



IAFL European Chapter Meeting
Barcelona, Spain
4 – 8 February 2026

Session Resources Pack

Technological Risks and Opportunities to our Practice: AI, Data Breaches, Cyber Security....Digital Editing. Tips and Traps

Saturday 7 February 2026

09:15 – 10:30

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KAREN O'LEARY

Senior Partner and Head of the Family Team
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Profile

Karen is qualified as a Solicitor in Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland and England & Wales and is an Advanced Advocate. She has been an IAFL fellow since 2011 and is a member of the IAFL European Management Committee.

She is a qualified mediator, a chartered arbitrator (finance) and a collaboratively trained lawyer.

Karen has particular expertise in family cases involving an international dimension in the three jurisdictions in which she is qualified. She deals with complex financial claims, children's matters and pre/post nuptial agreements.

In 2025 she was appointed to the (UK) Lord Chancellor's Advisory Committee on Private International Law.

She has been ranked Band 1 by Chambers for 11 years. Karen has been described in Chambers “I think Karen is head and shoulders above the rest. She's particularly well regarded in relation to complex HNW cases.”

Karen regularly presents and lectures on family law topics both nationally and internationally and is the author of both the Northern Ireland Chapter and Republic of Ireland Chapter of the Family Law “Blue Book” published by Thomson Reuters.

Outside of work, Karen enjoys travelling, walking, cold water swimming year round, reformer Pilates and reading.

PETER BURGESS

Burgess Mee Family Law

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England

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Profile

Peter co-founded Burgess Mee in 2013 after starting his legal career at Withersworldwide. With over 20 years' experience in family law, he is recognised as one of London's leading divorce lawyers advising on high-value financial cases and complex children matters, including international relocations. He is also an FMC Accredited Mediator.

His expertise has earned industry-wide recognition, including in Spear's, The Legal 500 and Chambers UK. He is a Fellow of the International Academy of Family Lawyers and serves on Resolution's National Committee.

Peter has acted in significant reported cases, including *Cazalet v Abu-Zalaf* [2023] and *AH v BH* [2024], and co-authored *International Trust and Divorce Litigation*. He also co-created resources such as [Within the Window](#) and [The Happy Co-Parent](#) to support clients who are navigating trauma and co-parenting.

RICHARD ABBEY

UK&I Forensic & Integrity Service Leader, EY, UK

London

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Profile

Richard Abbey leads the UK&I Forensic & Integrity Services Practice at EY. He is a Chartered Accountant with over 30 years' experience of helping clients manage reputationally or financially damaging events. Richard specialises in complex international investigations and disputes, international asset tracing investigations and strategic intelligence projects. He has a wealth of international experience having operated in over 20 jurisdictions. He has given expert evidence in courts in the UK, Ireland and Singapore. He is recognised as a leading expert in the Who's Who Legal guide to investigators and asset recovery experts.

Richard has also worked with many UHNW private clients helping to investigate, manage and remediate potential reputational issues. This work has led to him being recognised in the Spears Wealth index of top reputation managers in each of the last 6 years. He has written numerous articles for general and specialist media, been quoted as an expert in several publications and has appeared as an expert commentator on both television and radio.

DAVID SANCHEZ

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Profile

For 27 years Mr. Sanchez has represented clients in all manner of family law matters. He has extensive experience litigating high net worth cases and contested custody matters. From intake, each case is handled as if it will go to trial. Mr. Sanchez has found that this approach, coupled with decades of trial experience, leads to settlements in most instances. While cases are ongoing, Mr. Sanchez routinely engages the services of expert business valuators, accountants, tax and estate attorneys, financial planners, and counselors to provide clients with a comprehensive understanding of their case and to help plan for the future.

Mr. Sanchez is a Certified Fellow of the American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers (New York Chapter Board of Managers) and the International Academy of Family Lawyers. Mr. Sanchez has been selected as a "Super Lawyer" by Super Lawyers Magazine in both the upstate and New York Metro regions and has been named to the Buffalo Business First Legal Elite List.

Mr. Sanchez is admitted to practice in both New York and Florida and is a member of the New York State Bar Association, the Florida Bar Association, the New York City Bar Association, and the Erie County Bar Association. He received his JD from Nova Southeastern University in 1998 and his BA in History from St. Lawrence University in 1995. Mr. Sanchez lives in Manhattan with his wife and has a daughter in college. A lifelong Buffalo Bills fan, his interests include reading, travel and golf.