IAFL Supplementary Information for
European Chapter Admissions

An applicant may have been practicing in the jurisdiction in which they seek admission for less than 10 years, but they must have been practicing as a lawyer for 10+ years;

It will be considered relevant whether an applicant has a specialist board accreditation if the applicant is from a jurisdiction where a specialist board accreditation in family law is available and required;

In the UK and Republic of Ireland, 'peers' means barristers, for barrister applicants, and solicitors, for solicitor applicants;

Who an applicant's 'peers' are will depend on their jurisdiction: in jurisdictions where there are distinct cantons/states/regions, an applicant's peers will be people from that geographic area, rather than the jurisdiction as a whole. There are some places where this will be applied with greater vigor and scrutiny than others, e.g. Italy, Switzerland and England & Wales, where we have more knowledge of local markets;

For applications from the UK, significant weight is given to listings in Legal 500 and Chambers and Partners directories;

'Most experienced and skilled' will be considered with reference to the applicant's stated area of practice. There is a recognition that an effect of this is that in areas of practice like matrimonial finance in England & Wales, where there is a 'crowded market', the criteria of "most experienced and skilled" will be harder to fulfill.

Family law encapsulates a number of areas of practice in the European Chapter, including financial provision at divorce, child law, ART and surrogacy, Court of Protection/vulnerable adults, and succession. Applicants who practice in Court of Protection/vulnerable adults and succession law will be expected to have experience in family law as well.

The European Chapter is looking for Fellows to enhance the three cornerstones which underpin the successful collaborative history of the Academy, "Connecting colleagues," "Cultivating knowledge," and "Creating Solutions."

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