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DR JOHNSON'S BUILDINGS

Suki Johal

Suki is highly respected as an expert on matters of family law, particularly in relation to matrimonial finance and child custody.

Suki undertakes Direct Access Work in family law and inheritance cases and is accessible and thorough in her case preparation.

Suki secured a Middle Temple Harmsworth Law Scholarship in October 1990 for her year at Bar School.

Suki co-founded the Association of Asian Women Lawyers and was its Chair until November 2005 and is now its President. As part of her organisational duties every year she hosts a Diwali and Eid Dinner and Dance where a distinguished member of the judiciary will attend as a guest speaker.

In November 2005 she organised an Annual Dinner in aid of motor neurone disease at which Lord Justice Henry Brooke was the Guest Speaker. Suki managed to persuade a number of companies and restaurants to contribute by way of prizes for a raffle and auction prizes including Sir Richard Branson to donate two Upper Class tickets to Bombay or Delhi, Lufthansa German Airlines provided two Economy tickets anywhere on their worldwide network, Madhus Indian restaurant in Southall, Quillon Indian restaurant in Buckingham Gate and a £250 donation from BMW Cooper Croydon. The Charity event raised £3,550 and the MND Association have presented Suki with a Certificate of Achievement on behalf of the Association of Asian Women Lawyers.

In June 2002 she attended Her Majesty the Queen's Golden Jubilee Thanksgiving Service at St Paul's Cathedral by invitation of Buckingham Palace in recognition of her contribution as an Asian woman to the legal profession.

Suki is qualified to accept instructions under the Bar Council's Public Access scheme.



Deputy District Judge since 1st December 2005 assigned to the Surrey, Kent and Sussex regions (sitting as Deputy District Judge Waschkuhn).

sjohal@3djb.co.uk

Articles

[The Dowry in Law](#)

Qualifications

LLB (Hons)

Deputy District Judge since 1st December 2005 assigned to the Surrey, Kent and Sussex regions (sitting as Deputy District Judge Waschkuhn).

Professional Associations

Family Law Bar Association

Suki's practice covers the whole range of family law issues, including issues such as:

matrimonial finance and taxation including work with an international dimension
cases involving both "big money" and "small money" cases
freezing Orders

asian ancillary relief cases including adjudication of third party interests pursuant to *Tebbutt v. Haynes* [1981] 2 All ER 238 and *TL v ML* (Ancillary Relief: Claim against assets of extended family) [2006] 1 FLR 1263 principles

determination of beneficial interests of family members as a preliminary issue

short marriages including the determination of non-matrimonial assets and division of matrimonial assets in accordance with the principles enunciated in *Jones v Jones* [2011] 1 FLR 1723 and followed in *N v F* (Financial Orders: pre-acquired wealth) [2011]

EWHC 586 (Fam)
Schedule 1 of the Children Act 1989
ancillary relief involving a spouse from abroad
actions in the tort of conversion against in-laws pursuant to the Torts (Interference with Goods) Act 1977
determination of cases involving the application of Sharia Law
breach of confidentiality
defended divorces
questions over validity of marriage
application of foreign law
domicile and the presumption of marriage

Relevant Cases

Pazpena de Vire v Pazpena de Vire [2001] 1 FLR 460
Seminal case discussing the presumption of marriage and its validity.

Family: Children

interim and final hearings in both contact and residence disputes (including fact finding adjudication in domestic violence cases, child alienation, applications by third parties such as grandparents for contact and residence)
adoption including foreign adoptions
applications for leave to remove children from the jurisdiction (both permanently and for holidays)

Relevant Case

Re M (Leave to Remove Child from Jurisdiction) [1999] 2 FLR 334
Case concerning an application for leave to remove a child permanently from jurisdiction.

Inheritance & Probate

Suki has acted in a number of significant cases in this area ranging from contested wills and disputes relating to the administration of estates to applications under the Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependents) Act 1975. She regularly advises in relation to all contentious and non-contentious aspects of this area. Her contentious probate includes numerous cases involving diverse issues such as fraudulent wills.
Suki also advises in cases involving wills compliant with Sharia Law and has lectured extensively on the subject including for firms such as Mischoon de Reya.

Trusts

Suki accepts instructions to give advisory and practical work in this area on such matters as:
• issues arising under the Trusts (Appointment of Trustees) Act 1996
• implications of Stack v Dowden [2007] UKHL 17 and Kernott v Jones [2011] UKSC 53 in the event of family breakdown
• apportionment of the family home

Outside Interests

Theatre, opera, travelling, rambling, mountain climbing in the Alps, classical music, pop music, entertaining and cooking