

# Is there a risk of gender bias in favour of the male hegemony if special contributions are given special status? Can the domestic contribution ever be "special"?

By Geoffrey Kelly

In **Lambert v Lambert**, the Court of Appeal stated the following with regard to a homemaker's ability to establish a special contribution, "Examples cited of the mother who cares for a handicapped child seem to me both theoretical and distasteful. Such sacrifices and achievements are the product of love and commitment and are not to be counted in cash." The harsh reality is that special contributions are only likely to be established by the breadwinner.

While these are all arguments which are of interest to lawyers, there are only a tiny number of reported cases in which a stellar contribution was established or in which an award under the compensation principle was made.