

Dawson Cornwell Newsletter

February 2010

About us

Dawson Cornwell is one of the UK's leading specialist family law firms. The firm is ranked highly for matrimonial finance and came top in cross border children work in the Chambers Guide to the UK Legal Profession 2010. The Guide describes the firm as "an elite practice with exceptional levels of understanding and experience". Many of the partners have been individually mentioned. The firm has also been ranked in the Legal 500 UK 2009.

The firm

We are excited to welcome Lucy Marks who has recently joined the firm. Lucy qualified in 2001 and has, since then, been practising matrimonial law in Central London. She specialises in ancillary relief and private children cases. She read French and Spanish at Cambridge University and her appointment increases the number of foreign language speaking lawyers at the firm.



Divorce rates decline

New statistics recently published show that the number of couples getting divorced is dropping. The report, published by the Office for National Statistics, shows that the number of divorces dropped by 5% in 2008 to 121,779 from 128,232 in 2007. However, the figures do not include the number of cohabiting couples who separate.

Launch of German website



We are delighted to announce the launch of our website in German. The launch was marked by a drinks celebration at the Old

Council Chamber of the Law Society and was attended by many. The website will help to consolidate the firm's presence in Germany. The firm provides advice on the impact of German law and undertakes cross jurisdictional work involving Germany. Advice can be obtained from Ishtar Khalaf-Newsome, a solicitor who joined the firm in 2005. Ishtar has a BA/MA in German and English from the University of Berlin and her mother tongue is German.

Recent changes in the law

The High Court, in the recent case of Imerman v Tchenguiz, has held that a business tycoon's estranged wife was able to use 20,000 documents stolen from his computer. Although the High Court judge condemned the wife's behaviour, he found that it was too late to stop her using the illegally seized documents (save for some which were privileged). The case is the latest to expose the dangers of self seizure of documents in divorce battles.

