



THE CHAMBERS OF  
TIMOTHY RAGGATT QC

## Chris Bryden – Barrister

Called 2003

### Family and Private Client

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#### PROFILE:

Chris is the Head of Chambers' Family Group, with very significant experience of family work. He practises principally in the financial and trust aspects of family law, particularly financial remedies and TLATA. He also regularly acts in contentious probate issues. He undertakes private law children and Court of Protection work.

- Financial Remedies
- Trusts of Land
- Contentious Probate
- Private Law Children
- Court of Protection

Chris has experience across the Family Courts and the Family Division of the High Court.

#### FINANCIAL REMEDIES

Chris has experience in acting for clients at all levels of court up to and including the Supreme Court, and is regularly instructed in complex cases with high asset values or where there are company structures, using his detailed knowledge of other areas of law to benefit his clients. He has acted in cases with complex legal issues, including where bankruptcy or the Proceeds of Crime Act are involved. He has acted in numerous cases involving third party interests, including a case involving a dispute between competing claims by an equitable charge holder and a wife over the beneficial

interest of the Husband. He is often instructed by high net worth individuals including one memorable case in which an island was the principal asset. However he is equally at home advising on cases with limited assets, and is prepared to consider fixed fees at competitive rates for such work. Chris also acts in schedule 1 Children Act claims.

Chris has also been involved both in the drafting of Pre- and Post-Nuptial Agreements and litigation arising out of disputes over such Agreements. He has also lectured widely in this developing area of law.

**Recent examples of cases include:**

- A case involving multi-million-pound assets, an island and a complex corporate structure (2016);
- A case involving family trusts and contentions as to whether monies advanced were loans, gifts, trust funds or available resources (2017);
- A petition (unsuccessful) to the Supreme Court arising out of lengthy litigation over a final order (2015).

**TRUSTS OF LAND**

Chris acts regularly in TLATA disputes and has a reputation for an unrivalled knowledge of the law. He has lectured widely on the various developments in the law of co-ownership in recent years and his Masters degree also included the study of advanced trusts and equity. He also has a particular interest in secret and half-secret trusts.

**Recent examples of cases include:**

- A three day dispute over a property worth over £2m, involving claims of proprietary estoppel (2017);
- A multi-day dispute involving the ownership of farmland and residential premises (2017);
- A four day dispute relating to the beneficial ownership of a family company (2017).

**CONTENTIOUS PROBATE**

Chris has acted in numerous contentious probate cases and disputes over wills that involve property, including allegations of lack of capacity, undue influence and want of knowledge and approval. He has been instructed on a number of occasions in High Court actions arising out of contested wills. He has also been instructed on numerous occasions in respect of mediations arising out of disputes over wills.

### **Recent examples of cases include:**

- A successful mediation over a £4m contested Estate involving an alleged secret trust (2017);
- An unfair prejudice claim listed for 3 days in the High Court, ultimately settled (2015-17);
- A High Court challenge to a will involving injunctive relief (2015).

### **PRIVATE LAW CHILDREN**

Chris regularly acts in private law children cases, including applications for leave to remove from the jurisdiction and child abduction cases. He has significant experience of disputes between parents and is often instructed to deal with intractable cases of parental alienation.

### **Recent examples of cases include:**

- A multi-day fact-finding hearing with numerous significant allegations of emotional and financial abuse and coercion, including the forced mental health assessment of a party (2016);
- A five-day dispute involving numerous children and various fathers (2015);
- A long-running case involving alcoholic parents and a local authority seeking to intervene without issuing proceedings (2011-17)

### **COURT OF PROTECTION**

Chris has experience of Court of Protection work and has been engaged in respect of cases including deprivation of liberty; contact; the contested appointment of deputies and in respect of statutory wills

### **Recent examples of cases include:**

- A case involving a disputed health and welfare LPA and contact between adult daughters and the patient (2017);
- A case involving a contested statutory will (2017)

### **EDUCATION AND QUALIFICATIONS**

MA (Oxon.), (Jurisprudence) Magdalen College, Oxford

LLM (Merit), University College London

Visiting Fellow, University of Bedfordshire (2011- )

Ethics and Advocacy Trainer, University of Law (2011- )

Elected Member of the Bar Council (2016- )

Member of the Bar Council Ethics Committee (2016- )

Member of the Bar Council Susskind Challenge Committee (2016- )

Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts

## **PUBLICATIONS**

Chris is a prolific author of legal articles and papers, which regularly appear in various legal journals. He has recently been appointed to the panel of expert authors of the New Law Journal and is commissioned to produce at least six articles for them per year. His first book, *Social Media in the Workplace*, was published by Jordan Publishing in 2015.