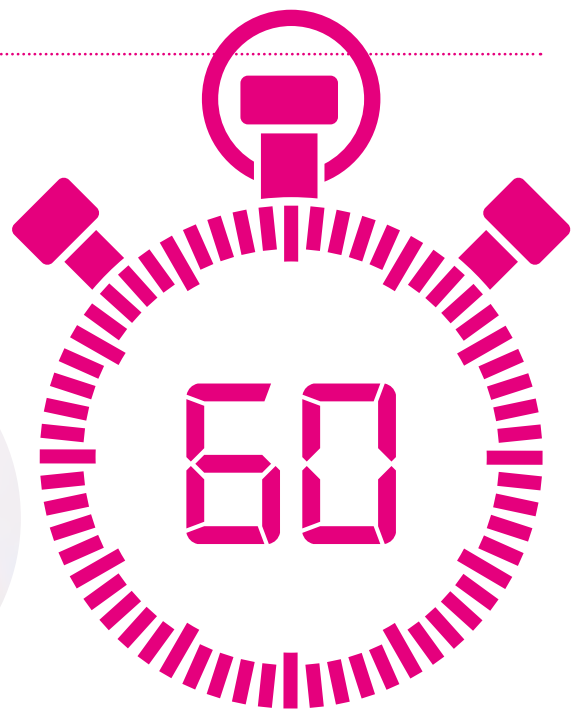


60-SECONDS WITH:

LAURA BUCHAN BARRISTER WESTGATE CHAMBERS



Q What do you like most about your job?

A I like that every day is different. I thrive on the unexpected challenges that arise 'at the door of court' that keep my on my toes. It really is one of the most satisfying jobs, to be able to leave court and know you made a difference.

Q What would you be doing if you weren't in this profession?

A My dream would have been to continue playing rugby to the elite standard, but the more realistic answer is probably a police officer... following in my parent's footsteps!

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

A During a remote hearing in the pandemic, opposing counsel's camera suddenly went blank during his submissions. At this time, we had become accustomed with technical difficulties and myself and the Judge assumed this was as a result of internet difficulties. Upon his return, it transpired armed police had knocked at the wrong door! Certainly unexpected!

Q What is one of your greatest work-related achievements?

A Early in my career I represented a Mother in care proceedings in an 8 day final hearing on the 2

week lead up to Christmas. All the odds were stacked against her with both professionals opposing child's return to her. After 8 intense days of oral evidence, the Judge determined that her son would be returned to her in readiness for Christmas. It was so emotional and overwhelming, but reminded me of the impact we as counsel can have.

Q If you could give one piece of advice to aspiring lawyers, what would it be?

A Imposter syndrome is very real and very normal. When you first start, it will feel overwhelming and as if you just cannot keep up. I wish I had been told that - nearly every person of my call at the time, felt the same. Perseverance and use your peers to vent to!

Q What do you see as the most significant trend in your practice in a year's time?

A The rise in private FDRs and the impact on financial remedy proceedings as a whole

Q What personality trait do you most attribute to your success?

A Affability. Whilst it is important to know the law and process, being able to speak to your clients in layman's terms and work WITH your instructing solicitor, I feel has been imperative in my progression at the Bar.

Q Who has been your biggest role model in the industry?

A Baroness Hale

Q What is something you think everyone should do at least once in their lives?

A Visit Niagara Falls!

Q You've been granted a one-way ticket to another country of your choice. Where are you going?

A Canada. We recently travelled around a few of the provinces— you can be in one province sipping wine at a vineyard in the sunshine and then travel across up to the mountains and see the snow. Best of both worlds!

Q What is a book you think everyone should read and why?

A Secret Barrister – great insight into the profession with a touch of humour.

Q If you had to sing karaoke right now, which song would you pick?

A Defying gravity – I love a musical classic!

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