

Comments from **Simon Beccle, Family Partner at Payne Hicks Beach** feature in the article concerning Divorce law: new 'no fault' legislation in the highly unusual contested divorce between his client, Tini Owens and her husband, Hugh Owens first published in LexisNexis online on 10 April 2019 and reproduced with kind permission.

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Simon Beccle
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TINI OWENS WELCOMES DIVORCE LAW REFORM

A woman whose high-profile divorce battle led to intensified calls for reform has welcomed planned law changes.

Tini Owens had told judges that she was unhappy and that her 40-year marriage had broken down irretrievably. But her husband Hugh Owens did not agree to divorce and the Supreme Court last year ruled against Mrs Owens.

"This announcement is welcomed by Tini Owens, in particular," said lawyer Simon Beccle, who is based at law firm Payne Hicks Beach and represented Mrs Owens during her case.

"She hopes that no-one else will have to go through the long and painful process she has had to endure, as required by the current law.

"She looks forward to new divorce law which is fit for the 21st century."

Mr and Mrs Owens had married in 1978 and lived in Broadway, Worcestershire, judges had heard.

Mrs Owens petitioned for divorce in 2015 after moving out.

Supreme Court justices ruled against her in July 2018 after a hearing in London.

One, Lord Wilson, said justices had ruled against Mrs Owens "with reluctance".

He said the "question for Parliament" was whether the law governing "entitlement to divorce" remained "satisfactory".

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