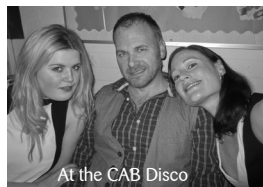


The Barrister Broker - reducing your legal costs



After all the rain it really feels like summer is not too far away now – thank goodness! Mrs Burton-Lawrence has been keeping me busy these last couple of months, making sure I go to as many events in the area as possible. I felt like an accessory at the Edenbridge & Westerham CAB Disco last month whilst Mrs B-L and my eldest daughter Katy gave it their all on the dance floor – I felt exhausted just watching them!



At the CAB Disco

So, this is now the sixth feature page I have written as The Barrister Broker with my first one back in the March/April 2013 edition - my how time flies. Since that first article I have been kept busy dealing with numerous enquiries, many of which have been by telephone which is nice as it's more personal and gives the opportunity to talk things through as opposed to conversation by email! To my good fortune, many of these enquiries have developed into client work which is very rewarding and goes to show the valuable impact this magazine has upon its local audience.

For the benefit of new readers to this column, I should perhaps make it clear that I am not a lawyer and cannot give legal advice. My business is all about helping people get genuine value for money and the best outcome they can when using legal services. I achieve this by arranging Barristers, the legal experts, to provide clients with specialist legal advice and/or representation before a Court. It's a simple concept really, as with many things in life, going direct to the "expert" at the very beginning will save you time and money in the long term.

So, looking back over the last 12 months, it maybe useful to share with you the types of legal issues that I have been able to help people deal with

using the expertise of Barristers.

Divorce is one, also something I can personally relate to having been through one several years ago. It's a tough time with lots of stress and uncertainty. If you and your spouse can agree on the fair division of the matrimonial assets (house, car, money, etc) without commencing Court proceedings this has to be the best solution. Word of caution here, if you do agree amongst yourselves, make sure you get an Order drawn up (a Barrister can draft this document) and approved by the Court to prevent your later to be ex-spouse coming back (maybe years later) to have a second bite at the cherry! If you do have to go through the Courts in order to obtain a Final Order, using the direct services of a Barrister from the outset will save you at least 50% overall if not more, than if you used a solicitor.

Other matters include Contact of children – often fathers wanting contact arrangements for their children or mothers contesting contact for whatever reason; cohabittees - non-married couples breaking up and wanting to take their share of the assets such as a property they bought together; business contractual disputes – drafting letters before claim or indeed suing someone over the breach of a contract; contesting the Will or estate of a deceased relative.

I think it is important to highlight that the Barrister who advises you on the law, gets to know you, helps you build your case and is also the person who represents you in Court if it goes that far. This means 100% consistency in your representation. No third party or other lawyer is brought in - your Barrister does all the work themselves. This is why going direct to a Barrister is so cost-effective compared to going to a solicitor. There is no overlap or duplication of work and as I have already mentioned, going direct to the expert at the very beginning will save you time and money in the long term.

It won't cost you anything to speak to me but I could end up saving you thousands! Call me on 01732 866 562 or visit my website for more information at www.thebarristerbroker.com.

Russell Burton-Lawrence