



60-SECONDS WITH:

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

A I would own a café bookshop where people would spend whole days discovering new worlds through books they may not have considered otherwise. My father instilled in me the love of books, which is something that has remained a constant for me since childhood: I read every day, and use books as a pressure-valve that helps me alleviate the stress of everyday life. I would love to share my love of books with others.

Q What has been the most interesting case you have done recently?

A I acted for a beneficiary who was concerned that the Protector was defrauding the trust by misappropriating assets and transferring them to a non-beneficiary. The beneficiary's suspicions were well-placed, and when we started looking for the directors of the private trust company it transpired that they did not exist – they were fictitious persons who were used as a cover for a whole host of irregular transactions. We ultimately secured a committal order against the Protector for breach of court orders directing him to furnish the court with relevant information.

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

A I am not sure it was very exciting (cold and rainy, more like), but some years ago I had a case where executors of an estate were conned into agreeing to sell an estate property at an undervalue, and I went on surveillance with an investigator to a seaside town to try and find the culprits. We waited for hours and they did not turn up... but we did manage to bring the case to a successful conclusion in the end.

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

A The easiest aspect is doing work I love with wonderful colleagues I appreciate and respect. The hardest aspect is that sometimes cases can take a long time to be resolved and the pain, grief or stress experienced by the clients can be very great, and my ability to alleviate it sometimes limited.

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

A When I was a law student, one of my professors told me that I seek certainty where there is none to be found. He was probably right, but I think that in most cases there is a right answer, and if it can be found there must be a way to reach it. My advice to aspiring practitioners would be to seek out the right answer, and not be daunted by the fact that others have not yet found the way to achieve it yet.

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

A The global drive for transparency has not skipped trusts and their beneficiaries, who wish to have more information about their trusts to be able to 'police' them. I expect applications for disclosure and holding trustees to account would be on the rise in the next 12 months and beyond.

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

A If I could have any superpower it would be to fly in the air. I would love to learn how to hang-glide: I think that would be the closest I am ever likely to get to that superpower.

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

A Beyond the obvious - my family, my books (see question 1) – I guess I could live without my dogs, but I'm not sure it would be a great living.

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

A I would love to meet Nelson Mandela, and understand how he could have gone through the life he lived and emerge with love, forgiveness and wisdom, and the power to heal a nation. We need more of him in the world.

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

A The first album I ever bought was Carol King's Tapestry. I still love that album as a whole, but would choose 'Beautiful' as a guide: you get back what you put in, so try to live in happiness and compassion. The Carpenters' 'Stand By You' is another song that I have loved since I first heard it.

Q What does the perfect weekend look like?

A Get up late (not a morning person...); go for coffee; a scenic walk with my family and dogs and a trip to an art or antiques fair.

Q Looking forward to 2022, what are you most looking forward to?

A The return to a more normal routine: seeing my colleagues, meeting up with friends, weekends with my family. I have a number of new and interesting cases to get my teeth into, so a good balance between work-life and life-life, with fewer restrictions on the latter, would be nice!

