



60-SECONDS WITH:

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Q 1. What would you be doing if you weren't in this profession?

A I'd love to have a column in the Sunday papers (move over Sophia Money-Coutts) but in reality I would probably be a Latin teacher.

Q What's the strangest, most exciting thing you have done in your career?

A A business trip to Mauritius started out as one of the most exciting things in my career but ended up being rather strange when a shortage of rooms meant sharing a delightful honeymoon suite with a female colleague. We'll always have the memories of the towel swans.

Q What is the easiest/hardest aspect of your job?

A I don't think I would say any aspect is easy but it's important to keep it in perspective. I am gradually learning to spend less time sweating the small stuff.

Q If you could give one piece of advice to aspiring practitioners, what would it be?

A Find a supervisor/mentor who will champion and challenge you to do more than you may think you are capable of.

Q What has been the most interesting case you have seen in 2021?

A I've been particularly struck by the recent decision of the Jersey Royal Court not to bless a trustee's decision to restructure assets for the purposes of pre-emptive divorce planning. The threshold for a blessing of this nature is that the decision should be within the

rational range of decisions open to the trustees but, here, the Court found that it was "sufficiently uncomfortable... to be in doubt as to its propriety". At first blush, it strikes me as a further instance in a growing trend of the Jersey Court seeking to engage constructively with the English matrimonial courts and not allowing trustees to rely on the "pirate's defence" offered by firewall legislation. That said, it seems to me that this was a case that turned on quite particular facts (and figures) and should not deter those embarking upon responsible pre-emptive divorce planning in the context of trust assets.

Q What do you think will be the most significant trend in your practice over the next 12 months?

A Within my own practice, I'm aware of a couple of growing trends:

- 1) an increase in 1975 Act Claims at two ends of the spectrum: at one end, the impecunious (now able to recover success fees) and, at the other, those maintained to a very high standard of living in circumstances where there is not a great deal of judicial authority for the treatment of such high quantum claims.
- 2) Inter-sibling disputes – particularly where one or more is engaged in the family business and others are not. Of course, there is nothing new here but it is certainly a trend that continues through the generations.

Q If you could learn to do anything, what would it be?

A Play the piano with any real skill.

Q What is the one thing you could not live without?

A Irony (and bread sauce).

Q If you could meet anyone, living or dead, who would you meet?

A I quite like the idea of a dinner party with all six of the Mitford sisters in c. 1935.

Q What songs are included on the soundtrack to your life?

A Queen of the Night – Whitney Houston (my karaoke 'go-to')

Sull'aria – the letter duet from Mozart's Marriage of Figaro (sung at many weddings with my sister)

Halo – Beyoncé (on repeat for 48 hours during labour)

Anything by the Toots & The Maytals (the only way I can get cleaning done)

Q What does the perfect weekend look like?

A Big skies, open fields, strong cocktails, good company, bad jokes and undisturbed sleep.

Q Reflecting on 2021, what have you been most grateful for?

A Finally getting to know my fantastic new colleagues IRL.

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