

Jennifer Belli

born 22.01.1986

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British, Swiss and Canadian national.

Summary

Through my hands-on activity in the files assigned to me as a 4-year post-qualification experienced associate solicitor, I acquired strong strategy and crisis management experience. I am currently orientating my work and further professional development towards a specialisation in domestic and international family law and estate planning, and I am fascinated by the wider social impact of familial issues on children. My current employer's international clientele was enhanced through my bilingualism, as my daily work is conducted in both English and French. Having successfully completed the Qualified Lawyers Transfer Scheme (QLTS) assessments, I was admitted to the Roll of solicitors of England and Wales in June 2017. In October 2017, I was invited to be one of the Swiss speakers in the Family law commission panel of the *Union Internationale des Avocats (UIA)* during its annual congress held in Toronto.

Work experience

- February 2013 - present:** Associate lawyer to Me Vincent Spira, within Bory & Associés, Avocats, a seven-partner law firm. I have so far handled:
- Family law cases:
 - Negotiations between two British spouses living respectively in Switzerland and England regarding the jurisdiction in which the petition was to be filed (own client)
 - Litigation and negotiations related to child arrangement and contact orders, including issues having arisen after the relocation of the guardian parent abroad
 - Child maintenance disputes
 - Litigation between high-net worth individuals with complex issues related to spousal support and the distribution of an internationally held estate valued in total at more than CHF 5 million
 - Private client cases:
 - International dispute regarding the enforcement of a will expressing the deceased's wishes for the resting place of his remains
 - Court appointed solicitor for an elderly person who had no relatives to challenge an order placing them in a home on the grounds of them allegedly being a danger to themselves and others if living alone
 - Trust:
 - Advising a company active in trust work
- September 2010 - October 2012:** Trainee-lawyer, within the OHER & Associates law firm in Geneva, under the supervision of Me Christian Reiser, attorney-at-law.

August- September 2009: Pre-lawyer training internship with OHER & Associates (Geneva).

Interests

November 2013 – present: Pro-bono work with the “Courir...Ensemble” (www.courirensemble.ch) charity, aiming to improve the daily life of children suffering from cancer. I act as its legal counsel and help families struggling with legal and administrative issues, including:

- Securing a place in an adapted school for a child who had become blind after battling a brain tumour when the Government failed to provide appropriately.
- Securing legal aid funding for families.

Other: Music, literature and poetry, the natural world, skiing and running.

Education

2017: Admitted to the Roll of solicitors of England and Wales on June 15th, 2017 and subsequently joined the Law society

2017: Attended: the UIA training course: “*Broadening horizons – contemporary family law issues in the international field*” held on March 27th and 28th, 2017, at the offices of Farrer & Co (London)

2017: Became a member of the *Union Internationale des Avocats* (March 2017)

2016: Attended: “*Further professional development day on pension sharing in divorce: an important reform*” held on November 8th, 2016 (Geneva)

2016: Qualified as a solicitor of England and Wales (through the QLTS)

2015: Attended: “*The child in a litigious split: What is the role of professionals?*” (for further professional development) held on April 23rd, 2015 (Geneva)

2014: Attended: “*The fate of the child in divorce law*” (for further professional development) held on May 22nd, 2014 in the University of Fribourg, (Switzerland)

2012: Final exams following lawyers’ training in Switzerland

2011: Certificate of advanced legal studies at the University of Geneva (preamble to a Swiss lawyer’s mandatory professional training)

2010: Geneva bar admission

2008-2010: Masters in Swiss and French private law at the Universities of Fribourg (Switzerland) and of Assas-Paris II (France) - with distinction (i.e. Valedictorian,). Final dissertation: “*Retained property: a useful guarantee in a post-financial crisis legal world?*”

2005-2008: Bachelor in Swiss and French law at the University of Fribourg, Switzerland (1st and 2nd year), and the University of Assas-Paris II, France (3rd year)

June 2005: Maturité at the Collège Calvin in Geneva (International Baccalaureate equivalent). Majoring in economics and law – with honours

Spoken languages

English (native speaker)

French (native speaker)

German (conversational level)