

Private FDR Team



Susan Grocott QC



Karen Brody



Archna Dawar



Susan Deas

Susan Grocott QC – 1986
(Silk 2008)
Karen Brody - 1986

Archna Dawar - 1996
Susan Deas - 1999

Clerk's details

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For more detailed information on all recommended counsel their full CV's and experience can be found on our website at www.deanscourt.co.uk

Deans Court Chambers would like to introduce you to our Private Financial Dispute Resolution Team.

The FDR appointment provides a Judge led opportunity to reach settlement.

FDRs have a high success rate – many cases settle at the FDR appointment or shortly afterwards. However, they have their limitations:

- Because court lists are increasingly congested, there is usually a considerable delay from the date of the FDA (First Directions Appointment) before the FDR takes place. In some Court centres the delay is up to 6 months.
- As with other court hearings, the parties have no power to choose who the Judge will be.
- Experience shows that, through no fault of their own, the Judges assigned to deal with FDRs have not always had the chance to read the papers and prepare fully for the hearing.
- Judges usually have several FDR appointments in their list on one day. This can lead to frustrating and expensive waiting time at Court.
- Not all Judges are specialist financial Judges and their indications may therefore be given less weight by experienced practitioners so the appointment may not be as helpful as it would be if an experienced specialist financial Judge (or lawyer) gave an indication.

The former President, Sir James Munby, is an advocate of the private FDR process, observing that: *“A private FDR is a simple concept. The parties pay for a financial remedy specialist to act as a private FDR Judge. That person may be a solicitor, barrister or retired judge. No additional qualification is required. The private FDR takes place at a time convenient to the parties, usually in solicitor’s offices or barristers chambers, and a full day is normally set aside to maximise the prospects of settlement. It takes the place of an in-Court FDR.”*

Deans Court Chambers have an experienced team of specialist financial practitioners who act as FDR evaluators. They can help the parties to reach a settlement or, if no settlement is achieved, enable the parties to move more quickly to Final Hearing.

As in a court FDR, the evaluator encourages the parties towards settlement and (unlike mediation) expresses a clear view on the likely outcome if the dispute were to go to court. However, there is no power to impose a settlement. Private FDRs offer great advantages:

They can happen before court proceedings are started or at any stage during the court process.

They will reduce delay between FDA and FDR. If a Final Hearing is envisaged, that can be listed at FDA on the basis that the parties intend to carry out a private FDR. The Final Hearing can then be vacated if the FDR results in settlement. The process can therefore be speeded up considerably.

The parties have the power to choose an evaluator in whom they and their lawyers have confidence.

The evaluator will have had the opportunity to read the papers in detail and prepare for the occasion.

The FDR can deal with all or any aspects of the dispute which the parties wish. Proceedings will be dealt with on a without prejudice basis.

The FDR can take place either at Deans Court Chambers or wherever else the parties wish. We have Chambers in both Manchester and Preston, offering first class facilities, which includes the use of video link facilities, if so required. Our evaluators are happy to travel to a solicitor's office or a neutral location such as a dedicated meeting room in a hotel or conference centre.

Refreshments and lunch will be provided and are included.

We are happy to offer a competitive fee quotation for the Private FDR service. For further information please contact our senior family team clerk, Andy Flannigan, on 0161 214 6012 or af@deanscourt.co.uk

Experience highlighted as follows:

	<p>Susan Grocott QC Call: 1986 (QC 2008) <i>Email: grocott@deanscourt.co.uk</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A Recorder in the Crown and County Courts since 2004• Deputy High Court Judge, Family Division since 2011• Vastly experienced Silk, with a reputation for a meticulous eye for detail and powerful straightforward advocacy.• Undertakes both financial remedy and ToLATA work.• Frequently receives instructions on high net worth cases.• Chambers UK reports that she is '<i>A leading practitioner in financial matters and the law relating to children. Instructing solicitors particularly appreciate her straightforward approach to cases. "She would be my first port of call. She is direct and has a down-to-earth approach to things which is not commonly found"</i>.
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Karen Brody

Call: 1986

Email: brody@deanscourt.co.uk

- A Recorder in the Crown and Family Courts since 2002.
- Over 30 years of experience in Matrimonial matters. Examples of her practice include acting:
- For a Husband who owned a large haulage business. Assets of £12m. Involved complex pension arrangements, in which a number of commercial and foreign properties were held. Their children intervened to seek the transfer of a number of residential properties (some of which were held in a FURBS pension scheme) into their names.
- For the Mother of a child born following a brief relationship with an international footballer, in her application for housing and income provision for the child.
- In a case involving one of the largest restaurant/leisure businesses in the UK. Complex accountancy issues as to valuation, liquidity and maintainable earnings.
- For a Husband whose ex Wife sought maintenance for herself, because she became unfit to work due to ill health caused by her pregnancy with her new partner's child.
- The legal directories describe her as:

"Highly respected for her work in the private child and matrimonial finance spaces. She is especially proficient at handling disputes involving hidden, dissipated or missing assets. "Smart and can assimilate a huge amount of information in such a short time; she is fantastic in court." "She is very experienced and very good with clients as she is calming, practical and straightforward."

"Receives widespread praise for her Financial remedy practice. Sources single her out for her incisive grasp of the issues and pragmatic negotiation skills. "She oozes experience and possesses really sound judgement." "A strident and formidable advocate with excellent client care skills."



Archana Dawar

Call: 1996

Email: dawar@deanscourt.co.uk

- Deals with complex high value financial remedy cases.
- Regularly acts for high profile professionals from many fields, as well as top sports people and media and entertainment personalities.
- Common features of her cases involve businesses, farms and properties located out of the jurisdiction.
- Deals with cases concerning businesses/shareholdings of all types including property development, retail and manufacturing.
- Handles cases involving discretionary trusts, inherited assets and foreign property
- Experienced in cases involving multiple properties with third party ownership requiring determination of beneficial interests as preliminary points;
- Chambers and Partners speaks of somebody who *“Handles complicated children matters as well as high-value financial remedy work, and has a solid reputation for advising on cross-cultural issues. She is experienced at taking on cases concerning cohabitation and property division. “An excellent advocate, who is always thoroughly prepared.” “She is very easy to work with as she’s very responsive, very personable and great with clients. She is pragmatic in her advice”*



Susan Deas

Call: 1999

Email: deas@deanscourt.co.uk

- Hugely experienced in the field of financial remedy as a barrister and previously as a solicitor
- Undertakes cases where assets are substantial and complex or more modest, giving them all the same focus
- Known for her directness of approach and pragmatism
- Chambers UK states that she is *‘Experienced in matrimonial finance claims, and has significant knowledge in matters concerning trusts, assets and businesses.’*

“Provides advice on financial remedy matters arising from divorce and relationship breakdowns, regularly acting for high net worth individuals. She is additionally able to handle private children cases. “She is fantastic on finances.” “Very good with the details and always does a good job.”