

STEPHENS & SON

Solicitors

Announcement

June 2017

We are delighted to announce that as of 1st July 2017, the Practice of Stepes & Son will be joining together with the long standing and well established Gravesend law firm, Hatten Wyatt. Over the last decade Hatten Wyatt has grown significantly and has incorporated several practices throughout the Kent area thus providing a greater range of legal services to the local communities which their offices serve.

This news comes less than a year after Hatten Wyatt joined Pengelly & Rylands of Tenterden which is another well-known high street practice that has gone from strength to strength. Stephens & Son is a part of Chatham's heritage, established over 224 years ago dating back to 1793. The team at Stephens & Son are very proud of the firm's long history. It is a real testament to our constant efforts to provide an excellent service to both individuals and business clients. Stephens & Son have a great reputation which will complement the rest of the practices in the group and something that is very important to Senior Partner Jasvinder Singh Gill. At the same time the Stephens & Son office will relocate to 1 Cambridge Terrace, Chatham, ME4 4RG.

Jasvinder Singh Gill, Senior Partner at Hatten Wyatt explains "We are thrilled to announce the incorporation of Stephens & Son within the firm. Both firms are long standing and have great reputations within the local community, with clients being referred by existing clients and other professionals. As a firm we have a clear vision for the future as we continue to

grow and offer trusted legal services to the people of Kent"

The group now has 12 partners and a total of 80 staff across all offices, all of whom deal with their specialist areas of law. We are solely focused on achieving the best possible outcome for the client. The firm prides itself on being abreast of current thinking and practice and is able to provide cost effective advice as well as practical solutions for clients. Paramount to the firm's approach is ensuring that the relationship with the client is exceptional.

Hatten Wyatt prides itself in playing a very important part in the local community and supports many projects and events through sponsorship and volunteering such as the Ellenor Hospice, Gravesend's Christmas tree, the Paul Greengrass Cinema at The Woodville Halls, Northfleet Carnival as well as local sports clubs.

The group also likes to nurture young talent by taking on a number of students from local schools to help them complete their work experience. By doing so we hope to find the next rising star to join the team!



Jacqueline Shicluna, Managing Partner at Stephens & Son, said "The partners and staff at Stephens & Son are delighted to be joining forces with Hatten Wyatt and becoming part

of their group. We are looking forward to working with new colleagues and to ensuring that the Stephens & Son name, which has been in existence since 1793, continues into the future."



HATTEN WYATT

Along with enhancing and increasing the professional services of Stephens & Son we are now proud to offer the following professional services:

- Family Law
- Conveyancing
- Private Client
- Notary public Services
- Company Law
- Civil Litigation & Dispute Resolution
- Personal Injury
- Employment Law
- Crime
- Charities
- Registered Office Service
- Professional Trustees
- Immigration
- Licensing
- Non-Resident Indian Legal Services

For a full and list of all services offered as well as more information, please visit

www.hatten-wyatt.com



Meet the Partners



Jasvinder Singh Gill, Senior Partner, Hatten Wyatt

(Notary, NRI Services & Dispute Resolution)

Jasvinder has overall responsibility for Hatten Wyatt and shares his time between offices in Gravesend and Maidstone. He read Law at the University of East London graduating with an LL.B (Hons) and then went on to undertake the Legal Practice Course at the College of Law. Jasvinder read International, Commercial & European Law at Sheffield University graduating with an LL.M and in 1997 commenced his training contract with Lucas & Co. In 2003 he joined Hatten Wyatt as Senior Partner and expanded the Firm, whereby five years later he instigated the successful incorporation of Church Bruce. Since then he has incorporated four offices in as many years which include Morlings, Nigel Edwards & Co, Pengelly & Rylands and now Stephens & Son.

In his spare time Jasvinder enjoys Formula 1, Clay Pigeon shooting, and spending time with his family.



Karen du Rocher, Partner (Notary & Head of Property)

Karen read Law at Newcastle Upon Tyne University, qualifying with an LLB in 1985 and undertook the Solicitors Finals, at the College of Law, Chancery Lane in 1986; followed by articles at Peter Carter-Ruck and Partners.

Karen subsequently qualified as a Solicitor in 1988, and following achieving partnership at both Tinklin Springall and Raw & Co, became Partner at Hatten Wyatt in 2005.

Outside of work, Karen enjoys the great outdoors, animals and gardening.



Jacqueline Shicluna, Partner (Private Client)

Jacqueline Shicluna attended Rochester Grammar School and read Modern History at Somerville College, Oxford, before qualifying as a solicitor in 1988. She joined Stephens & Son in December 1995, becoming Managing Partner in 2007.

After qualifying, she specialised in Personal Injury Law, acting for Claimants. She is a longstanding member of APIL, The Association of Personal Injury Lawyers, and is accredited as an APIL Senior Litigator Emeritus. She now specialises in Elderly Client law and assists elderly clients in managing their financial affairs, frequently acting as Attorney or Trustee.

Jacqueline is a Trustee of local charity, The Halpern Charitable Foundation, and Chair of Governors at King's School, Rochester. Outside of the office, she enjoys gardening, keeping chickens and making jams and pickles.



Charles Fuchter, Consultant (Dispute Resolution)

Charles is retiring as a Partner from Stephens & Son, although he is remaining on as a Consultant. Charles has handled all types of civil litigation in the County Court, High Court, Court of Appeal and the Employment Tribunal and has considerable experience of contract and property disputes, negligence, judicial review, landlord and tenant, contentious probate, partnership and other business disputes.

Several of his cases have appeared in the Law Reports some of which attracted interest from television and other national news media. Between 1997 and 2001 he was a member of the Steering Committee of the Zeebrugge Solicitors' Group, helping to co-ordinate claims arising from the Zeebrugge Ferry Disaster.

Charles also deals with employment law matters, acting for both employers and employees, including drafting Settlement Agreements and Contracts of Employment.

Away from the office Charles enjoys fly-fishing, preferably in remote places at the end of a good, long walk.



Natalie Skinner, Partner (Property)

Natalie qualified as a Solicitor in 1999 having completed her training with a Kent firm. Since qualifying, she has always practised in Kent, specialising in residential conveyancing.

Natalie has experience in all aspects of residential property to include freehold, leasehold, auction, shared ownership, buy-to-let and new build properties. She also acts in the granting and extension of leases, transfers of equity, re-mortgages and Declarations of Trust.

Natalie is committed to maintaining the high standards expected under the Conveyancing Quality Scheme, whilst offering a friendly service.

Outside of work Natalie enjoys cooking, running, yoga and country walks.



Deborah Nicholson, Partner (Family)

Deborah has considerable experience in dealing with all aspects of relationship breakdown, divorce, separation, resolving financial aspects following the separation of married and unmarried couples and disputes concerning children. Deborah is also experienced in dealing with pre-nuptial agreements, living together agreements and separation agreements.

Deborah is an accredited specialist in Resolution (first for family law) and is a member of the Family Law Accredited Scheme. Deborah is also a trained Collaborative Lawyer. As a member of Resolution, Deborah's aim is to resolve cases in a sensitive, constructive and cost effective way.

Deborah is married with three grown up children and away from the office enjoys spending time with her family, cooking and walking



Ruth Pannell, Partner (Private Client)

Ruth is a solicitor specialising in all aspects of inheritance and life-planning law, including wills, probate, inheritance tax planning, trusts, lasting powers of attorney and court of protection applications. She also advises local charities on registration and governance issues.

Ruth studied English literature at Cambridge University, and then completed her legal professional courses in London. She trained and qualified in London before moving to Kent, where she practised in various large regional firms before moving to Stephens and Son in 2017. Ruth is a full member of the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (STEP) and of Solicitors for the Elderly (SFE).

Outside of the office, Ruth enjoys spending time with her family, reading, and running 5ks at her local Parkrun.



Avril Croud, Partner (Family)

Avril read English at Exeter University, qualifying with a BA (Hons). Subsequently she undertook the Solicitor's Final Exams at College of Law, Chancery Lane in 1986, following which she secured articles with Emmerson Brown and Brown, qualifying in 1988.

Avril was amongst the first Solicitors to be admitted to the Law Society's Family Panel, and is also currently a member of Resolution and an Advanced Member of the Law Society's Family Law Panel. She joined Hatten Wyatt's Family department in 1999 and became partner in 2004.



Selwan Yousif, Partner (Company Commercial and Employment)

Selwan studied Law at the University of East London from 1995 until 1998 and went on to undertake the Legal Practice course at the University of Westminster in 2006. In 2009 he completed the Professional Skills Course at The College of Law and went on to be admitted as a Solicitor by The Law Society in July 2009. Selwan worked for Kaslers Solicitors LLP in London for several years before joining Hatten Wyatt in 2012, becoming a partner in 2013

In his spare time Selwan enjoys following the developments in computing, telecoms and law as well as enjoying travelling and sports – both watching and taking part.



Keith Middleton, Partner (Crime)

Keith qualified as a solicitor in 1985 and has been a Partner at Morlings since 1995. He is a member of the Solicitors Association of Higher Court Advocates and Criminal Law Solicitors' Association, as well as a duty solicitor for the Maidstone area and a Legal Services Commission accredited Supervisor for the unified Criminal Contract. Following the 2013 incorporation of Morlings into Hatten Wyatt, Keith has continued to specialise in criminal law and motoring offences.

In his spare time, Keith is an active gardener and a keen golfer.



Nigel Edwards, Partner (Property)

Nigel qualified and graduated at Birmingham University in 1977. Having served his articles in Mayfair, he then went on to join Neville Brabon Solicitors in Bexhill opening a branch office in Maidstone, which he subsequently acquired in 1983. This then formed Nigel Edwards & Co which was incorporated by Morlings in August 2014.

Outside of work, Nigel enjoys gardening, is an active supporter of rugby and attends the theatre to enjoy the arts as often as he can.



Anna Blackwell, Partner (Property)

Anna read German and Law at the University of Surrey, graduating in 2001 and qualifying as a solicitor in 2005. She has a passion for property and has worked on a wide variety of projects from residential property to commercial landlord and tenant work.

Anna is also a specialist in telecommunications law and acted for a market-leading telecommunications operator in relation to the acquisition and subsequent management of cell sites. A personal highlight for Anna was representing aforementioned telecommunications operator in respect of the negotiation and completion of cell site agreements at the London 2012 Olympic Park.

Outside of work, Anna is a keen cook and enjoys going to the cinema and skiing.



Elizabeth Connell, Partner (Property)

Elizabeth read English and Linguistics at the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa and graduated with a BA in 1986. She then read Law, graduating with an LLB in 1988 and trained at a Johannesburg based law firm whilst also obtaining additional qualifications as a Notary and Conveyancer followed by a Higher Diploma in Company Law, alongside a Higher Diploma in Tax Law at the University of the Witwatersrand. After 10 years specialising in conveyancing and family law Elizabeth set up her own legal practice in 2000. In 2006 she relocated to the UK with her family whereupon she qualified as a UK solicitor and joined Warners Solicitors. Thereafter, she joined Pengelly & Rylands in Tenterden, becoming partner in 2012.

Outside of work Elizabeth enjoys spending time with her family, running and playing music.



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