

Background & Experience

Simon Jefferson has had more than 33 years' legal experience specialising primarily in family law since 1983. After 20 years as a partner with Shieff Angland (where he led a family law team renowned for its ability and from which has emerged many leading family law practitioners), he left to practice at the independent bar in June 2006. He was elevated to the status of Queen's Counsel in 2013.

Simon has appeared in the Family Court, the High Court and the Court of Appeal. A number of his cases feature in the Law Reports and he is particularly noted for his appellate advocacy.

Appointed a Fellow of the International Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers in 2005, he was also an Executive Member of the Family Law Section of the New Zealand Law Society from 2001 to 2008 and has presented many seminars and papers for the New Zealand Law Society (including CYPF Act 1989, CYFPF Act 1995, and Evidence in the Family Court 2005). Simon is a member of the NZ Bar Association, of LawAsia and of the Australian Family Law Section. He has been an enrolled solicitor in the UK since 1989.

Simon chaired the New Zealand Family Law Conferences in 2004 and 2006. Between 2001 and 2005 he led the faculty created by the New Zealand Law Society to train lawyers for appointment as legal representatives of children in the Family Court. He is editor of the Practice and Procedure Manual for Thomson Brookers. He has also contributed to a number of publications including the Ethics in Practice Guide (A Guide for Counsellors), and presented papers at conferences in New Zealand, the United States, Australia and Cambodia. Simon is also much in demand as a speaker at conferences, seminars and training sessions.

Simon was the legal advisor to the New Zealand Association of Counsellors from 1990 to 2010, is currently honorary advisor to the New Zealand Christian Counsellors' Association, and has been a Member of the Court of Arbitration for Sport since 2004. He has been chair of the New Zealand Football Appeals Committee for some years. He advises a number of community organisations on a pro bono basis and in 2010 chaired the New Zealand Football Competition Review. In 2017 he was elected a Life Member of Bay Olympic FC.