



## NEW TRAINEES AT LANYON BOWDLER

Three new trainees have started their training contracts with a Shropshire law firm, nationally recognised for its' training programme by the LawCareers.Net Awards, taking the total number of trainees at the practice to nine.



Left to right: Kelly Pledger, Gosia Bronisz-Handley, Mathew Hughes, Amy Bills, Colin Spanner (Partner), Myfanwy Murray, Cath Field and Gemma Williams

Catherine Field and Gemma Williams, together with Myfanwy Murray who has been working at the firm for the past two years, are the latest trainees to begin their law careers at Lanyon Bowdler where they will work in various departments in order to gain experience across the firm.

Catherine will start in the personal injury team, Gemma is joining the private client department and Myfanwy will be commencing her training contract with the commercial property team, all will be based at the offices in Shrewsbury.

Myfanwy commented: "I joined Lanyon Bowdler in October 2015 and was lucky enough to find out I'd been selected for a training contact in the November, I have enjoyed working as a legal assistant with the Court of Protection team, and am now really looking forward to commencing my training contract."

Catherine said: "Lanyon Bowdler has such a great reputation, I'm excited to be joining a firm with specialists across so many legal areas which will help to give me a really good grounding to my career in law."

Gemma added: "I'm delighted to be joining Lanyon Bowdler. I know my experience here will help me grow as a solicitor, this is a fantastic career opportunity."

Colin Spanner, training partner with Lanyon Bowdler, said the firm was fully committed to its training programme and there would now be nine trainees working at the firm.

He said: "At Lanyon Bowdler, we pride ourselves on our trainee programme and aim to give new solicitors the best possible start to their career. It is difficult for some firms to take on so many trainees, but we recognise the importance of real experience when kick-starting a legal career, and we want to grow and develop talent for the future of our business."

"We hope our trainees enjoy a long and successful career with Lanyon Bowdler."

Myfanwy, Catherine and Gemma join existing trainees, Kelly Stant, Gosia Bronisz-Handley, Mathew Hughes, Amy Bills, Holly Skelton and Kelly Pledger at Lanyon Bowdler.

## TRAINEE NATASHA QUALIFIES AT LANYON BOWDLER

**A young lady from Shropshire has qualified as a solicitor and become the latest permanent member of Lanyon Bowdler Solicitors' reputable clinical negligence department.**

Natasha Gibbons was born and raised in Shrewsbury, before heading off to Cardiff University to study law. She then returned to the county to train with Lanyon Bowdler two years ago.

Kay Kelly, head of the clinical negligence team, congratulated Natasha on her qualification and said she was delighted to welcome her as a valuable permanent addition to the team.

"Natasha is no stranger to Shropshire and had enjoyed work experience with the firm whilst at college when she decided she wanted a career in law. Her ambition was always to return to the county and work at Lanyon Bowdler," she said.

"She has worked extremely hard as a trainee solicitor over the last two years and has demonstrated a forensic, tactical brain and great empathy towards our clients.

"Clinical negligence is an extremely complex area of the law to work in. We have seen an increasing number of actions in this area involving some really serious injuries. Natasha will be a valuable addition in helping Lanyon Bowdler continue to deliver specialist advice at what can be the most traumatic time in someone's life."

Natasha commented that she is thrilled to now be a permanent member of the Lanyon Bowdler team.

"I have enjoyed my two years with the firm as a trainee and am delighted to join an excellent team of lawyers who

“ Under difficult circumstances from the moment I walked in I was the only person that mattered.

Ms J McMillan, Telford

## THE NOT SO SOMBRE JOB OF THE ADMINISTRATION OF ESTATES

By Tristan Lewis

When people ask what area of law I deal with, the answer ‘I deal with the administration of estate’s’, usually fails to excite most people. However, this fairly seemingly sombre job of dealing with the assets and estate of someone who has passed away is a varied and incredibly rewarding job.

When you are asked to deal with an estate for the first time of a client you find that they come in all shapes and sizes, quite literally. Some people’s assets turn up in two or three carrier bags, with a jumbled array of paperwork dating back 20 years or so, and others are presented in a neat ring binder. The role of a solicitor dealing with assisting in the administration of an estate is to fit in with the needs of the executors and beneficiaries.

The task of registering the death of a client and organising a funeral is usually left to family members, but on occasions where the firm has been appointed as executors, and no such persons exist I have had to do both. Whilst it may seem sad that there was no family member available to deal with these formalities, it is the work involved in finding out sufficient information to provide to the registrar and subsequently choose the right music and flowers, after speaking to friends and neighbours about the deceased, that makes the solicitor client relationship much more three dimensional.

In the search for details in relation to the deceased’s financial affairs, I have recently had to swap my suit for a ‘full forensic style’ outfit when entering a property that had unfortunately flooded as a result of a burst pipe which happened whilst the now deceased was in hospital. The water had turned most of the paperwork into paper mache which meant picking through it to look for clues on what financial institutions I needed to write to.

Disposing of a deceased’s chattels usually ends up with calls to a local charity with the remainder going to the local sale room, although some estates hold more exciting finds.



Whilst I have yet to come across a hidden ‘Monet’, I recently assisted executors, who lived abroad, in the sale of a deceased’s classic Mercedes at our local auctioneers, Brightwells in Leominster. Conveniently I had

agreed to attend on the day of the auction, with authority to sell the vehicle if there were offers, should it not meet the reserve. The car, which had an estimate of £7,000 - £9,000, was much sought after and had attracted a lot of interest prior to the auction, and it achieved a staggering £12,500 on the day.

Fortunately I had attended the auction with a colleague, who managed to prevent me from getting carried away during the rest of the auction and going home with a particularly nice silver Jaguar XJS.

## IVF POST CODE LOTTERY

By Beth Harrison



**I was recently shocked to hear about the enormous discrepancies across the UK in the provision of NHS funded IVF treatment. This post code lottery has been a problem now for a number of years and sadly only seems to be getting worse.**

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has published fertility guidelines that make recommendations that the NHS should provide three full cycles of IVF treatment for women aged under 40 who have failed to get pregnant after two years of trying. Unfortunately this guidance is not binding and local NHS providers can choose how many cycles to offer on the NHS, if indeed any at all. They can also impose their own criteria as to eligibility which further restricts access to treatment.

The contrast depending on where you live is stark. In Scotland you can get the full 3 cycles of IVF on the NHS. In Wales you can get two cycles. In England it is even more of a post code lottery. Very few offer the full 3 cycles. Some areas offer 2 cycles, others 1 cycle and a large number are refusing to fund IVF at all on the NHS.

“The welcome at reception and the relaxed atmosphere when discussing things with the person handling the sale of my property.

Mr W Ward, Oswestry

## MENTAL HEALTH IN THE SPOTLIGHT

**There was a time when mental health illnesses were not discussed. Now mental health is a subject that people are becoming less afraid to broach due to the work of campaigners and charities. With one in four people suffering from mental illness in the UK, the positivity surrounding the step to seek help is of course massively beneficial to anyone suffering from a mental health illness.**

### Resources are stretched

A BBC Radio 5 live investigation found that out of 39 mental health trusts that provided figures for their crisis team, 27 of the trusts had seen their workload increase by 70%. This is a vast increase and one that the present number of staff cannot cope with. Resources are stretched and medical professions are unable to provide the level of care that they could with a lower amount of patients.

Last year NHS England reported that the majority of crisis teams “are not currently sufficiently resourced to operate 24/7, with caseloads above levels that allow teams to fulfil their core functions.”

### Calls for increased staff recruitment.

Jeremy Hunt has today recognised that there has been a historical imbalance between mental and physical health services but this now needs to change. There is to be a recruitment drive with enough nurses, therapists and consultants to treat an extra one million patients by 2020-21 with the main focus on child and adolescent mental health services.

Although in principle this increase in recruitment and resources can only be seen as positive, it does nothing to tackle the people that are suffering right now. It is still going to take at least three years for this to be implemented and the amount of unfilled nursing posts has recently been published which is frankly quite startling.



### Step in the right direction.

With the plan to recruit 9,700 extra staff, it begs the question of where all of these staff will come from? It is unclear how within the three year time frame, this many people will be qualified or be at a level to provide Consultant care.

Mr Hunt acknowledges that this is an ambitious task and would be one of the biggest expansions of mental health services in Europe. Professor Wendy Burn who is President of the Royal College of Psychiatrists “is very supportive of the strategy which starts to tackle the problem”.

With the NHS making many cuts across the board, it feels that mental health has been an area that has previously been pushed aside. It is now in the spotlight and hopefully the plan put forward by Mr Hunt will be fulfilled and help thousands of people that need the support across the UK.

### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

There is a street in London where if you live at one end you may be eligible for one cycle of NHS-funded IVF but if you live towards the other end of the street you will not get any cycles funded. Surely it cannot be fair that some neighbours are getting better access to NHS care than others.

The NICE guidance of 3 cycles is there for a reason. Studies suggest that this is generally how many cycles on average you will need to conceive.

Whilst the private cost of IVF seems to vary significantly, for those woman and families who live in the “wrong” area to get NHS funded IVF they are looking at costs up to £5,000 or more for just one cycle of IVF.

The erosion of NHS funded IVF means that only those who have the means to pay privately will be able to access the treatment. The thought of whether a family who suffers with infertility can have a child or not is dependent on income is appalling to me.

Professor Gillian Leng, Deputy Chief Executive of NICE, said: “Infertility is a recognised medical condition. People affected, who include 1 in 7 heterosexual couples, should be able to receive treatment as a core NHS service.

“Infertility can have a potentially devastating effect on people’s lives: it can cause significant distress, depression and possibly lead to the breakdown of relationships. It is unacceptable that parts of England are choosing to ignore NICE recommendations for treating infertility. This perpetuates a postcode lottery and creates inequalities in healthcare across the country.”



**“Very polite members of staff, and took the time to explain everything to us.**  
Mr & Mrs R Wilford, Bromyard

## THE TEAM AT LANYON BOWDLER CONTINUES TO GROW



**James Jones (left) and Phil Roberts join Lanyon Bowdler**

**James Jones has a wealth of experience in property law and joins Lanyon Bowdler's Hereford & Bromyard offices.**

Head of residential conveyancing, David Foden, said the property market had enjoyed a very busy year.

*“I would like to welcome James to the team,” he said. “He is a legal specialist with many years in the profession and has a great deal of experience, which can only benefit our clients and the firm.*

*“The residential property market in has continued to perform well throughout 2017 so we have seen a steady growth in demand for our conveyancing services.*

*“By expanding our team we can ensure we will continue to provide a first-rate service to our clients.”*

James has worked in both the commercial and residential sectors, including ecclesiastical development work.

Phil Roberts has joined Lanyon Bowdler's Hereford office after a number of years with a firm based in Malvern. During his career he has specialised in personal injury cases and has a wealth of expertise in that area of law.

Neil Lorimer, head of the personal injury department said: *“We are delighted to welcome Phil to the team of specialists in our Hereford office. He has a particular specialism in representing lorry drivers who have been involved in accidents at work or road traffic*

*accidents, and I am sure his experience will prove to be a valuable addition to our team.*

*“Our personal injury team has a solid reputation, and is ranked in the top tier in the West Midlands by the leading legal directory – The Legal 500. We continue to see an increase in the number of clients we are being asked to act for, and particularly we wanted to strengthen our presence in Hereford. Having Phil join us is very positive.”*

Mr Roberts, who lives in Ledbury, is a member of the Law Society Personal Injury Panel and a Senior Litigator Member of the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers.

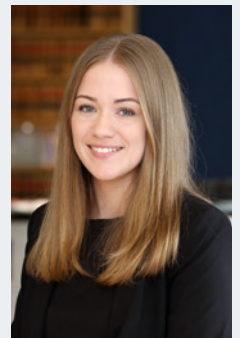
*“I am delighted to be joining Lanyon Bowdler and linking up with the specialists in the personal injury department,” he said.*

*“Over the years I have gained experience in all types of accident claims, including traffic accidents and accidents at work. I have particular experience in representing lorry drivers.”*

### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

*work hard with the local community to provide a good service.” she said.*

*“No two clinical negligence cases are ever the same and I enjoy working with medical experts to reach satisfactory outcomes for injured or bereaved clients. It is rewarding to be able to help people in difficult circumstances and I am really looking forward to my career with Lanyon Bowdler.”*



### OFFICES

info@lblaw.co.uk • www.lblaw.co.uk



#### SHREWSBURY

Chapter House North  
Abbey Lawn  
Abbey Foregate  
Shrewsbury  
SY2 5DE

T: 01743 280280

F: 01743 282340

DX: 144320 Shrewsbury

#### BROMYARD

44 High Street  
Bromyard  
HR7 4AE

T: 01885 488442

F: 01885 488533

#### HEREFORD

Beaumont House  
Offa Street  
Hereford  
HR1 2LH

T: 01432 352345

F: 01432 263708

DX: 17201 Hereford

#### LUDLOW

12 The Business Quarter  
Eco Park Road  
Ludlow  
SY8 1FD

T: 01584 872333

F: 01584 876459

DX: 26883 Ludlow 1

#### OSWESTRY

39 - 41 Church Street  
Oswestry  
SY11 2SZ

T: 01691 652241

F: 01691 670074

DX: 26603 Oswestry

#### TELFORD

Hazledine House  
Central Square  
Telford Town Centre  
TF3 4JL

T: 01952 291222

F: 01952 292585

DX: 28071 Telford