

Fiona Shackleton, Family partner at Payne Hicks Beach features in The Spear's 500 2019 Directory and is ranked for Family Lawyers in the "Top Ten Family Lawyers" list as "eminence grise", first published November 2018



The Spear's 500

Family Lawyers

# THE LEADING FAMILY LAWYERS OF 2019

## TOP TEN FAMILY LAWYERS

### TOP TEN FAMILY LAWYERS

Fiona Shackleton *Payne Hicks Beach*



Fiona Shackleton  
*Payne Hicks Beach*

*Eminence grise*

FIRM SIZE UK

FOCUS *Big-money divorces, celebrity marriage breakdown*

'I'm the ghost of Christmas past and these are the ghosts of Christmas present and Christmas future,' says Fiona Shackleton as she enters the main boardroom at Payne Hicks Beach. She gestures at her team: associates Ben Parry-Smith (since promoted to partner), Catherine Costley, Vicky de'Sanna and Emilie Helm, and solicitors Camellia Buckmaster and Victoria Hingston (both now associates). Ignore anyone who tells you the Baroness of Belgravia spends all her time in the House of Lords: Shackleton, whose clients have included Prince Charles and Paul McCartney, remains impressively active in the law. 'Her honesty and integrity are legendary, and coupled with her acute mastery of the law leave her in an unparalleled position as the top divorce lawyer in London,' says Nicholas Cusworth QC, who has been instructed by and against Shackleton over the years. But it's probably true to say Magic Circle teams are rarely spoken of. Not so with Shackleton: keen to ensure her team receives sufficient credit, she leaves. 'I've been instructed both by and against Baroness Shackleton in some properly difficult cases over the years,' says a peer. 'Her tactical nous in the biggest cases puts her head and shoulders above all of her principal rivals, whether in the strategic manoeuvring that accompanies most heavyweight financial claims, or in her use of the softer skills required to ensure an optimum outcome in issues around her clients' children.'