

Dawson Cornwell Newsletter

May 2011

The firm



We are delighted to welcome Jeremy Abraham to the firm as a Partner. Jeremy qualified as a solicitor in 1983 and has worked in the West End or the City since 1986, joining Dawson Cornwell as a partner in 2011. Jeremy is widely recognized as one of the country's top mediators and is an accredited mediator both with Resolution and the Family Mediator's Association. Jeremy is former Treasurer and Chair of the Family Mediators Association. He is also a member of the Association of Contentious Trusts and Probate Specialists and the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners. Jeremy advises on all areas of private family law and is often asked to deal with issues of child residence and contact.

High award in short marriage case

Elena Golubovich, 27 years of age who was married to Ilva Golubovich, 26 years of age and an international financier, has been awarded a sum of £2.85million following an 18 month marriage. In the recent Court of Appeal hearing, the Husband appealed against the award of £2.85million to the Wife under Part III Matrimonial and Family Proceedings Act 1984. The Court of Appeal upheld the award. Critics believe the result may open the floodgates for foreign spouses who will wish to divorce in this jurisdiction in order to obtain a favourable divorce settlement, particularly after a short marriage.

Drop in marriages and rise in divorces

The latest statistics from the **Office for National Statistics** show that the number of marriages in England and Wales in 2009 was 231,490, the lowest since 1895. The provisional marriage rate has fallen to 8.4 people marrying per thousand unmarried people, from 8.7 in 2008 and 10.1 in 1999.

The percentage of marriages ending in divorce has increased for those marrying between the late 1960s and the early 1990s. For example, 20 per cent of marriages in 1969 had ended by the 15th wedding anniversary, whereas 33 per cent of marriages in 1994 had ended after the same period of time.



Family Procedure Rules 2010

The new Family Procedure Rules 2010 came into force on 6 April 2011. The new code provides one single set of rules for proceedings in the magistrates court, county court and High Court, simplifying the rules of court for family proceedings. The rules provide a comprehensive, cohesive and modernized set of rules which replace a large set of unconsolidated rules. However critics have claimed that the rules place too much emphasis on mediation and alternative dispute resolution.