



Report on Family Law in Ireland

Carol Coulter's (Irish Times Journalist) report on the family court system confirms, if such confirmation is needed, what we have all known for some time, that the court system for resolving family disputes is slow and inadequate. Ms Coulter recommends mediation and collaboration as alternative routes and argues that they should be compulsory ie family law clients should have to go those routes prior to applying to the court. We welcome the acknowledgement of collaboration as an alternative dispute resolution method.

Developments in England In the October English law gazette, it was reported that the biggest lawyers in England known as the Magic Circle had announced collectively that they were going to adopt the practise of collaboration in their family law cases from now on. Styling themselves as the Central London Collaborative Forum such legal luminaries as Charles Russell, Collyer Bristow, Manches, Farrer and Co, Napley and Clintons to mention a few, stated "Our launch will hopefully serve to rebut the notion that family lawyers who have historically acted in high-profile and high net-worth cases are wedded to an adversarial approach which all too often damage families". Such sentiments are truly to be welcomed. Let us hope doubting Thomases will follow suit here very soon!

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