60-SECONDS WITH:

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Q Imagine you no longer have to work. How would you spend your weekdays?

A I would love to get back in touch with the garden, and to spend more time cooking, reading, singing, cycling, playing bridge and board games, and most importantly time with the family, helping my daughters to grow up to be kind and happy people.

Q What do you see as the most rewarding thing about your job?

A I love the fact that my cases invariably involve real people, and 'Real People Personalities', meaning that they are motivated by more than just money – the money is often a proxy for some other emotional need, and often at a time of family crisis. Helping clients identify what really matters to them can really help unlock a dispute.

Q What's the strangest, most exciting thing you have done in your career?

A I appeared on TV last year, as a talking head in a series called Inheritance Wars: Who Gets the Money. That was a bit scary and quite fun, especially teasing my children that I would be on Strictly next.

Appearing in the Supreme Court, in Marley v Rawlings, back in 2013, and actually being allowed by my leader to address the court myself, was also pretty wild.

Q What is one work related goal you would like to achieve in the next five years?

A I've been advising on a number of offshore matters over the last few years, but none of them has reached court yet. So I hope I have a chance to appear in a foreign court within that timeframe. I've also got a few pet theories on the law I'd like to have an opportunity to test out in court, if the right case comes along!

Q What is the most significant trend in your practice today?

A I'm seeing issues around mental capacity arising in lots of different contexts. We are used to seeing will validity challenges based on lack of capacity, but lately I have people raising mental capacity points to get what they want in other situations, such as trusts, divorces, and professional negligence. All interesting and useful applications of principles familiar to me from my probate background.

Q What book do you think everyone should read, and why?

A I can't think of any one book which would suit everyone, but I can strongly recommend The Hitch-Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy, which indirectly was responsible for me meeting my wife!

Q Dead or alive, which famous person would you most like to have dinner with, and why?

A I quite often day-dream about bringing a famous composer from the past (Henry Purcell perhaps – he seems like a lively character) forward to our own time, to see what they would make of developments in music, and the way every aspect of life has changed almost beyond recognition in little more than a single lifetime.

Q What is the best film of all time?

A Shaun of the Dead, of course. Oh, okay then: 2001: A Space Odyssey.

Q What legacy would you hope to leave behind?

A I'd like to think I'm still too young to be worrying about a legacy! I'd actually like to live forever, just to find out what happens next.

Q Where has been your favorite holiday destination and why?

A I've loved taking my daughters to places I've visited years before, and seeing their reactions to new experiences, and seeing how the places themselves have changed. We had a brilliant trip to Italy last year, with a good balance between culture and relaxing by a pool in the Tuscan hills.

Q Do you have any hidden talents?

A I do a lot of singing in my spare time, with choirs and in operas, although that is no longer so hidden, as I have been finding my musical and legal worlds colliding; I have sung opera for Baroness Hale of Richmond, choral music for Lord Neuberger of Abbotsbury,

Q What piece of advice would you give to your younger self?

A I quite often remind my clients of the so-called 'Serenity Prayer', in particular the part which asks for the serenity to accept those things we can't change – or maybe just the song Que sera, sera. I think I could have used that advice when setting out on my career: work hard, and trust the process - everything will work out all right in the long run.