

Susan Warda

Partner at Mills Oakley Lawyers
Family Law Accredited Specialist
Parenting Coordinator
Collaborative Family Lawyer

"I understand the issues my clients are facing. I've walked in their shoes, and I know the value of honest, accurate advice and a timely response."

Susan Warda

Expertise

- Complex Property & Financial Settlements
- Collaborative Family Law
- De-facto Relationship Breakdown
- Divorce & Separation
- Binding Financial Agreements
- High Conflict Disputes Involving Mental Health Disorders
- Hague Convention Applications
- Parenting Coordination
- Parenting Arrangements
- Child Support Matters



Highly Experienced Family Lawyer

With extensive expertise in family law matters that involve complex financial issues, including property settlements dealing with family businesses, multiple assets and superannuation splitting, Susan is highly regarded for her professionalism and discreet approach to client matters. After working with numerous high profile and high net worth individuals including Australians living overseas as well as international clients, she has gained a reputation for achieving the best possible results for her clients, in some of the most difficult and challenging situations.

Untangling Complex Situations

Susan's lengthy experience as a Board member with several industry groups and not-for-profit organisations has consolidated her understanding of how business works, and she is able to apply this knowledge to family law matters when required. Her ability to untangle family business arrangements and complex financial structures is highly valued by clients and other professional advisers that she works with, including accountants and financial planners.

As well as property and financial issues, Susan also acts for parents involved in parenting disputes including Hague Convention Applications for international child abduction, and a variety of complex matters concerning parenting arrangements, child support and de-facto relationship cases.

Leading by Example

Susan's achievements have seen her named again as a Recommended Family Lawyer (Sydney) by Best Lawyers, a Recommended Sydney Family & Divorce Lawyer and as a Leading Family Lawyer (High-Value and Complex Property Matters) in the prestigious Doyle's Guide.

During her time at Mills Oakley, Susan's leadership of the Sydney Family Law team has resulted in substantial growth of the practice and the recruitment of highly experienced lawyers with skills that complement both the team and the client base. She is also highly regarded as a mentor and has shared her knowledge and expertise with other team members to develop a strong, and highly successful, group of dynamic, up-and-coming family lawyers.

Compassionate, understanding, pragmatic and tenacious, Susan is the voice of reason and the advocate you need in any family dispute.

Recognition & Appointments

- Named on Best Lawyers and Doyle's Guide Lists (multiple times)
- Woman Lawyer of the Year in Private Practice 2013, Women Lawyers Association of NSW
- Board Member, Australian Association of Collaborative Professionals
- Founding Member, Greater Sydney Collaborative Family Lawyers
- Member, Australian Institute of Company Directors (AICD)
- Chair, Variety Asia Pacific Regional Council
- Board Member, Variety International the Children's Charity
- Board VP, Collaborative Professionals NSW Inc 2017
- Past Chair of the Austlaw Board

Contact

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Mental Illness and Family Law Disputes

In many instances, families experiencing separation and divorce are directly impacted by serious mental health and personality disorders. Over her years in practice, Susan has gained significant experience managing high conflict disputes in which one, or both, parties have been diagnosed with a personality disorder and understands the complexities of the situation. She is able to draw on this experience to recommend the most effective approach to dispute resolution and then implement strategies to effectively reduce conflict and allow clients to achieve the best possible outcome.

Expertise in Alternative Dispute Resolution

With a pragmatic and results-focused approach, Susan also played a pioneering role in the introduction of Collaborative Law to New South Wales, a practice that aims to resolve matters through direct negotiation between the parties concerned and their lawyer. She became one of the first fully trained collaborative lawyers in Sydney, was a founding member of the Greater Sydney Collaborative Family Lawyers network and is a board member of the Collaborative Professionals NSW Inc. She is well recognised for her considerable success in family dispute resolution and her ability to resolve disputes without resorting to costly and time-consuming litigation. Susan completed her mediation training at Bond University in 2004.

Parenting Coordination Services

Susan has extensive experience in resolving complex family law matters outside of the Court system and is passionate about minimising the impact of post-separation conflict on children. She is one of only a handful of trained Parenting Coordinators in the Sydney region, offering her services to parents who are finding it difficult to co-parent post separation due to conflict. Using her skills and expertise as both a mediator and family lawyer Susan is able to work with the parents to educate, inform, and nurture healthier communication and relationships. During her years as an Independent Children's Lawyer, Susan has also represented children in cases that are highly emotive, looking after their best interests and acting as their 'voice' in the matter while striving for the best possible outcome.