

expert, professional, friendly...

j&p

judge&priestley

SOLICITORS • EST. 1889

## Legally Speaking - Judge & Priestley's Quarterly Legal Update for Private Clients

SUMMER  
2016



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

**Lexcel**  
Practice Management Standard  
Law Society Accredited



Welcome to J & P's latest newsletter, specially designed to keep you up to date with all the latest legal developments affecting you and your family.

Got something on your mind?  
... give us a call or email us.

For more than 125 years we have been providing clients with expert and professional legal advice. We understand the value of a personal and friendly service.

Judge & Priestley  
LLP  
Justin House  
6 West Street  
Bromley  
Kent BR1 1JN

## J&P – Commitment to the Community

Judge & Priestley has community at its heart.

We are solicitors who recognise the contribution we can make not just to the legal issues our local and national clients come up against, but also to the lives of people everywhere who depend on charity. That's why we invest our spare time, our energy, sweat, tears and our laughter in fundraising for a range of causes chosen by members of the Judge & Priestley team.

We've raised almost £20,000 in the past 12 months. And it's been through a series of events and challenges that have encouraged colleagues, clients, associates, families and friends to put their hands deep into their pockets.

### We have run our socks off

Litigation solicitor, Jo Russell, smashed a half marathon for Cancer Research. Joe Green, our trainee solicitor, ran the Brighton Marathon for Make-a-Wish Foundation, and Vanessa Collins proudly completed the London Marathon raising donations for CASPA.

### We pedaled like there was no tomorrow

Debt Recovery partner Bob Davis has been a regular fundraiser for many years.

Bob was part of a team that cycled 100 miles a day for four days to get from London to Paris, raising £4,500 for MacMillan. Bob has also raised £2,000 for SAGA Charitable Trust by cycling and running 80 miles along the south coast of England, and by completing the Three Peaks Challenge.

### This year it's all about the bike

Bob is aiming to raise more than £3,000 for Macmillan Cancer Support by cycling more than 300 miles from Newcastle to London in 24 hours in August as part of a six-strong team.

### We dressed to impress

From Jeans for Genes, to the Judge & Priestley Christmas Jumper Day, we showed that we can rock the dress-down.

### We had a golf day

Finance Director, Jackie Monk's golf day raised a whopping £6,500 for Bromley Y, a long established local charity offering free, therapeutic help to young people and their families.

### There were Wills and there were ways

As part of Will Week, we prepared Wills for free, in return for clients' donations to Will Aid and to St Christopher's Hospice. The Private Client team, headed by David Chandra, raised over £3,000



through hard work and efforts.

### We did some small things that meant a lot

Raffles, Poppy Appeal, Christmas card collections, mobile phone donations. Ours is a year-round commitment to the charities we support.

### And you may have helped our efforts without even realising

Did you know that every time you completed and returned one of our client feedback forms, we gave a donation to Age UK Bromley and Macmillan Cancer Support? That has raised more than £1,500 in the last year. And, of course your feedback helps us to improve what we do and the way in which we do it. So, in true 'everyone's a winner' style, please keep them coming!

Thank you for your support. It means the world to us.

## J&P Announced as Bromley Football Club's Sponsors

Judge & Priestley, are the new corporate sponsors for Bromley Football Club and will be supporting their local football club in the forthcoming 2016/2017 season.

Steven Taylor, Managing Partner at Judge & Priestley has over the years had a strong connection with Bromley FC. "We are delighted to be sponsoring the club, and are really looking forward

to the next season. Being a well established firm based in Bromley we are committed to supporting our local community and especially the club which plays a very important role in our community." "Bromley FC has recently invested in a new Academy for 2016/17 located at the Warren in Hayes, and we wanted to be part of the new era with the club."

Chairman Jerry Dolke said "We are delighted to announce that Judge & Priestley Solicitors have continued and increased their support of the Club. Managing Partner Steve Taylor and his team at Judge & Priestley have supported the Club for more than decade now. It's great that our Club continues to attract the support of some of the borough's largest organisations."



**Left:** From right to left Neil Smith Bromley FC Manager with Steven Taylor, J&P Partner Jerry Dolke Bromley FC Chairman.

**Right:** Bromley FC team and from right to left Steven Taylor, David Chandra, Jackie Monk and Neil Smith team Manager.

# Property Team at J&P Solicitors continues to grow

Judge & Priestley's Conveyancing Department goes from strength to strength

Over the past year, Judge & Priestley's Residential Conveyancing Department has significantly grown following a recruitment drive which has seen the department more than double in size over the course of 12 months.

The firm of solicitors, established for over 125 years and based in Bromley, offers clients a superior conveyancing service with many clients returning and referring new clients.

Madelaine Henwood, leads the Residential Conveyancing Department commented "The property market in the South East and Kent region has always remained strong but over the last 12 months has really picked up and continues to improve. As our client-base has increased by attracting more clients both new and returning, we have recruited new talent into our team to ensure that we continue to offer a first-class conveyancing service."



Madelaine Henwood, seen in the centre with the growing team at J&P

## J&P Solicitors receive ISO27001 Certification

Judge & Priestley have recently been certified the ISO27001 IT security standard following an assessment by an independent body. The certification ensures that company information is secured by providing a tailored system and framework which is continually

maintained & improved to keep up with new threats.

Compliance with ISO27001 certification is proof of independent

verification that Judge & Priestley's Information Security Management System meets the international standard.

Managing Partner, Steven Taylor said that he "was delighted that Judge & Priestley has been certified ISO27001, the standard provides our clients with the reassurance that we are securely dealing with their information" and added "Information security and IT is a top priority of the firm, and as we invest more in our IT systems we must ensure that our systems are 100% secure from any threats including the increase in cyber threats. Our IT infrastructure and policies have met the requirements

from the assessment which shows that we have the necessary management and control framework in place and we will continue to evolve to meet the ever changing IT environment."

Mark Carey, IT Manager at Judge & Priestley said "we are pleased to have attained this certification as it strengthens the trust between our customers and Judge & Priestley. It proves that we have a systematic approach to managing sensitive information so that it remains secure.

This is through applying a risk management process that includes people, processes and IT systems".



## Launch of our new Website

We are delighted to announce the launch of our new website [www.judge-priestley.co.uk](http://www.judge-priestley.co.uk).

The new website has been developed with an innovative design and improved navigation that will enhance the online experience for our clients. It offers improved features and user-friendly navigation with quicker access to information.

We have added more detailed information about our key services reflecting the growth of our practice, including:

- Property including leasehold and housing management
  - Services for Individuals
  - Services for Businesses
  - Debt Recovery
- Clients will be able to complete online



forms and submit enquiries. Our new website has a responsive layout for browsing on a smart phone or tablet.

We will continue to post legal and commercial updates as well as highlight our staff efforts that contribute towards our commitment to

community. Please visit our new look website [www.judge-priestley.co.uk](http://www.judge-priestley.co.uk), we would be delighted to hear any feedback or comments.

Please contact Nita Newsome on 0208 290 7425 or email [nnewsome@judge-priestley.co.uk](mailto:nnewsome@judge-priestley.co.uk).

# Battle expected over estate of pop star Prince

The family of the pop star Prince fear there could be a costly dispute over his multi-million pound fortune because he died without having made a will.

Prince's sister, Tyka Nelson, has asked a court in the United States to appoint a special administrator to manage his estate because he left no will or instructions as to who should inherit his wealth.

Legal proceedings will now be necessary to decide how his estate should be divided between his relatives. It's feared this could prove both costly and stressful for the family members involved.

Unfortunately, many people fail to make a will and so without realising it, create unnecessary problems for their families. For example, if you die intestate – without having made a will – the taxman may take a share of your estate.

Some may also go to an estranged husband or wife.

The Law Society recently conducted a survey revealing that 73% of people aged 16 to 54 haven't written a will. The figure is 64% for people aged over 55.

More than 20% of people said they hadn't make a will because they assumed that their estate would automatically go to their cohabiting partner or their family. This is not necessarily the case. If you die without having made a will, your estate is divided in a way laid down by law.

This means your money could go to your estranged spouse or distant family members you may not even like. Some may go



to the government in tax. Unlike spouses, cohabiting partners have no automatic right to inherit your estate. They can be left in a very vulnerable position.

A Law Society spokesman said: "Thousands of people die every year without making a will or without having a properly drafted will. Making a will is usually a very simple process but we urge people to use a qualified, insured solicitor because he or she will be able to spot the nuances that could lead to trouble later on if not properly addressed."

[For more details contact](#)

**David Chandra** - 020 8290 7348 [dchandra@judge-priestley.co.uk](mailto:dchandra@judge-priestley.co.uk)

## Inheritance tax revenue 'to soar to £4.6 billion this year'

Inheritance tax receipts are set to increase by more than 20% this year, according to the Office for National Statistics.

The latest figures show that death duties are on track to bring in £4.6 billion in the 12 months to February. That compares with the £3.8 billion for the same period last year.

Rising house prices are thought to be the main reason for the increase.

Inheritance tax is set at 40% and becomes payable once the tax free allowance of £325,000 has been passed. An additional main residence allowance of £100,000 will be introduced in April 2017. This will rise gradually to £175,000 by 2020.

When added to the £325,000 nil-rate band for inheritance tax, this will eventually provide a combined tax-free band of £500,000 by 2020. Married couples can combine their allowances.

When one partner dies, their share of the estate is passed on to their spouse free of any inheritance tax. This means that by 2020, a married couple could



have a combined allowance of £1m.

Inheritance tax is one of the most unpopular taxes but fortunately, there are steps people can take to reduce the burden.

One helpful way to pass money on without inheritance tax implications is to adopt the 'little and often' approach. This allows you to give away £3,000 per year tax free.

There is also a 'seven year gift rule' which allows a person to give money or assets of unlimited value. The recipient

will not pay inheritance tax as long as the person lives for at least seven years. If the person dies within seven years of making a gift then the recipient could be liable to pay the 40% inheritance tax, depending on the value of the estate.

These are just some of the ways you could reduce inheritance tax liability. A little planning now could save your families thousands of pounds in the future.

[For more details contact](#)

**David Chandra** - 020 8290 7348 [dchandra@judge-priestley.co.uk](mailto:dchandra@judge-priestley.co.uk)

# David Chandra and Louise Hyland are UK Top Rated Solicitors in Sunday Times Guide

On Sunday 10th April the Sunday Times published their first supplement listing the Top 175 Solicitors in the UK based on reviews on the independent consumer ratings website VouchedFor.co.uk.

We are proud, but not at all surprised, to say that, both David Chandra, Private Client Partner and Louise Hyland, Associate in Residential Conveyancing were featured.

David and Louise qualified as Top Rated as a result of all the glowing reviews written by their clients. All had rated their services over 4 stars out of 5, which is a fantastic achievement. This affirms that they are among the most respected in the industry. We'd like to thank all of our clients who took the time to share their positive feedback on VouchedFor.co.uk



David Chandra said "Being recognised as a Top Rated solicitor again on VouchedFor.co.uk means a great deal. There are lots of people in the area who might need help with legal matters but don't know how to find a great solicitor, or who to ask for a recommendation. It means a lot that our clients have gone out of their way to review us and we'd like to thank them all for the recommendations."

David Chandra continues, "By reading verified client reviews, hopefully local people seeking advice will feel confident that they are making an informed decision. After all what better recommendation is there than a happy existing client."

Please contact Judge & Priestley on 0208 290 0333 to speak to a solicitor or email: [info@judge-priestley.co.uk](mailto:info@judge-priestley.co.uk)

## Husband loses appeal against unequal divorce settlement

A husband has lost his appeal against an unequal divorce settlement that gave his wife a greater share of the marital assets.

The couple had separated after 15 years' of marriage due to difficulties caused by the husband's addictive behaviour.

The judge considered that the matrimonial assets included four properties, the husband's shares in several business ventures, and financial investments in



the wife's name. The judge then proceeded on the basis that the husband had \$1 million when they had married and that both had made a full and equal contribution to the family welfare.

He divided the assets so that 54.5% went to the wife and 45.5% to the husband.

The judge explained the unequal division on the basis that it was necessary to provide for the wife's needs. The decision also reflected the husband's conduct that had

led to the reckless frittering away of family money and the distress that his addictive behaviour caused to the wife.

The Court of Appeal upheld the decision. It said the judge's departure from equality could have been justified purely on the basis of the different needs of the husband and the wife.

He was also entitled to take into account that the marriage had left the wife with no earning capacity.

For more details contact **Thowheetha Shaah** - 020 8290 7331 [tshaah@judge-priestley.co.uk](mailto:tshaah@judge-priestley.co.uk)



judge&priestley  
SOLICITORS • EST. 1889



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

### Services

- Disputes
- Employment
- Family and Mediation
- Residential Property
- Road Traffic Claims
- Wills, Inheritance and Trusts



### Meet the team



Mark Oakley



Thowheetha Shaah



Pam Bachu



David Chandra



Madelaine Henwood



Neil Cuffe



Steve Taylor



Tony Clarke



Paul Stevens



Nitika Singh

For further information T. 020 8290 0333 F. 020 8464 3332

Justin House, 6 West Street, Bromley, Kent BR1 1JN

E. [info@judge-priestley.co.uk](mailto:info@judge-priestley.co.uk)

[www.judge-priestley.co.uk](http://www.judge-priestley.co.uk)

This newsletter is intended merely to alert readers to legal developments as they arise. The articles are not intended to be a definitive analysis of current law and professional legal advice should always be taken before pursuing any course of action.

Authorised and regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority