

Update



Lanyon Bowdler
SOLICITORS

Your quarterly bulletin on legal news and views from Lanyon Bowdler

LANYON BOWDLER WINS NATIONAL AWARD

“ Investing in young talent is very important...”

The team at Lanyon Bowdler are celebrating after winning a prestigious national training and recruitment award.

The firm picked up the Best Trainer award in the Small Firm category at a ceremony held in London involving more than 60 of the country's top law firms.

The LawCareers.Net Training & Recruitment Awards are designed to identify those firms who give their employees a flying start in the legal profession, starting with the recruitment process and then helping to support and nurture as careers progress.

Lanyon Bowdler's award was one of 18 presented on the night to a range of law firms dedicated to recruitment, training, work placement and lecturing.

Colin Spanner, head of the family law team and training partner with Lanyon Bowdler, said the firm was delighted to be recognised with a national award.

“This is a great honour for us and demonstrates how committed we are to the training process,” he said. *“We believe in giving our young employees the best possible start on what we hope will be a long and successful career.”*

“Investing in young talent is very important and at Lanyon Bowdler we have half a dozen trainees working with us at any one time - we are looking to expand this number moving forward.”

“They all get a good insight into what we do by experiencing the different and varied departments within the firm, and it is always satisfying to see them succeed, qualify and go on to make their mark in the legal profession.”

The LawCareers.Net awards are in their 14th year and Lanyon Bowdler was the only Shropshire law firm to be nominated for an award this year.

Matthew Broadbent, business development director of LawCareers.Net, said: *“The awards are a real proving ground. With more than 2,000 trainees and newly qualified solicitors surveyed, the awards paint a truly accurate picture of which firms do a great job in recruitment and training.”*

“All nominees should be congratulated as the competition across every category is fierce.”



Colin said Lanyon Bowdler was particularly proud because the award followed feedback from trainees and newly qualified lawyers who had been through the firm's training programme.

“It is their comments about our firm that saw us shortlisted and ultimately led to us winning the award,” he said. *“It is pleasing for us to think the experience obtained from our legal team has been so valuable they felt able to pass extremely favourable comments on in the survey.”*

NEW LAWYERS JOIN THE PRIVATE CLIENT TEAM



Lisa Jones



Tristan Lewis

Two new associate solicitors have joined the private client team at Lanyon Bowdler, with Lisa Jones being based at the Oswestry office and Tristan Lewis in Ludlow.

The pair join the firm as Giles Scott takes up the position as head of the private client team to allow Edward Rees, who previously ran the department, to head up the team based in Telford.

“ *Very professional, but you also feel you can sit around the table and discuss with the solicitor as if you are talking to a friend.* ”

G Price & M Price, Shrewsbury

A “DO-IT-YOURSELF DIVORCE” - IS IT WORTH IT?

Statistics released on 5 December 2016 by the Office of National Statistics revealed that, overall, the amount of divorces have been decreasing (demonstrated by a 3.1% decrease in 2014 compared with 2013, and a decline of 27% from a peak in divorces in 2003). Great news!

However, despite the statistics, it is still an unfortunate reality that some marriages will come to an end, resulting in divorce. Going through a divorce is one of the most stressful life events an individual can experience, and will have an emotional, financial and legal impact on a person's life.

There are costs associated with getting divorced too. The current fee to issue your divorce petition with the court is £550 (although you may be entitled to a partial/full fee remission, dependent on your income), and there are further court costs associated with resolving the related financial matters. It does not come as a surprise, therefore, that some individuals consider embarking on a “Do-it-yourself Divorce”, rather than instructing solicitors to act on their behalf. Lawyers can see the thinking behind this decision - why would you want to pay a solicitor to do something that you may be able to do yourself, given the abundance of information available online? DIY Divorce Kits have been discovered both in High Street stores and on the Internet, costing between £19.99 - £40!

Going through a divorce is one of the most stressful life events an individual can experience...



However, a “Do-it-yourself Divorce” may present unforeseen pitfalls. The following points are worth your consideration:

- You will already be going through an emotional and stressful experience. By instructing a solicitor, you gain the advice and support of an expert acting purely in your best interests, and providing you with clear and realistic guidance which, in turn, should reduce stress for you.
- Solicitors are not emotionally invested in your divorce or financial proceedings. They remain objective and sensible, offering the benefit of years of training and experience, without their judgement being clouded by emotion.
- Divorce and related matters are technical legal proceedings. There are a number of rules and protocols that must be adhered to, including specific timings in relation to certain stages of your divorce or financial settlement. Solicitors will be well versed in these rules and protocols, thus avoiding any unnecessary delays or expense that otherwise may be incurred should you proceed without a solicitor. Without a solicitor, you may inadvertently be landed with an order for costs or fail to seek full costs and financial claims. Such mistakes can be expensive to rectify.
- You can only rely on one of five facts to prove your marriage has irretrievably broken down. Choosing the most appropriate fact, and ensuring sufficient particulars are provided to prove that fact, is not always straightforward. Our lawyers can advise on the best approach to ensure your divorce is able to proceed without problems.
- A solicitor acting on your behalf can advise on whether alternative, non-court based ways to resolve financial and children matters are suitable. There are options such as mediation and collaborative law to support such situations and these processes keep costs down. Unfortunately, it is not always the case that matters remain amicable and a solicitor acting on your behalf means you do not have to communicate directly with your ex-partner. Our solicitors can ensure you have a process suited to your needs, thus reducing the acrimony and stress experienced during the resolution of issues.
- Our solicitors are able to advise on financial claims within your divorce. For example, you may be entitled to a share of your ex-partner's capital or pension, or even entitled to ongoing financial support (maintenance). A solicitor acting on your behalf will be able to advise how best to obtain a favourable outcome in relation to your finances, and protect you from what may be an inadequate or unfair outcome.
- It is important that individuals consider reaching a financial settlement to deal with how the matrimonial assets are to be split. Even if you have agreed a financial settlement with your ex-partner, it would be difficult to guarantee your ex-partner

“ This is the second occasion I have used Lanyon Bowdler and have been impressed both times. They are professional and very helpful.

L Cornes, Craven Arms



will comply with the agreement without a court order that is carefully drafted to reflect your intentions. Furthermore, failure to formalise a financial settlement by way of a court order may mean your ex-partner is able to return at a future date and make a claim on your finances, even several years after Decree Absolute has been pronounced.

- The formal court order reflecting your financial settlement is called a consent order. It is a complicated (and non-standard) legal document that should be drafted by a family law expert, and cannot be purchased off the shelf.
- In summary, completing your divorce without the assistance of a solicitor means that you will miss out on receiving the expertise and knowledge which is essential when dealing with something as crucial as the breakdown of your marriage.

Lanyon Bowdler has a strong and dedicated team of family law experts with over 100 years of combined experience in family law. Most of our lawyers are members of Resolution and on the Law Society Family Law Panel. Two of our lawyers are collaboratively trained.

We offer affordable pricing options, with the choice of either hourly charges, fixed fees or a Pay As You Go arrangement. We will regularly update you in relation to the costs of your case, and are able to offer staged payment plans, should this be necessary. We will progress your divorce proceedings at the best pace possible whilst negotiating a fair financial settlement on your behalf. We will do the hard work for you, and will be with you every step of the way.

Fortunately, divorce is the least likely outcome for a marriage with the most recent statistics suggesting that 58% of marriages will not end in divorce. However, if you sit within the remaining 42%, the family solicitors at Lanyon Bowdler are here to support you.

*All data retrieved from the Office of National Statistics - <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/divorce/bulletins/divorcesinenglandandwales/2014>

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Giles said he was delighted to welcome the new members of staff to the team.

“It is important that we continue to expand to meet the highest standard of service our customers expect from us,” he said.

“This commitment has seen us take on new staff and we are pleased to announce Lisa and Tristan as the latest to join our team.

“Our department is seeing an ever-increasing workload and Lisa will bolster our Oswestry office while Tristan takes up his position at Ludlow.”

Tristan Lewis has around 10 years’ experience of dealing with wills, trusts and administration of estates, and has worked on a range of private client matters, including Lasting Powers of Attorney and registration of Enduring Powers of Attorney.

He studied at Derby University, graduating in 2002, before completing the Common Professional Exam and Legal Practice Course in 2004 at Staffordshire University.

Tristan completed his training contract at Waldrons Solicitors in 2007 and continued to work in the West Midlands before joining Lanyon Bowdler.

He is a fully-accredited member of Solicitors for the Elderly, an independent, national organisation of lawyers who provide specialist legal advice for older and vulnerable people, their families and carers.

Lisa Jones studied at Aberystwyth University and graduated with a law degree in 2003 before completing the Legal Practice Course at Chester College of Law the following year.

She then joined Walker Smith Way Solicitors based in Chester and Wrexham and completed her training contract, qualifying as a solicitor in September 2006.

Lisa is very experienced in advising on a range of private client matters and is a full member of the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners.

She will be helping clients with their lifetime legal planning needs, such as wills, inheritance tax, Lasting Powers of Attorney, Enduring Powers of Attorney and elderly client issues. She can also advise on probate and administration of estates.

“A very personal approach, very quickly established a relationship of trust and reliability.”

S Lewis, Lancashire

THREE PROMOTED TO ASSOCIATE SOLICITOR



Louise Howard



Katherine Marriott-Lodge



Beth Harrison

Lanyon Bowdler has announced three promotions - strengthening the senior team of lawyers.

Louise Howard, Katherine Marriott-Lodge and Beth Harrison have all been promoted to associate solicitor status. All three have extensive experience within the firm.

Managing partner Brian Evans, said the news follows continued success for the firm.

“We are delighted to make these appointments and the promotions are fully deserved,” he said.

“All three have contributed to the ongoing success of Lanyon Bowdler and we look forward to Louise, Katherine and Beth helping to drive the firm forward over the coming months and years.

“Louise has been a solicitor in our personal injury department since her qualification in September 2011 but has been with the firm since November 2007.

“Katherine qualified as a solicitor in September 2013 within the clinical negligence department, having joined us in 2008, while Beth qualified as a solicitor in March 2014, also within the clinical negligence department.

“These appointments recognise the high regard in which Louise, Katherine and Beth are held by the firm, and their level of achievement.”

Louise said: “My work within the personal injury department is very rewarding, even though the cases can be extremely complicated. There is always something very satisfying about being involved in a successful litigation and helping people get the right results from what are very difficult situations.

“Personal injury is an area that is expanding at Lanyon Bowdler. I am proud to be part of that and delighted with the new appointment.”

Beth said: “You might say I came home to Shropshire when I joined Lanyon Bowdler five years ago. I went to school in Shrewsbury before heading off to university and law school.

“Clinical negligence is my particular area of expertise and the department is having an exceptionally busy year.”

Katherine added: “Clinical negligence is a very important area of the law to be involved in. The work is challenging in difficult personal circumstances for the client and their families but is also very rewarding when they win their case.”

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