3 Dawson Cornwell Firm profile

The Firm: Described by its clients as a “fantastic outfit,” Dawson Cornwell has a caseload of high net worth ancillary relief work, well represented by senior lawyers. It supplements matrimonial finance expertise with greater than average emphases on cross-jurisdictional issues and children’s law, the two of which come together in a market-leading niche practice in international child abduction. This international dimension is demonstrated by a dual-qualified Spanish lawyer and a Spanish-language web site, as well as French, German and Arabic-speaking lawyers. This large practice is “first-class for cross-border child issues,” and is “well renowned” for its work with foreign-born wives abandoned following the breakdown of arranged marriages.

The Lawyers: The formidable Anne-Marie Hutchinson OBE is held in very high esteem by the legal profession. “A first-rate lawyer who really knows her stuff on international child abduction,” she impresses clients with her “passionate, fighting commitment.” She also deals with less confrontational applications to remove children from a jurisdiction, and with domestic public and private law cases. With a similar work profile to Hutchinson, interviewees describe Helen Kings as “highly skilled, sensible and level headed.” On the matrimonial finance side, John Cornwell’s veteran’s experience is not crossed lightly. Actively involved in the collaborative movement, he is “a senior lawyer with senior cases.” Russell Bywater combines matrimonial finance with private law child work, and is noted for his interpersonal skills; clients report that he is “brilliant at getting facts sensitively.” Kate Allen also combines private child work with matrimonial finance, and is praised for her “dedication to clients.” Finally, the “proactive and exceptionally organised” Rhiannon Lewis specialises in matrimonial finance cases with a cross-jurisdictional element.