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□ Some of London's leading family lawyers met last night in the hope of persuading couples involved in "big money" divorces to adopt the collaborative approach that has revolutionised family law in North America. Launching the Central London Collaborative Forum, they argued that collaborative law can assist couples to achieve a divorce that is confidential, dignified and civilised. By avoiding litigation, couples keep their financial settlements out of the newspapers. Guests were welcomed by Maggie Rae, a former solicitor to Diana, Princess of Wales who was present at the meeting on October 1995 when the princess told Lord Mishcon that the Queen would be abdicating and she, Diana, would be "put aside".

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