference Timetable

## Friday 27 March

5.5 CPD hours

8.30am	Registration
9.00 – 9.30am	Annual General Meeting
9.40 – 9.50am	Welcome by Conference Chairs, Sharon Kay (Chair, East Sussex) and Verity Eunson-Hickey (Chair, West Sussex)
9.50 – 11.20am	Finance update – Philip Barnsley and Philip Way
11.20 – 11.50am	Break
11.50 – 12.05pm	National Chair’s address, Juliet Harvey
12.05 – 12.30pm	The family justice system from the front line: waving or drowning? Professor Jo Delahunty QC
12.30 – 1.10pm	Keynote: <i>Who is my parent?</i> The Hon Mrs Justice Theis DBE
1.10 – 2.10pm	Networking lunch
2.10 – 3.40pm	Children update – Elspeth Thomson and Samantha Little
3.40 – 4.10pm	Break
4.10 – 5.40pm	Workshop session 1
7.00 – 8.00pm	Pre-dinner drinks reception
8.00 – 10.00pm	Black tie dinner and dance, John Cornwell Award presentation

## Saturday 28 March

4.5 CPD hours

9.30 – 10.00am	Registration
10.00 – 11.30am	Workshop session 2
11.30 – 12.00pm	Break
12.00 – 1.10pm	Plenary discussion
1.10 – 1.20pm	Chief Executive’s address, Colin Jones
1.20 – 2.10pm	Networking lunch
2.10 – 3.40pm	Workshop session 3
3.40pm	Conference close

# 2020 Highlights

In 2020 we’re heading to Brighton for Resolution’s 32nd National Conference – the highlight of the family law calendar. This two-day event gives you the opportunity to network, socialise, update your professional knowledge and skills, and hear from experts across the sector.

The conference includes our annual general meeting along with the presentation of the John Cornwell Award at our black tie dinner on the Friday evening.



### Finance update

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**Philip Barnsley**  
Partner, Higgs & Sons



**Philip Way**  
Partner, Mills & Reeve

### Children update

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**Elspeth Thomson**  
Partner, David Gray Solicitors



**Samantha Little**  
Partner, Children and Education Law Team, Russell-Cooke Solicitors

**Drinks reception** Network over a drink ahead of our dinner and dance.

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### Presentation of the John Cornwell Award

In memory of Resolution’s founder, the annual John Cornwell Award is presented to a practitioner who has gone above and beyond to support separating or divorcing couples.

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### Plenary: Family Justice Question Time

Bring your questions to the experts on our Family Justice Question Time panel.

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# Workshop sessions

Friday 27 March 2020 4:10pm – 5:40pm

A

## Innovation Group – the greatest hits

**Speakers:** Melanie Bataillard-Samuel (Expatriate Law), Karen Barham (Barlow Robbins LLP), Chris Maulkin (Family Law Partners), Jo O’Sullivan (O’Sullivan Family Law Limited), Thomas Brownrigg (Goodman Ray), Ursula Rice (Family First Solicitors), James Pirrie (Family Law in Partnership) and Harj Kaur (Brighton & Hove Local Authority)

A 90-minute review of innovative working practices and technologies that have piqued our interest in 2019. It includes the following: parental coordination; going paperless; how to work with a divorce coach or family consultant; collaborative law – the forgotten innovation; IT solutions to family law issues; how to deliver unbundled services; and making use of arbitration in low or mid money cases – is it ever possible?

B

## Your money or mine?

**Speakers:** Maggie Rae (Newton Kearns LLP) and Joanna Carr-West (Hunters)

Workshop on Costs and Calderbanks.

- What are Calderbank letters?
- Their history and the FPR 2010
- Why the calls for change
- The current costs rules and recent changes
- The consultation exercise
- What the future may look like
- For and against. Two short presentations from Amy Scollan (Hunters) and Lauren Deane (HFC)
- Vote

C

## Intractable children disputes – what is to be done?

**Speakers:** Edward Cooke (Edward Cooke Family Law), Richard Jones (1GC), Francesca Wiley QC (1GC) and Janine Braier (Parenting Profiles Ltd)

A practical workshop focusing on intractable children cases including cases involving allegations of parental alienation. How can we best support our clients where such allegations arise? How can we get the right outcome for the family and, in particular, the children?



D

## Making high cost cases work for you

**Speakers:** David Smith (Bidwell Henderson), Megan Kutter (Bidwell Henderson), Ann Henderson (Bidwell Henderson) and Samantha Little (Russell-Cooke LLP)

An experienced group of speakers will take you through the best ways of managing legal aid case costs with an emphasis on high cost cases. This workshop will also look at tips and traps in the complex rules to help delegates deal efficiently and expeditiously with cases.

E

## Getting on the right track

**Speakers:** Mary Shaw (David Gray Solicitors LLP) and Georgie Hall (Prettys)

Back by popular demand! Make yourself deeply helpful to your clients – ditch negotiation by letter. Georgie Hall and Mary Shaw will take you on a journey to help you give clients a transformational first meeting to get their settlement process running on the right track.

In this way you can always be Code compliant, attract new business through client recommendation, and have a much less stressful work life. Run in conjunction with the Resolution Standards Committee and the publication of the updated Resolution Good Practice Guides relating to communications.

F

## From Form E to First Appointment – practical and tactical advice on how to ace your case

**Speakers:** Sean Hilton (Stevens & Bolton LLP) and others from the YRes Committee

Combining top tips and tricks from the perspectives of a solicitor, a barrister and a Judge, this session will focus on preparing your case up to and including the First Appointment. Starting with the completion of the Form E, we will discuss the issues that may need to be considered at an early stage and will then look at the preparation of First Appointment documents and bundles. Finally, the session will look at the First Appointment itself, both in terms of advocacy and the directions that may be needed. The session will end with an opportunity to put questions to the panel, a perfect chance to try and crack that tricky case.





# Workshop sessions

Saturday 28 March 2020 10:00am – 11:30am



## G Using words well

**Speakers:** Nicola Wallace (4 Paper Buildings)

We forget that words have power. Relationships can be enhanced or diminished simply by our word choice. How we speak and how we read the verbal and non-verbal cues of others is vital. This workshop examines language used in disputes, why empathy is so different from sympathy. It will help develop an understanding of what people may really be communicating, and provide ground work for tackling difficult conversations. Whether in mediation, client meetings, before a judge, with lawyers and even in our non-professional world, using words well can influence the success of our interrelationships at every level.

## H Keeping interests on the table

**Speakers:** Jacinta Gallant (Waterstone Law Group)

As mediators and collaborative professionals, we know the importance of getting underneath clients’ positions to identify their interests and talk about what matters. But, how often do those interests and values fall ‘off the table’ and we find ourselves in what feels like positional bargaining? Generating creative, workable options to solve complex family issues requires us to keep the parties’ interests and values front and centre when we get to option generation. This workshop will teach you about a highly effective tool called the “Interests Agenda”, which will help you craft questions that incorporate the parties’ needs, values and interests – so they remain firmly ‘on the table’ when looking at possible solutions.

## I Law and cultural competence when working with LGBT and other modern family clients

**Speakers:** Natalie Gamble (NGA Law), Mark Harper (Hughes Fowler Carruthers), Andrew Spearman (Laytons LLP), Bridget Garrood (Cartridges Law), Marisa Allman (The 36 Group) and Deirdre Fottrell QC (1GC).

Members of the UK and Ireland LGBT Family Law Institute will take you through the basics of the law on parenthood, relationship status and gender identity for gay, lesbian and transgender parents and children, and will discuss good practice when working with modern families, including terminology, key issues to consider and good client care.

## J An introduction to FLOWS

**Speakers:** Alex Lowry (RCJ Advice), Sarah London (RCJ Advice), and a member of the Domestic Abuse Committee

Flows (finding legal options for women survivors) delivers legal advice to women experiencing domestic abuse & the professionals supporting them. FLOWS has created a network of legal aid firms & devised digital tools. Join the workshop to learn more.



## K Tax update for family lawyers

**Speakers:** Rebecca Fisher (Russell-Cooke LLP) and Ian Harlock-Smith (Saffery Champness)

This interactive workshop with case studies will provide guidance on how to identify potential tax issues on a range of family matters. Taxes covered include capital gains tax, inheritance tax, income tax and stamp duty land tax. This session includes tax updates from the 2020 Budget and the capital gains tax changes that come into effect in April 2020. Other topics covered include: The Family Home – the basics; PPR; separation; debt/charges; Mesher orders (IHT and CGT) Schedule 1 cases – provision of a home (CGT and SDLT); trust regime for Schedule 1 cases and IHT exemptions; Cohabitants – CGT; SDLT; and IHT, Income tax issues and divorce.

## L The Brighton Crew

**Speakers:** Jo O’Sullivan (O’Sullivan Family Law), members of Sussex Family Solutions and Brightpod

How have Brighton family law professionals become and continue to be a beacon of good practice at working together? Find out by joining local solicitors, mediators, financial advisors, family and well-being consultants as they share their experience of collaborating for the benefit of their clients and each other. The workshop will also deal with overcoming the barriers to interdisciplinary working. The workshop will be full of exciting presentations and a ‘live performance’.



# Workshop sessions

Saturday 28 March 2020 2:10pm - 3:40pm

## M Phoebe and George: pensions in practice

**Speakers:** Mary Gaskins (Burgess Salmon LLP), Ellie Foster (Mills & Reeve LLP) and Paul Cobley (Oak Barn Financial Planning)

Help Phoebe and George navigate their way through the maze of their financial remedy application with particular focus on their pensions. Through the lifetime of their case, we will aim to advise Phoebe and George on their disclosure and procedural obligations, the nature of the pensions they hold, the options available to divide their pensions fairly, and the traps that they need to avoid along the way. This will be an interactive workshop to illustrate how the guidance and recommendations from the Pension Advisory Group (PAG) report can be applied in practice.

## N Continental drift – how do other jurisdictions resolve financial claims on divorce?

**Speakers:** Sarah Lucy Cooper (Thomas More Chambers), members of the International Committee and guest lawyers from foreign jurisdictions

By means of an entertaining case study involving Boris and Ursula, practising lawyers from three EU jurisdictions including Spain will explain key differences in relation to how they deal with maintenance and the division of assets including pensions and inheritances.

The session will be chaired by Sarah Lucy Cooper who will also explain how other European jurisdictions deal with financial claims including the basics of “matrimonial regimes” which are very common.





# Workshop sessions

Saturday 28 March 2020 2:10pm - 3:40pm

**O** Public speaking for family lawyers: how to promote yourself, your firm and your services using only your voice

**Speakers:** Verity Eunson-Hickey (Tisshaws Solicitors) and Lucy Pitts (Strood Copy)

This workshop will explore one of the most under used and budget friendly marketing tools available to family law professionals – their own voice. Most people will find themselves having to give a speech at some point in their career, whether it’s a 1-minute elevator pitch, a longer presentation or suddenly being asked to give an update in the middle of a meeting. Surprisingly, even the most confident of court advocates can find public speaking terrifying.

This workshop will look at some of the skills you can employ to improve your public speaking, whether planned or more impromptu, so that you feel confident using the power of the spoken word to market your family law practice.

**P** Separated parents information programme (SPIP) Parenting After Parting workshop

**Speakers:** Michelle Riviere (Spurgeons), Robert Charles (Spurgeons), and a member of the Parenting After Parting Committee

The SPIP workshop is designed to provide professionals with the understanding of what can be expected from their clients during a SPIP session in a practical sense. This is an interactive session where professionals will have the opportunity to take part in a mini SPIP session. This includes a range of exercises around self care and empathy and the overall thought-provoking message about the emotional and behavioural impact parental conflict has on children. The workshop will allow professionals to experience a small part of the SPIP programme delivered to clients, with the aim of promoting the importance of this form of alternative dispute resolution, and the positive impact SPIPs can have on children and families.



# Welcome to Brighton

On behalf of the East and West Sussex regional committees, we are delighted to welcome Resolution members back to Brighton for this year’s National Conference. Brighton is the most popular seaside resort in the country, and is unofficially known as the UK’s gay capital due to its large LGBTQ+ community.

Brighton hit the legal headlines prior to the Matrimonial Causes Act 1937 as the place where you could obtain “evidence” of adultery. In particular the Metropole Hotel became notorious for providing such evidence and these divorces became known as “hotel bill cases”. You will learn a lot more about this in March!

We hope you enjoy this year’s conference, which promises to be bigger and better than ever before, giving you the opportunity to build your skills and knowledge, as well as the chance to catch up with old friends (and hopefully make new ones too).

**We look forward to seeing you in Brighton!**



“

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**Sharon Kay**  
(Chair, East Sussex)



**Verity Eunson-Hickey**  
(Chair, West Sussex)



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