

Introduction

Welcome to our first newsletter.



Heleena and I launched our legal practice in March 2020, shortly after which we acted for a local building contractor, which succeeded on its claims for unpaid monies and defeated a substantial counterclaim for alleged defects raised by the defendant. Our client recovered the money owed (a retention fund) along with its legal costs.

The 7-day trial in the Bristol TCC was one of the first TCC trials to be heard remotely and was conducted entirely by Zoom. We adapted quickly, having already invested in the technology, to produce an electronic bundle for the Court's use – which drew the appreciation of the Judge in his written judgment:

“I am grateful ...for their efforts in making the necessary arrangements to enable the hearing to take place remotely. They have included compiling a substantial electronic trial bundle and making appropriate additions to it as the hearing continued.”

The use of Zoom and Teams has now become common place. The benefits for clients include the convenience of face-to-face calls – on demand, albeit we tend to see clients in their own offices. The days of booking an appointment to see your solicitor with the inconvenience of travelling and waiting are long behind us.

We have also taken a huge step forward with the management and review of documents. The systems we have invested in mean that large volumes of documents can now be scanned at speed and the contents searched digitally in a fraction of the time. The saving to clients has been enormous.

IT and AI

Since then, we have continued to invest in our IT systems resulting in a genuinely paperless office. The introduction of AI has prompted research into reliable resources in this exciting development, and we will bring you news of how AI will further drive the efficient delivery of our services whilst maintaining the high standards consistent with our core values.

Team expansion

We always have an eye on the future, with the knowledge that the next generation is hard to find. Local talent is out there - you just have to find them, attract them and support their development so that they become the trusted advisors of the future, ensuring that our core values are maintained.

I am therefore over the moon with the news that Ella and Lola have joined us. Ella recently graduated from the University of Portsmouth with an honours degree in law. Ella lives in Dorchester and is a former student of Thomas Hardy. Lola joins us fresh from her A levels – again from Thomas Hardy. Lola lives in Weymouth. Both have been accepted on to solicitor apprentice courses at the Nottingham Trent University with Ella qualifying in 2 years and Lola in 6. Whilst they will travel to Nottingham on block release, they will spend the remainder of their time in our Poundbury office and I look forward to you meeting them.



My experience in the building trade with bringing on the next generation has reinforced my commitment to Ella and Lola. In Lola's case, she has chosen to embark on a solicitor apprenticeship over full time university education and the opportunity to put theory into practice must be a good thing.

That brings our news for September to an end. Please do visit our website for more information on how we support the construction sector as well as articles on topical construction law issues.

Chris Reeves