



## “2018 is shaping up to be a year of growth and sustainability”

Chambers has taken on new members, with the additions of Samantha Powis and Simon Burch joining a robust Criminal group, Martin Langston being a welcome addition to a prospering Civil group, Rebecca Cross joining an established and busy Family group and Nicholas Allen QC joining the Family Finance group as a door tenant. Details of all our new members are included within this newsletter. St Ives Chambers recognises the key to staying ahead is to keep abreast of the rising challenges facing the legal community.



*Jeremy Weston QC*

This includes cyber security, technology in the work place, increased competition and the problems facing the publicly funded Bar. Despite these obstacles, St Ives Chambers aims positively to react and embrace changing conditions, widen the scope for opportunity and overcome all emerging challenges that the Bar faces. Chambers continues to welcome new members, celebrate the appointments of existing members and achieve recognition across the legal community.

I am confident 2018 will be a success both for us and our clients.

**Jeremy Weston QC, Head of Chambers**



## Four members of chambers have been appointed as Recorders

We are delighted to announce that four members of chambers have been appointed as Recorders. Head of Chambers, Jeremy Weston QC, Timothy Bowe, Andrew Day and Matthew Maynard will all sit as Recorders in the Family Court. They are amongst 133 new Recorders appointed nationwide, from 2,425 applicants.

Deputy Head of Chambers, Gregory Rogers, said “These appointments are wonderful news for both the new Recorders, and for chambers. To have four family Recorders appointed in a single round is unprecedented for chambers and shows the unrivalled strength that we display in our Family Team. There have only been 32 Recorders appointed in this round nationwide to sit in the Family Court, so to have four of them drawn from a single chambers is testament to the quality of our members. I am delighted to offer each of them the warmest of congratulations on behalf of all members of chambers, and I am certain that they will all thrive in their new roles.”

Jeremy Weston QC is deployed to the South Eastern Circuit and will sit at the Central Family Court. Timothy Bowe is deployed to the Northern Circuit. Matthew Maynard and Andrew Day are both deployed to the Western Circuit.



All of our new Recorders continue to practise from chambers.

## Jeremy Weston QC has been awarded Birmingham Law Society Barrister of the Year

In March, Head of Chambers, Jeremy Weston QC was awarded Barrister of the Year by the Birmingham Law Society.

“This award is testament to Jeremy’s abilities as an advocate, his standing within the legal community and leadership of St Ives Chambers which continues to flourish despite the many changes the legal sector faces. We are delighted for him,” commented by Greg Rogers, Deputy Head of Chambers.



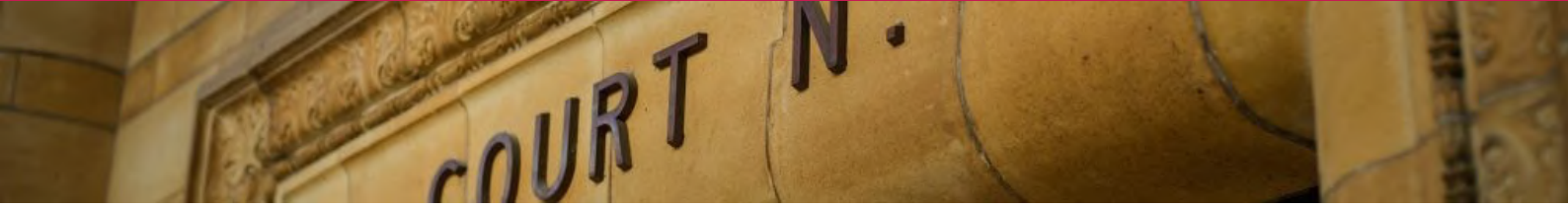
Jeremy Weston QC with his award

## The award for the Legal 500 UK Silk of the Year (regions and Scotland) has been awarded to Elizabeth Isaacs QC

Elizabeth Isaacs QC has been awarded the Legal 500 UK Silk of the Year award for the regions. “The care and compassion she has for her clients and her determination to challenge the law when needed is indicative of her incredible reputation within the family law arena. Family law is an important part of the work of St Ives Chambers and we continue to go from strength to strength,” comments Jeremy Weston QC.



Elizabeth Isaacs QC



## Following a landmark case in 2016, the process to amend The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008 is now underway

In 2016 Elizabeth Isaacs QC and Adem Muzaffer, from St Ives Chambers, and Natalie Gamble and her team from NGA Law challenged the law in relation to single parent surrogacy. The remedial order formed part of a Command Paper issued on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2017 and will result in Parliament reviewing The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008.

The case was brought by a single man who had fathered a child via a surrogate in the USA. When he applied to the Family Court for a Parental Order, as required through The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008, he was denied as the law required the application to be made by “two people”.

Ms Isaacs QC, working with Adem Muzaffer and Natalie Gamble, argued that this was discriminatory interference with a single person’s rights to a private and family life via the European Convention of Human Rights.

Furthermore, Ms Isaacs QC argued that if an individual’s marital status is ‘single’, this was a status within the meaning of article 14 of the Convention.

In summary, The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act 2008 was incompatible with the European Convention on Human Rights and the Human Rights Act, as it discriminated against single individuals.

The 60-day period of scrutiny of the remedial order to mend the Act is now underway and will take in the views from stakeholders, which will include St Ives Chambers and NGA Law.

“We are delighted that the longstanding and unfair discrimination against single parents and their children is coming to an end”

“Scrutiny of the law is an important part of the work that QCs and barristers undertake,” commented Elizabeth Isaacs QC, “We have highlighted a discrepancy between the UK and EU law which resulted in a biological father being legally estranged from his child. I am delighted that the remedial order and Command paper are being issued and brought up-to-date to mirror the diversity that exists within modern UK family structures.”



Elizabeth Isaacs QC



Adem Muzaffer



## The Chancery and Commercial Group is further strengthened by new member



### Martin Langston

In January, we welcomed Martin Langston to Chambers. Mr Langston is a specialist Chancery & Commercial practitioner with experience in complex and high value claims. He has developed a busy and varied litigation practice, routinely appearing at the business and property courts throughout England and Wales. His areas of expertise include; Property litigation, Contractual and commercial litigation, Partnership and business disputes, Technology and Construction, Company law and insolvency.

To view his full CV, [click here](#).

## The Crime team welcomes two new members

St Ives' Crime team continues to grow from strength to strength and have recently welcomed two new members to the team.



### Samantha Powis

Ms Powis is a specialist criminal practitioner who has been instructed in a wide variety of serious criminal cases on behalf of defence and prosecution (Grade 4 Panel Advocate). She is experienced in dealing with all types of crime including homicide and other non-fatal offences against the person, drugs, fraud and other offences of dishonesty. Her experience in allegations of sexual offences against adults and children means she is fully conversant with the relevant disclosure/public immunity issues.

To view her full CV, [click here](#).



### Simon Burch

Mr Burch joined Chambers from practicing in a leading Legal 500 set in London. Having been the partner in a firm of solicitors, he has also gained valuable experience in client care and has a full understanding of the legal process from arrest through to trial. His practice incorporates all areas of crime with particular experience in sex cases, drug matters and violence. Matters involving electronic evidence are a specialism for him. He also has experience in PII and disclosure matters.

To view his full CV, [click here](#).



## The Family Finance team welcome a new door tenant to chambers



### Nicholas Allen QC

The members of the Family Finance Team are delighted to announce that Nicholas Allen QC has joined chambers as a door tenant. Nicholas, who took Silk in the 2018 appointments, joins chambers with immediate effect and is available to accept instructions in all matters involving matrimonial finance. Having joined St Ives, Nicholas is the only financial remedy specialist Silk working out of Birmingham.

To view his full CV, [click here](#).

## Rebecca Cross joins the Family team



### Rebecca Cross

Rebecca is regularly instructed on behalf of local authorities, parents (including those with learning difficulties) and guardians in public law proceedings and also has a wide range of experience in family finance matters. She receives instructions in private law proceedings acting for both parents and children (through their rule 16.4 guardian) in complex welfare cases, finding of fact hearings and appeals. Rebecca is known as a tenacious advocate both inside and outside of court

To read her CV in full [click here](#).

## Family Group: Law Update (Spring 2018)

The latest edition of the Update from the Family Children Group was issued in February. In this edition, our Family team explored:

- Back to the Future: e-bundles
- Care Crisis Review – Participate!
- Ehlers-Danlos Syndromes: A handy guide for family lawyers
- Immunisations for children in care: the correct approach

To download a copy [click here](#). If you would like to receive updates and newsletters from the Family team, please email [christine.doyle@stiveschambers.co.uk](mailto:christine.doyle@stiveschambers.co.uk).

## Dates for your diary

### Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2018

**Private Law Seminar Programme:** Relocation.

*Please note this seminar is full – to be added on to the reserve list or to receive information on future events please contact [david.walters@stiveschambers.co.uk](mailto:david.walters@stiveschambers.co.uk)*

### Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2018

**Family Finance Seminar Series:** The last 12 months - a round-up of law, practice and procedure in Financial Remedy proceedings.

### Friday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2018

**The Charity Challenge Cup 2018 Annual Family Team Quiz:** This year's annual charity quiz will be held at 5.30pm at The Studio in Birmingham. This year we are supporting Birmingham Children's Hospital.

### Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2018

**Private Law Seminar Programme:** Fact Find Hearings and Challenging Section 7 Reports. *Please note this seminar is full – to be added on to the reserve list or to receive information on future events please contact [david.walters@stiveschambers.co.uk](mailto:david.walters@stiveschambers.co.uk)*

### Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2018

**Annual Housing Conference**

### Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2018

**The Child Care Conference 2018 (CCC2018)** will be held at Edgbaston Cricket Ground – more details in our next newsletter.

For further details on the events mentioned and for information on how to reserve a place, please visit our website [www.stiveschambers.co.uk](http://www.stiveschambers.co.uk)

## Legal updates and articles

You can keep up to date with legal updates and articles via our website. In recent weeks, our members have published the following:

**Housing Law Update: Burden of proof in priority need homelessness cases – Rother District Council v Freeman-Roach [2018] EWCA Civ 368** by Jane Talbot.

**Housing Law Update: Section 11 Children Act 2004 is it a valid defence in possession proceedings? – Davies v Hertfordshire County Council [2018] EWCA Civ 379** by Jane Talbot.

**Housing Law Update: Gas Safety Certificates - Caridon Property Ltd v Monty Shoolz** by James Byrne.

**'Who judges the Judges?'** Judith Trustman puts forward a case for reform.

**'LMH v Mensah – Approved Judgment'** by Tom Harrill.

**'Awards of Statutory Interest: A Broad Brush'** by Michelle Caney.

## Life as a pupil barrister

Every month one of our pupils reflects on their experience as a pupil barrister, to read the latest blog please [click here](#).



*Eleanor Lake and Gareth-Lee Smith*

# Aadhithya Anbahan Pegasus Scholarship 2017



**During October and November last year, Aadhithya Anbahan spent time in the US. Below is a summary of her experiences of the US legal system.**

“My travels have landed me based out of an apartment in the Dupont Circle/Adams Morgan area of Washington D.C. just a stone’s throw from the intrigue of the White House. That being said, I spent most of my time travelling out of state, to Delaware, Florida and California, in order to meet a variety of incredibly interesting individuals and to sit in on some fascinating work being done this side of the Pond.

“The first week I was there, my fellow scholar and I had the opportunity to meet and speak with both the recently appointed Solicitor General of the USA and senior officials at the department of justice regarding an array of matters relating to the conduct of criminal litigation in the USA and the policies that were likely to influence prosecutorial focus for the current administration. The following week I was fortunate enough to attend a debriefing at the FBI headquarters in Florida provided by Special Agents in the cyber, terrorism and violent crime units. This preceded a meeting with the Orlando SWAT team who had been the responders to the tragic Pulse nightclub shooting in 2016, followed by a conference with the Federal Judge who will be hearing the forthcoming trial of the shooter’s wife and alleged accomplice.

“Our trip to L.A. involved extensive time with Public Defenders, US Attorney’s and District Attorney’s comparing and contrasting the practice of criminal law across our jurisdictions. At various meetings I had the opportunity to address numerous attorneys and judges on the British legal system and how its merits and flaws compared to the American one. The once in a lifetime opportunity to attend the Celebration of Excellence hosted by Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan at the Supreme Court, will probably be a story I continue to tell at dinner parties for some years to come!

“Needless to say the latter half of my Pegasus Scholarship to the USA was as equally interesting as the former half. Whilst the first three weeks was a whirlwind tour between Washington D.C., Delaware, Florida and California, the final three weeks were based almost entirely in Washington and the neighbouring boroughs of Virginia and Maryland.

“This latter part of the Pegasus scholarship, which funded this trip, was filled with international crime, military law and a fantastic array of political meetings, unique to D.C. My co-scholar and I had the opportunity to meet with Public Defenders in Alexandria and review the case files for Zacarias Moussaoui, the man originally believed to be the notorious “20th 9/11 hijacker.” This meeting led to the opportunity of sitting in on the much publicised trial of Abu Khattala, the so-called “Benghazi bomber,” in the D.C. criminal courts, alongside being able to see him in his holding cells at the Alexandria Sheriff’s department and meet with the officers who have been providing the high security detail for him throughout the litigation process.



# Aadhithya Anbahan Pegasus Scholarship 2017



“A personal highlight of the whole trip was a full day spent at the Pentagon speaking with senior generals in the Judge Advocate General (JAG) core, who are essentially the legal division of the US Armed forces. This was a fascinating day and included us speaking with former US Ambassadors, alongside Military death penalty defenders regarding their current and past cases, as well as various legal and political matters. The opportunity to meet with the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeal for Veterans Claims and later a number of prosecutors in military cases in Guantanamo, further cemented the value of the experience.

“Another “bucket-list” moment for me, and I imagine would be for many lawyers, was the opportunity to see a case argued before the U.S. Supreme Court. The calibre of advocacy and witnessing the sparring between the heavy-weights of the Judiciary and their equivalent attorney’s was absolutely incredible. Regardless of the fact that this was a bankruptcy case dealing with a very specific provision within the code, perhaps as far from my practice as feasible, it was absolutely riveting. Sitting down with Supreme Court Justice Neil Gorsuch, the latest addition to the bench, was an added bonus alongside getting the insider tour of the building including a viewing of the “highest court in the land” aka the Supreme Court indoor Basketball Court.



“Towards the end of the scholarship I was privileged enough to meet with a number of congress-people and senators, visit both the House of Representatives and Senate including a very House of Cards-esque journey through the underground tunnels between the buildings.

Meeting with the co-chair of the Republican National Committee who pioneered a large part of President Trump’s campaign turned out to be a fascinating hour. A behind-the-scenes tour of CNN studios during the evening before the November 2017 Gubernatorial elections also marks a highlight.

“When I left for the USA, I was incredibly worried that two months away from my practice might leave me somewhat de-skilled and that the experience might not be worth the weeks away from the Bar. I cannot quite express how wrong I was. Having returned full steam back to the West Midlands, those months were an incredible time in my life. Needless to say, seeing the Americans do it for two months has made me hugely appreciate our legal system and ensured that my return to the UK has been much looked forward to!”

