

Law *in* Brief

Welcome to Law In Brief from
Blanchards Bailey LLP

We are delighted that you are reading the first newsletter produced by Blanchards Bailey LLP.

This is the first edition of Law in Brief under our new name and although in normal circumstances it would cover recent legal issues, we felt it would be more useful to our readers if this particular issue provided an insight into our newly merged firm.

Two leading legal firms in Dorset have merged to create a new firm. Blanchards with offices in Blandford Forum and Poundbury and Bailey and Co with offices in Blandford Forum and Shaftesbury, as of the 1st January are now the combined firm of Blanchards Bailey LLP.

The new firm operates out of three offices with the existing Stour Park office in Blandford as the head office and Poundbury and Shaftesbury as area offices.

The new office structure will allow us to service local clients and potential clients more effectively in the West, North and Mid Dorset areas with the Shaftesbury office also covering parts of nearby Somerset and Wiltshire. We also offer services to a number of clients further afield.

The firm is formed as a limited liability partnership with Mark Bellman, previously Senior Partner of Blanchards as its Chairman and Alan Horne, previously Senior Partner of

Bailey and Co as its Chief Executive. Mark and Alan together with Merlin Lewis, Lisa Holden and Jerome Dodge are the five principals of Blanchards Bailey LLP. Please see page 2 for further details of key people in the firm.

The same personal service, but even greater expertise.

With the combining of expertise and experience of the two firms, we are in the position to offer an even wider range of legal services to both private and commercial clients, including:

Services to Individuals

- Buying and selling your home
- Education law
- Elderly client services
- Employment law
- Family law, divorce and mediation
- Litigation and disputes

Services to Businesses

- Business acquisitions and sales
- Business and property litigation
- Commercial property
- Company and commercial law
- Debt collection
- Employment law

We also offer specialist areas of law such as a family mediation service and advice to charities.

New name, same principles.

The merger is born out of a similar philosophy within both firms. As Mark Bellman says, "Both Blanchards and Bailey and Co have a long and established history in the area of providing a professional service in a friendly, helpful and efficient manner to both personal and commercial clients. This philosophy will certainly remain as a key element in the matters dealt within the new merged firm. Although we will be a larger organisation we will take care not to lose the core principles and beliefs that have made both firms individually successful. These include our belief that with the increasingly complex and fluctuating world of both personal and commercial legal activities it is now even more important to provide advice that is not only effective and actionable but also offers reassurance through friendly and helpful service."

Alan Horne comments, "This is certainly a very positive move for both our firms which are well established in the area. The scope of the new merged organisation will benefit all concerned. It allows us to offer our clients a wider range of accessible services with greater depth of expertise across many legal disciplines. From our point of view, we now have increased experience and resources in terms of management and an even more effective structure to our various branches and departments. All of these put us in an excellent position to tackle the many challenges and changes that will affect the legal profession in the immediate and longer term future and first and foremost will allow us to offer an even better service to our clients."

Some of the team at Blanchards Bailey LLP

As a new merged firm, we thought it might be useful for our readers to have a brief snapshot of key people.



Mark Bellman – 01258 483611

Mark is a Principal and Chairman of the firm and is the head of our Residential Conveyancing department. He is based in our Blandford office. Mark's reputation for offering an excellent service means that he has a very loyal following of clients. Mark is heavily involved in the Dorset community and serves on a range of local committees.



Alan Horne – 01258 488215

Alan is a Principal and Chief Executive of the firm and is the head of our Commercial department. Alan joined the firm as a Solicitor in 1982 and became a partner in 1986 and is heavily involved in the local community. Alan has overall responsibility for the financial management and day-to-day running of the firm. He is also the Principal responsible for Litigation throughout the firm.



**Merlin Lewis –
01305 217310 (Dorchester)
01258 488221 (Shaftesbury)**

Merlin is a Principal and is the head of our Dorchester and Shaftesbury Private Client departments as well as having overall responsibility for Private Client work within the firm. Merlin is an experienced Solicitor who specialises in Wills, tax and estate planning and Powers of Attorney. Merlin is also the Principal responsible for Legal Compliance throughout the firm and acts as the firm's Money Laundering officer.



Lisa Holden – 01258 488213

Lisa is a Principal and the head of our Family Law department. She is an experienced Solicitor and a member of the Law Society's Family Law Panel and Resolution. Before joining the firm Lisa practiced in Manchester and London. She is also a professional journalist. Lisa is the Principal responsible for Human Resources throughout the firm.



Jerome Dodge – 01258 483616

Jerome is a Principal and is the head of our Blandford Private Client department. Jerome is a Solicitor who specialises in Wills, tax and estate planning and Powers of Attorney. He is a member of the Society of Trusts and Estate Practitioners, a body of the most experienced and senior practitioners in the field of trusts and estates. Jerome is also the Principal responsible for marketing and IT strategy throughout the firm.



Joanna Jackson – 01258 488222

Joanna is an Associate in our Commercial department. Following a background in Local Government, she qualified as a Solicitor in 2006 and has quickly built a reputation with clients for being a highly efficient lawyer who provides sound legal and practical advice to a wide range of businesses people. Joanna was promoted to an Associate in January 2009. Joanna specialises in Commercial Property and Company and Commercial Law.



Chris Jennings – 01258 483601

Chris is a solicitor with over 20 years experience. Chris' main areas of practice are commercial litigation for business clients, property disputes and private client litigation including contentious probate. He deals with cases in all courts including the Court of Appeal. However, Chris appreciates that resorting to the courts is not necessarily the best nor the cheapest solution for clients. He deploys mediation and other alternative dispute resolution methods to greatest effect where appropriate.



Sheila Johns – 01305 217308

Sheila is an Associate and the head of our Dorchester Litigation department. She is a former Managing Partner of Blanchards. Sheila specialises in the areas of Personal Injury Law and Employment Law and has particular knowledge of Education Law. As a member of the Association of Personal Injury Lawyers (APIL), Sheila is one of the leading Solicitors in her field of work.



Jackie Watson – 01258 488203

Jackie is an Associate and the head of our Shaftesbury Residential Conveyancing department. Jackie qualified as a Solicitor in 1990 and worked in private practice for 6 years before taking a career break to care for her twin daughters. The family moved to Dorset in 2000 and Jackie returned to practise with Bailey & Co in 2004.



Tracy Black – 01258 483611

Tracy is a Solicitor who specialises in Residential Conveyancing and is based in our Blandford office. Tracy qualified as a Solicitor in 2003 and joined the firm in 2005. Tracy also has particular knowledge of Equity Release schemes.



Genette Gale – 01258 488216

Genette is a Solicitor in our Blandford Family Law department. Genette joined the firm in 2004 and qualified as a Solicitor in October 2007 and has quickly established herself as a skilled and friendly Solicitor who is well liked by her clients.



Laura James – 01305 217304

Laura is a Solicitor in our Dorchester Family Law department. Laura joined the firm in 2004 and qualified as a Solicitor in 2008. She practises in all areas of Family Law and has a particular interest in matters relating to children.



Matthew Parker – 01258 488216

Matthew is a Solicitor based in our Blandford Litigation department and undertakes many aspects of work in this area of the law. Matthew qualified in 2006 having obtained a degree in Business Law at Bournemouth University and a Masters degree in Intellectual Property Management, also at Bournemouth. Matthew worked and trained at two firms, for a total of 5 years, prior to his qualification.



Fiona Clarke – 01258 488208

Fiona is a Fellow of the Institute of Legal Executives and is based in our Blandford Private Client department. Fiona used to work for the Inland Revenue before joining the firm in 1989. Fiona specialises in Probate and the Administration of estates, Wills and Powers of Attorney, as well as dealing with tax returns for clients and giving general advice in respect of their tax and financial affairs.



Mike Herbert – 01258 483608

Mike is a Legal Executive and is based in our Commercial Property department. Mike is a senior legal executive with considerable commercial property experience. He joined the firm after 16 years with the in-house legal team at Portman Building Society where he handled all of the legal work relating to the Society's own head office and branch premises and continued to do so at Blanchards until the Portman merger with Nationwide. Mike specialises in all aspects of Commercial Property and acts for clients ranging from individuals and small businesses to national organisations.



Michelle Wilson – 01305 217301

Michelle is a Legal Executive and head of our Dorchester Residential Conveyancing department. Michelle originally joined Blanchards in 1995 and qualified whilst working for the firm. She is experienced in all aspects of Residential Conveyancing and whilst she has extensive knowledge of the local area she also deals with clients nationwide.



Pat Wyatt – 01258 483613

Pat is a Probate Manager and is based in our Blandford Private Client department. Pat is a qualified Accountant and she is a member of the Society of Trusts and Estate Practitioners, a body of the most experienced and senior practitioners in the field of trusts and estates. Pat specialises in Probate and the Administration of trusts and estates, as well as dealing with tax returns for clients and giving general advice in respect of their tax and financial affairs.



Mike Johnston – 01258 488217

Mike is a Consultant and Solicitor in our Blandford Private Client department. Mike was a longstanding partner in Bailey & Co. In 1978 he was appointed as Coroner and continues as Coroner for the rural part of Dorset. Mike now specialises in probate, estate planning and Wills.



David Lang – 01258 488225

David is a Consultant and Solicitor and is a former senior partner of Blanchards. David heads our charities unit and in doing so acts for many local, and not so local charities. He has long and varied experience in charity law and his detailed knowledge of many aspects of property and commercial law allow him to give easy to understand and practical advice to his clients.



Jean Lang – 01305 217304

Jean is a Consultant and Solicitor and the head of our Dorchester Family Law department. Jean was a long standing partner in Blanchards. She is also a Family Law Mediator accredited with Resolution (formerly The Solicitor's Family Law Association) and has trained as a Family Collaborative Lawyer. She sits as a part time Tribunal Judge.

Please help us and have a chance at winning £500 at the same time!

You will have noticed that there is a separate form and pre-paid Freepost envelope enclosed in this edition of Law in Brief.

As we have now merged the two firms it would seem to be the ideal time to check that we have the correct, up to date details of our clients. We are particularly aware that an increasing number of you are now using email addresses of which we are not aware or which may have changed.

This is also an opportunity to receive free information on a selection of topical legal subjects. Please tick the appropriate box on the form, if any of these are of interest to you.

We would be grateful if you could complete your details on the form and send it to us in the enclosed Freepost envelope even if you believe that all the information we hold for you is correct.

As a "thank you" for completing and returning this form, all replies will be entered into a free prize draw, with the winner receiving £500.

Closing date for replies to enter the free draw is 6th March 2009.

Local Support and Charities



We have always been keen to support various local charities and groups. We have sponsored a local Blandford under 11s football team, The Blandford Bulldogs who have seen rapid progress within their league. We have worked with The Blandford Primary School, The Blandford Youth Trust and have been one of the regular sponsors of The Summer Music Society of Dorset. We have also actively supported the Dorchester Community Play and subsidised the Memory Café in Blandford for those with Alzheimer's.

Recently we were co-sponsors of the Young Talent of Dorset Art Competition in conjunction with Arts in Hospital at Dorchester hospital. The photograph shows Merlin Lewis, one of our Principals with a number of the entrants and Mrs Anthony Pitt-Rivers HM Lord-Lieutenant of Dorset, one of the patrons of Arts in Hospital.

As a legal firm, Blanchards Bailey LLP acts for many local, and not so local, charities and now operates a specialist charity unit. Advice is available on choosing the most appropriate legal structure, writing a workable constitution, ensuring that the objects will pass the charitable and public benefit test and on all other aspects of charity law and the day to day running of a charity.

The unit is run by David Lang a consultant to Blanchards Bailey LLP with a long and varied experience in charity law. A particular feature of the unit is that, as far as possible, fees charged will take sympathetic account of the client charity's financial status and in some cases services may be provided without charge.

PLEASE NOTE.

We shall continue to hold any deeds, Wills and other documents in safe custody to your order as before. Most will be held at our Bunbury House head office.

Please let our marketing manager, **Miles Marshall**, know if you do not wish to continue receiving Law in Brief. You can contact him on 01258 459361 or by e-mail at: miles.marshall@blanchardsbailey.co.uk

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