

Timothy Spain

Call 1983

"A technically brilliant junior. He has great gravitas in court and will go the extra mile for a client."

"Timothy has an eye for detail that only those with his experience, flair and drive can provide. He commands a court room. His advocacy is full of energy and drive"

Legal 500

"He is very knowledgeable and clients love his confidence and robust approach"
Chambers & Partners

EXPERTISE

- Family
- Ancillary Relief
- Children
- Public and Private Law
- Family Law Arbitration (including Children Scheme)
- Public Interest Immunity Disclosure
- Mental Health
- Mental Capacity
- Court of Protection
- Care Homes
- Education
- Safeguarding
- Regulatory

Timothy is a recognised expert in high value ancillary and financial relief cases, especially those involving companies, partnerships, farms, "hidden wealth" and insolvency.

He is a member of the Institute of Family Law Arbitrators (IFLA) Panel and as a Family Dispute Resolution Facilitator and Arbitrator is qualified to conduct family law arbitrations and make orders under the IFLA rules, including in matrimonial finance and Trusts of Land and Appointment of Trustees Act 1996 proceedings. He is also qualified to undertake arbitrations under the Children Scheme. For further details visit [Family & Children Arbitration](#).

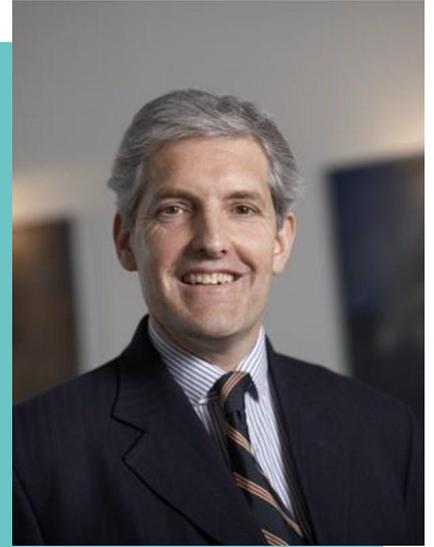
Timothy has extensive experience of dealing with Local Authority Public law Children cases.

He is regularly instructed in relation to Court of Protection matters relating to vulnerable adults. He also deals with issues relating to care home fees.

Timothy is frequently instructed by Local Authorities in relation to safeguarding issues.

He has also Chaired Independent Services Case Reviews.

APPOINTMENTS



Expertise

Family - Public Law & Children

Family - Finance & Property

Court of Protection & Adult Care

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)

Education

Arbitration

International & Offshore

Sports Law

- Deputy District Judge 2000
- Appointed by the Department of Energy and Climate Change to hear Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme (CRC) Appeals 2012
- Institute of Family Law Arbitrators (IFLA) Panel 2013 – Family Dispute Resolution Facilitator and Arbitrator, including under the Children Scheme

MEMBERSHIPS

- Family Law Bar Association
- Chartered Institute of Arbitrators
- Resolution (Affiliate)
- Bar Pro Bono Unit

LECTURES & SEMINARS

Timothy is a prolific deliverer of seminars and in-house events to local solicitors, local Law Societies and Local Authorities. He has given seminars relating to ancillary relief, public law children proceedings, public interest immunity disclosure and the Vetting and Barring Scheme.

EDUCATION

LLB Newcastle upon Tyne

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Timothy is interested in Italy, sport, especially Rugby Union, theatre and literature. In support of various children's and cancer charities and Help for Heroes, Timothy has completed 30 Great North Runs, the most recent in 2022 raising funds for The Stroke Association. In 2013 Timothy also completed the "Tough Mudder" in Yorkshire.



Clerking team



Steven Preen
 Lead Family Clerk
 0191 232 1927



Ken McLafferty
 Family & Immigration Clerk
 0191 245 9531



Paula McLure
 Family Clerk
 0191 245 9530



Erin May
 Family & Court of Protection Clerk
 0191 245 9590



Chris Gibbin
 Criminal & Family Clerk
 01642 247 569



Fiona Bullock
 Direct Access Clerk
 01642 247 569

What Others Say

66

"My go-to barrister for financial remedy cases"

Family: Matrimonial Finance, Chambers & Partners 2026

"Timothy Spain has a wealth of experience, gives clear advice and achieves great results." "He is very knowledgeable and clients love his confidence and robust approach"

Family: Matrimonial Finance, Chambers & Partners 2025

"Timothy has an eye for detail that only those with his experience, flair and drive can provide. He commands a court room. His advocacy is full of energy and drive"

Legal 500 2025

"Very precise in terms of his written advocacy and really competent in his oral advocacy." "Technically marvellous, manages client expectations extremely well, is a strong negotiator and will fight where and when needed"

Family, Chambers & Partners 2024

"Timothy is technically excellent and a good negotiator." "He has superb knowledge of his areas of work and provides quality advocacy; he is listened to by the court "

Family: Matrimonial Finance, Chambers UK 2023

"A technically brilliant junior. He has great gravitas in court and will go the extra mile for a client."

Legal 500 2023

"He is very approachable, helpful and exceptionally knowledgeable when it comes to the law. Clients like him and he gives pragmatic and realistic advice. He doesn't tell clients what they want to hear but what will happen." "He has a first-class practice."

Family - Matrimonial Finance, Chambers & Partners 2022

"His legal knowledge is second to none. He oozes confidence and commands the respect of the Bar and judiciary."

Legal 500 2022

"Tim is the go-to barrister for financial remedy work. His legal knowledge is second to none and his negotiation skills are such that he achieves consistently good outcomes"

Legal 500 2021

"Highly regarded for complex financial relief work, with experience handling difficult divorces and TOLATA claims involving issues around businesses, property, including farms, and hidden wealth. In addition to his considerable litigation skills, he is also a well-regarded arbitrator". "His knowledge of the law is outstanding and his preparation is always superb. His advocacy and negotiating skills are second to none." "His legal knowledge is extremely good. I find him to be invaluable."

"He's an absolute one-off in that he is always really well prepared."

Chambers & Partners 2021

"He really knows his onions and is an arch story teller. In court, he's always well prepared and is just what you want from a barrister." "He is the expert on the law and for technical answers."

Chambers & Partners 2020

"Confident, very good with clients, and reliably excellent with paperwork."

Legal 500 2020

"His knowledge of the law is superb. He is very good with clients, on paper and on his feet." "He is always very well prepared. He has gravitas and charisma in court"

Chambers & Partners 2018

"Noted for his expertise in financial remedy matters"

Legal 500 2019

"Tim is excellent. He is very detailed and has high-quality preparation. He is a very good negotiator and will fight clients' corners." "He puts clients at ease and is pragmatic and realistic in his advice."

Chambers UK 2018

"Very experienced in financial remedy cases"

Legal 500 2017

"Known for his expertise in money and children work, he is a strong advocate who is also an accredited family arbitrator. He has handled a number of complex financial cases involving farms, insolvency and hidden wealth, and has considerable familiarity with TOLATA claims." "If you've got a tricky case and need someone to go in and fight your corner, he will do it." "For both complex children and financial matters, he's a go-to if you need anything technical or difficult with regard to the law"

Chambers & Partners 2017

"An expert in financial remedy cases"

Legal 500 2016

"He is excellent in court. He has a very strong cross-examination technique that delivers time after time"

Chambers & Partners 2016

"An expert in high-value financial remedy cases, and in Court of Protection adult care"

Legal 500 2015

"Focuses predominantly on ancillary relief issues. His reputation is centred on his expertise in matrimonial finance matters, and he is also well regarded for the plethora of work he has conducted involving vulnerable children and adults." "He is excellent with his clients and gets impressive results." "He exhibits excellent attention to detail, as well as a commitment to great client care."

Chambers & Partners 2015

"A specialist in high-value financial remedy cases"

Legal 500 2014

"He is regularly instructed on significant ancillary and financial relief cases, and is also noted for his expertise on Court of Protection matters relating to vulnerable clients. "He really looks after his solicitors and clients, going above and beyond the call of duty for them." "He has a powerful courtroom presence and is a robust advocate."

Chambers & Partners 2014

"is a favourite of instructing solicitors, who note that "he is consistently excellent with clients, is first-class in his preparation and is always prepared to make himself available."

Chambers & Partners 2013

"a hardworking, intelligent and thoroughly prepared barrister"

Legal 500 2012

"The extremely popular Timothy Spain represents high net worth individuals in matrimonial finance disputes with children law issues. He is acclaimed for his "excellent bedside manner and preparation."

Chambers & Partners 2012

"splits his practice between representing the local authority in care proceedings and handling high-value ancillary relief.
"You never go away from court thinking he's given you anything less than 110%," say those that instruct him"

Chambers & Partners 2011

"advises on particularly complex matters in a clear and pragmatic manner"

Legal 500 2010

"will fight his client's corner but always settles at the going rate"

Chambers & Partners 2010

"has the interests of his clients at heart". "You can't go wrong with him – he is easy to deal with yet knows when to take a stand." He focuses much of his workload on ancillary relief"

Chambers & Partners 2009

"is best known for ancillary relief proceedings with a strong commercial angle to them, although he does do some private children's cases. Spain scores points from solicitors for "quick turnaround times, thoroughly researched opinions and a good bedside manner"

Chambers & Partners 2008

"commercial, efficient and realistic"

Legal 500 2008

"thinks outside the box, he's energetic, good with clients, has a good understanding of financial issues on divorce"

Legal 500 2007

"He is a tough negotiator who also gives very clear and robust advice. A junior who instills confidence in clients and is strong on his feet"

Legal 500 2024