

Deborah Leask – Family Mediator

deborah.leask@ellisjones.co.uk 01202 057790

Areas of expertise

- Complex matrimonial finances involving pensions, private companies, trusts, extensive property portfolios and tax
- High-income cases
- Issues over marital versus non-marital assets
- Schedule 1 Children Act claims
- High conflict disputes
- Cases involving intervenors and 3rd parties
- Hybrid/integrated mediation

About

Deborah is an extremely experienced family lawyer/mediator, having qualified as a Solicitor in 1990 and as a Mediator in 1996 gaining her accreditation around 8 years ago. She has been a Partner of Ellis Jones since 2004 and has been co-head of the family department for 20+ years. Prior to moving to Ellis Jones in 2001, Deborah worked as a solicitor in Central London at two very highly regarded “magic circle” practices for around 14 years. She is recognised by Resolution as an Accredited Specialist in Pensions and Complex Finances.

Having worked in the field of family litigation for many years, Deborah is all too aware of the potential damage (both financial and emotional) which court proceedings can have on divorcing couples. She firmly believes that most separating couples are capable of resolving their differences over money and children with the help of an experienced family mediator. However, all too often they end up in a court process instead which can be highly expensive, painfully slow, and damaging to their future relationship as co-parents.

Deborah derives considerable professional satisfaction from helping parties work together through mediation to find an objectively fair solution which they can both live with, and which works for them. This is a far more civilised and constructive method of dispute resolution than the court forum.

With a 36-year career as a family lawyer and 30 years as a mediator, Deborah has a wealth of experience and knowledge. She has a robust and pragmatic style as a mediator and is not afraid to take a directive approach to her mediations, where necessary, if this will assist the parties. Deborah is also qualified to undertake hybrid/integrated mediation which allows far greater solicitor involvement in the process. She finds this a particularly useful form of mediation when handling complex finances, high conflict or domestic abuse.

Deborah is recognised as a Leading Lawyer in Chambers & Partners.