

JOHN LONGWORTH

Barrister

FREDERICK JORDAN CHAMBERS

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John's areas of specialty include family law, child welfare, adoption and matrimonial property. His long-standing experience in family law is evidenced by the fact that he was one of the first solicitors accredited by the Law Society of New South Wales as a Family Law Specialist.

Within his areas of practice, John has acquired a significant depth of knowledge and experience in both law and policy. He is highly proficient in advising and appearing for clients at first instance and on appeal in sophisticated and complex family matters across a broad range of Federal and State jurisdictions. Notably, he has appeared in landmark decisions, which are now leading authorities in family law.

John has also had exposure to a variety of other disciplines, such as taxation, corporations law, trusts, superannuation, domestic and commercial conveyancing, wills and estates, criminal law and guardianship. Exposure to such areas has enabled him to develop a deep understanding as to the various aspects within which issues can arise in his core areas of practice, and identify the most favourable solutions for his clients.

An active member of the legal fraternity and community generally, John has held significant appointments and directorships and has worked on a range of committees and organisations involved in the development of family law policy and strategy. He holds a Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Commerce from the University of New South Wales. He has completed the National Training Program for Independent Children's Lawyers and has completed training as a Family Dispute Resolution Practitioner. He is also a qualified Family Law Arbitrator, having received accreditation through the Australian Institute of Family Law Arbitrators & Mediators, and regularly appears in alternative dispute resolution forums on behalf of his clients.

ADMISSIONS TO PRACTICE

- 2013 Admitted to the Bar of New South Wales
- 1984 Admitted as a Solicitor of the High Court of Australia
- 1984 Admitted as a Solicitor of the Supreme Court of New South Wales

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PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AND COURSES

- 2007 Completed the National Training Program for Independent Children's Lawyers
- 2006 Completed Introductory Course in Collaborative Practice: University of Technology, Sydney
- 2005 Qualified Family Law Arbitrator: Australian Institute of Family Law Arbitrators and Mediators (A.I.F.L.A.M)
- 1984 Bachelor of Laws: University of New South Wales
- 1984 Bachelor of Commerce: University of New South Wales

PRINCIPAL AREAS OF PRACTICE

- Family Law (Parenting and Matrimonial Property)
- Child Welfare and Adoption

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2013 – present Barrister, Frederick Jordan Chambers
- 1989 – 2013 Solicitor, then Partner/Principal (from 1992), Dettmann Longworth, Lawyers, Chatswood
- 1984 – 1986 Solicitor, Cutler, Hughes & Harris, Sydney

ACCOLADES

- Law & Justice Foundation of NSW – Justice Awards (Combined Community Legal Centres Group NSW Award) - 2002
- Certificate of Recognition for volunteer efforts via the 'Willoughby Community Aid Legal Advice Service', Willoughby City Council - 2001

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND APPOINTMENTS

- Director and Board Chair, Relationships Australia (NSW) Pty Limited: 2007 to 2014
- Director, Ashtonfields Pty Limited: 1993 to present
- Committee Member, New South Wales Bar Association Family Law Committee
- Member, Law Council of Australia - Family Law Section
- Member, Australian Institute of Family Law Arbitrators & Mediators
- Member, Association of Family & Conciliation Courts
- Member, Board of Ashtonfields Pty Ltd
- Ambassador, White Ribbon Day
- Member, New South Wales Bar Association

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SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- *The role of an expert witness*: seminar to psychology students at University of Western Sydney - 2003
- *Safe Transitions Symposium (Unifam & Relationships Australia NSW) topic 'How should "A New Family Law System" respond to reports of violence and abuse? How will all stakeholders work together to keep all family members safe'*: panel member - 2005
- Presentation in relation to Australian legal profession's experience of the *Introduction of the Equal Shared Parental Responsibility Act 2006*: presenter and panel member at the Conference of the Association of Family & Conciliation Courts (AFCC) in Vancouver, Canada – 2008
- Presenter to a cross-sector conference run by G.S.F.I.T (Greater Sydney Families in Transition) in relation to issues of family violence, evidence and the necessity for the legal profession to be collaboratively involved across the sectors. At that same conference I also participated as a representative of the legal professional on a panel, discussing issues in relation to Family Violence – 2010
- Presenter at the Legal Aid NSW Family Law Conference on the topic of *Improving evidence and information sharing about family violence in the context of FDR – the views of a family lawyer* - 2010
- Presenter at the NSW Teachers Legal Studies Association. The paper focused on Family Law and the evolution of certain aspects of 'parenting' law – 2011
- Presenter at Legal Aid NSW Family Law Conference on *Evidence* with particular emphasis on objections – 2013
- Conducted a workshop at Legal Aid NSW Family Law meeting on Financial Agreements. The workshop was for in-house solicitors applying for specialist accreditation – 2015
- Presenter at the Legalwise Family Law Conference on capacity and the use of Case Guardians and Litigation Guardians – 2016
- Presenter at the Legalwise Family Law Conference on *Bankruptcy in Family Law Proceedings* – 2017
- Conducted a workshop at Legal Aid NSW Family Law meeting on *Injunctions* (with a focus on financial injunctions, s.114). The workshop was for in-house solicitors applying for specialist accreditation – 2017

SELECT CASES

As Instructing Solicitor

- *Padgen & Padgen* (1991) 14 Fam LR 743 - Preconditions for the viability of joint custody (equal time)
- *Keaton & Aldridge* (2009) FMCAFAM 92 (unreported) - Single instance decision by Chief Federal Magistrate Pascoe being the first case heard in relation to the operation of the newly enacted s.60H *Family Law Act 1975* (Cth) (being heard within days of the section commencing). Amongst other things, the case particularly focused upon whether a de facto relationship existed at the relevant time to activate the section

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- *Aldridge & Keaton* [2009] FamCAFC 229; (2009) 42 Fam LR 369 - Full Court decision as to the relevant principles in Family Law Act 1975 (Cth) pertaining to parents in cases involving non-parent; Whether and when it is appropriate for a person with no biological connection to child to have parenting order. Discussion regarding ss60CC and 65C
- *NHC v RCH (Chorn & Hopkins)* (2004) FamCA 633; 32 Fam LR 518 - In relation to financial add-backs, particularly regarding paid legal costs
- *Re Bernadette (Special Medical Procedures)* [2011] FamCAFC 50; 45 Fam LR 248 - Gender Dysphoria/Special medical procedure; Whether court had jurisdiction to entertain an; Whether s67ZC of Family Law Act 1975 (Cth) limited to making of orders for children under age of 18 appeal against orders where subject had turned 18
- *Arthurman & Arthurman* [2008] FamCAFC 188; (2008) 40 Fam LR 512 - Procedural steps when, following Final Orders at first instance, an application is filed for relief pursuant to s.79A whilst at the same time an Appeal is outstanding

As Counsel

- *Dukes & Talford* [2017] FamCA 63 - Application by maternal grandparents where the mother of the subject child had died. Issues included where the risk of the child having no relationship with the grandparents was outweighed by the likely trauma involved if structured spend time orders were made
- *Re June No.2* [2013] NSWSC 1111 - Whether foster carers have standing to seek relief under s.69 *Supreme Court Act 1970* (NSW) — If not, whether manifest defects in hearing before and reasons of Children's Court constitute "exceptional circumstances" — Whether Supreme Court may, in the exercise of *parens patriae* jurisdiction, grant relief under s.69 *Supreme Court Act 1970* (NSW)