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# STEPHEN NICHOLAS van BOHEMEN

## CURRICULUM VITAE

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**Nationality:** New Zealand

**Languages:** English and German

**Date of admission as a  
Barrister & Solicitor  
of the High Court of  
New Zealand:** March 1984

**Street address:** Atticus Chambers  
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- 28 years post – admission experience as a Barrister & Solicitor
- Barrister sole since 1 April 2007
- Experienced in commercial / property law, civil and criminal litigation
- Family Law Specialist since 1990
- Member of Counsel for Child panels in Christchurch and Ashburton
- Legal advisor to New Zealand Association of Counsellors
- Speaker at national and international family law conferences

### **PROFESSIONAL CAREER**

- April 2007 – present** Barrister sole. Co-founder of Atticus Chambers, Specialist Family Law Chambers in Christchurch.  
Current case load: Relationship property, and complex Child Law litigation (Care of Children / Adoption/ Children Young Persons & Their Families), general civil litigation.
- August 1995 – March 2007** Litigation solicitor initially in sole practice. From September 2005 – April 2006 in partnership in McNulty▲van Bohemen, a specialist litigation practice. . Principal areas of practice: Family and civil law.
- October 1990 – July 1995** Associate, and then partner, Maude & Miller, Barristers and Solicitors, Porirua, New Zealand. Litigation practice, predominantly family law.
- October 1989 – October 1990** Locum solicitor with Jill Moss, Solicitor, Porirua, New Zealand and then David Hurley, Solicitor, Wellington. Litigation practice, predominantly family law.
- September 1988 – September 1989** Assistant solicitor, Howard Kennedy, Solicitors, London. Commercial law..
- June 1984 – June 1988** Solicitor and then partner, Smythe Le Gros Barnett, Barristers and Solicitors, Nelson. Commercial and property law.
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**November 1981 – June 1984** Clerk and then solicitor, Macalister Mazengarb Parkin & Rose, Barristers and Solicitors, Wellington. Property and commercial law.

Significant achievements/cases include:

- Creation of a successful legal practice in Christchurch
- Establishment of Family Law Chambers
- Solicitor and counsel for G in G v B ((2001) 21 FRNZ, 1 (FC); GMG v MAB (2001) 21 FRNZ 650 (HC) and B v G (2002) 22 FRNZ 278 (CA). Issue: Adoption / revocation / rights of birth parents post consent
- Solicitor and counsel for White in W v N [child abduction] [2006] NZFLR 793 (HC), and White v Northumberland [2006] NZFLR 1105 (CA). Issue Hague Convention Application for Return of child – child’s objections.
- Appearance for parties in relationship property proceedings in Family and High Courts;
- Appearances as counsel for the party / child / counsel to assist in adoption, day to day care, relocation, care and protection domestic violence and mental health cases in Family and High Courts and Court of Appeal
- Solicitor / counsel to parties in inter-country adoptions: New Zealand / Thailand; New Zealand / Solomon Islands in the Family Court
- Successful settlement of most of my clients’ cases out of Court

Other professional achievements

- Appointed amicus curiae to Complaints Review Tribunal
  - Legal advisor to the Ethics Committee, New Zealand Association of Counsellors
  - Former member of Panel of counsel retained by the Central Authority in Hague Convention cases
  - Scriptwriter for the Legal Resource Trust video: Custody and Access
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- Advisor to Ministry of Justice on Publicity brochures and DVD's on The Family Court and its processes
- Appointed member New Zealand Legal Aid Review Panel (Dec 2000 – June 2001)
- Volunteer Solicitor/ Barrister Community Law Canterbury (1995 – 2011); Member of Executive Committee 1997 – 1999 (Chair 1998 & 1999)

#### National Law Society Roles

- Elected member National Executive Family Law Section of New Zealand Law Society April 2000 – February 2003
- Faculty Member New Zealand Law Society Family Law Skills Course (2000)
- Faculty Member NZLS Litigation Skills Course (2000, 2002, 2004, 2005, 2007 & 2008)

#### Law Society Roles

- Member Canterbury District Law Society Family Law Committee 1996 – 2002
- Member Canterbury District Law Society Complaints Committee 2006 – 2008
- Member of Standards Committee of the New Zealand Law Society 2009 – 2011
- Developed and conducted family law workshops for less experienced practitioners.

#### Conferences

- Chair of the Organizing Committee 2001 New Zealand Family Law Conference (held in conjunction with LAWASIA & NZLS Conferences, Christchurch)
  - Co – chair New Zealand Family Law Conference, Auckland 2003
  - Speaker at the National Seminar of Management of Child Abuse & Neglect, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, August 2002: Child Protection – the New Zealand Experience.
  - Speaker NZLS Family Law Conference, Auckland, October 2003 Adoption – Certainty v Best interests.
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- Speaker NZLS Family Law Conference, Christchurch, November 2007: Hague Convention on Child Abduction & International Relocation
  - Speaker NZLS Advanced Lawyer for Child Intensive 2008: The Evidence Act 2006
  - Speaker LexisNexis 2008 Family Law Advocacy Skills Course: Discovering the Evidence
  - Speaker LexisNexis 2009 Child Law Conference The Evidence Act 2006 – its application in the Family Court
  - Chair NZLS Family Law Conference 2011

#### Publications

- Conference presentations included in Conference Papers for National Seminar on Management of Child Abuse & Neglect , Malaysia, 2002; 2003 NZLS Family Law Conference, 2007 NZLS Family Law Conference; 2008 NZLS Advanced Lawyer for the Child Intensive; 2009 LexisNexis Child Law Conference
- Contributing author to Brookers' Family Procedure and Family Property 2009 – to date)
- Evidence: When it's an issue in the Family Court (2010) 6 NZFLJ 271

#### **EDUCATION**

1989	Qualified as a Solicitor of the High Court of England & Wales
1984	Enrolled as a Barrister and Solicitor of the High Court of New Zealand
1976 - 1983	Victoria University of Wellington MA (Hons) in German Language and Literature 1980 LLB 1983

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