



The Baroness Shackleton of Belgravia LVO
Partner, Family

Holding out for a zero

We take a look at five of the UK's largest divorce settlements...

1. PRINCESS HAYA & SHEIKH MOHAMMED AL MAKTOUM (£554 million)

December 2021 saw the High Court award Princess Haya bint Hussein, a half-sister of Jordan's King Abdullah, a record-breaking £554 million settlement against Dubai ruler Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum. This included an upfront £250 million cash payment to cover lifetime security for her two children, described by Mr Justice Moor as necessary given the 'grave risk' to them.

The proceedings made headlines globally after the High Court found the Sheikh had used hacking software to target the phones of the princess and Baroness Shackleton of Belgravia, who represented her. Shackleton's deft handling of the case earned her the title of *Spears*' Family Lawyer of the Year. The payout included £1.9 million for a kitchen extension and pizza oven, while £1.3 million was earmarked for private plane travel.

2. TATIANA AKHMEDOVA & FARKHAD AKHMEDOV (£453 million)

In 2016 the High Court ruled that Tatiana

Kirsty Roper and Swiss tycoon Ernesto Bertarelli



Sheikh Mohammed Al Maktoum and Princess Haya

Akhmedova should receive £453 million from Azerbaijani energy magnate and sometime politician Farkhad Akhmedov. The case was reportedly settled for £150 million in July 2021, including a cash payment of £100 million and a smattering of artworks worth £50 million. As a result of Akhmedov's efforts to move money and assets out of his wife's reach, Akhmedova had tried to seize the couple's £300 million superyacht, which was originally made for Roman Abramovich.

The couple met in 1989, with a divorce petition issued 25 years later by Akhmedov, who contested that the marriage had ended in earnest in the early 2000s, although the High Court did not agree. Mrs Justice Knowles said the couple were among the 'unhappiest ever to have appeared in my courtroom'.

3. KIRSTY ROPER & ERNESTO BERTARELLI (£400 million)

Former Miss UK and pop star Kirsty Roper, who wrote All Saints' chart-topping 2000 song 'Black Coffee', was last year awarded a £400 million payout after a two-decade marriage to Swiss philanthropist and biotech tycoon Ernesto Bertarelli, whose worth was recently estimated by Bloomberg to be near \$30 billion. The settlement included £350 million in cash and assets as well as a £52 million mansion.

Roper, who was also represented by Baroness Shackleton, was thought to have signed a prenup before marrying Bertarelli at the turn of the millennium. Her family are widely known as the manufacturers of Churchill China, based in Stoke-on-Trent.

4. JAMIE COOPER-HOHN & SIR CHRIS HOHN (£337 million)

In 2014 Jamie Cooper-Hohn was granted a post-marital payout of £337 million from Sir Chris Hohn, a third of the fortune he accumulated as a hedge-fund manager. The couple, who have four children, jointly founded and ran the Children's Investment Fund Foundation, and together gave away £1 billion from their shared fortune. Hohn once described himself in court as an 'unbelievable moneymaker', while his legal team argued he made a 'special contribution' to the couple's combined wealth. Cooper-Hohn, meanwhile, told the court she had worked long hours for their shared charitable enterprise. The couple married in 1995, after meeting as students of Harvard Business School, and divorced in 2012.

5. CHRISTINA ESTRADA & SHEIKH WALID JUFFALI (£75 million)

Christina Estrada entered proceedings with the aim of securing £196 million of Sheikh Walid Juffali's £4 billion fortune, claiming £60 million would be needed for a new London home (the duo jointly owned a converted church in Knightsbridge worth that same figure), five cars spread transatlantically and a £1 million clothes budget. Estrada also requested £40,000 annually to spend on fur coats. Overall, the former supermodel obtained assets during the split totalling around £75 million. Saudi businessman Juffali died weeks after the 2016 proceedings concluded. 



Christina Estrada, ex of the late Sheikh Walid Juffali

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