



# MATTHEW O'GRADY

Barrister Arbitrator Mediator

**HOLMES LIST**  
BARRISTERS

**Matt has practised exclusively as a Family Law barrister for 16 years, having been called to the Bar of England & Wales in 2010 and the Victorian Bar in 2021.**

He has been recognised as a leading Family Law barrister in Australia since beginning his practice in 2021 and continues to be recognised in the English legal directories as a leading Family Law barrister.

Matt's expertise is in the division of property after separation and parenting disputes. He is briefed to advise and appear in cases involving disputes about equitable interests in property, trusts and commercial issues, including Corporations Act oppression claims. He appears in interlocutory and defended hearing in FCFCOA Registries across Australia.

Matt has extensive decision-making experience. When he is in England, Matt sits part-time as a Judge of the Family Court. He was first appointed in 2019. In January 2022 HM The Queen appointed Matt to be a Recorder hearing trials in the Family Court in cases about children and family property.

Matt has a unique background in professional sport as a former elite match official and is instructed to represent players from a wide range of sporting backgrounds before disciplinary panels and in other regulatory environments.

Matt arbitrates parenting and property disputes in England and is an Australian Nationally Accredited Arbitrator and Mediator.



## **Admissions**

2010	Bar of England & Wales
2018	Supreme Court of New South Wales
2018	New Zealand
2021	Victorian Bar

## **Legal Directories**

*"Leading Family Law Junior Counsel - Australia"* - Doyle's Guide

*"Leading Family Law Junior Counsel, Victoria"* - Doyle's Guide

*"Leading Family Law Mediator, Victoria"* - Doyle's Guide

*"Matthew is very thorough and organised, has a strong breadth of knowledge and confident representation in court setting. He always provides clear and succinct advice to clients, helping them sort the emotive issues from those issues which are relevant for the purposes of negotiating a settlement or preparing for a hearing."* - Legal 500 UK Bar

*"The set is recommended ...for the work of experienced counsel such as ... Matthew O'Grady undertaking complex matrimonial and financial disputes."* - Legal 500 UK Bar

*"A team player and consummate professional."* Legal 500 UK Bar

*"Leading junior: divorce and financial remedy."* - Legal 500 UK Bar

*"Leading junior: child law."* - Legal 500 UK Bar

## **Judicial Appointments**

2022 - Recorder (Family Court, England)

2021 - Deputy District Judge (Family Court & County Court, England)

2019 - Judge of the First-Tier Tribunal (fee-paid) (England)

## **Sports Background**

Matt has a considerable background in professional rugby. He was a professional referee in England and could often be spotted officiating on live television when not in Court. Matt refereed in the Gallagher and Aviva Premierships and Greene King IPA Championship. He officiated at the very highest levels of European Cup rugby and travelled across world. Amongst his officiating highlights are his involvement in Rugby World Cup 2015; refereeing the Army v Navy in front of a capacity 82,000 Twickenham crowd and his overseas trips including to; Japan, South Africa, USA, Malaysia and the Dubai 7s.

Matt now deploys his legal and sports law experience to sit as a judicial officer and tribunal chair for international and national sports governing bodies, including:

- The National Sports Tribunal
- World Rugby
- Rugby Australia
- Rugby Victoria
- Rugby Football Union
- European Professional Club Rugby (EPCR)
- Rugby Europe Disciplinary Committee
- Sport Resolutions Panel of Arbitrators & Mediators
- National Safeguarding Panel (UK)
- International Mixed Martial Arts Federation
- England Boxing Disciplinary Panel
- Professional Golf Association (PGA) European Tour
- The Football Association Judicial Panel
- The Football Association Safeguarding Review Panel
- British Equestrian

## **Papers & Publications**

*Reforming Forum Disputes (2021) AFL Vol 30*

*International Law Series Part 1: Where to divorce? Your clients' options in Anglo-Antipodean separations*

*International Law Series Part 2: Where to divorce? Forum for property disputes in Anglo-Antipodean separations*

*International Law Series Part 3: Where to divorce? Resolving forum disputes*

*Throw your enforcement orders on the barbie – lessons on domestic enforcement of private law children orders in Australia*

*Shared Parenting: Keeping welfare paramount by learning from mistakes*