

Welcome to the first edition of the new Mcmillan Williams newsletter. We hope to use this as a forum to pass on information about the firm and staff. It is to demonstrate our continued commitment to valuing and rewarding staff.

Surprise Party - Thursday, June 28th 2007 marked a staff "away day", surprise (we think!) party for John McMillan to celebrate his 25 years since the founding of our firm. Colum Smith and his team meticulously planned the event which was held at this splendid and historic ancient castle hotel, nestling in the beautiful South Downs in West Sussex. (www.amberleycastle.co.uk) In a week dominated by heavy rain, we were very fortunate that the weather stayed dry for almost the entire day, and we were able to enjoy the glorious surroundings, sumptuous food and drink, and live entertainment in the form of a Dixie jazz band, magicians and Pam Davies on the phone to the Bank from the castle battlements trying to release completion monies whilst eating her canapés! This event was a fitting and spectacular Silver Jubilee celebration for MW and one that will be fondly remembered by everyone for many years to come.



Legal 500 Success - McMillan Williams Clinical Negligence department is proud to have been listed in both the Legal 500 and the Chambers 2007 Directory. The Legal 500 is the largest and most in-depth survey of the UK legal market and recognises the Leaders in the Legal World. McMillan Williams are included as leaders in Claimant Clinical Negligence.

The Chambers Directory lists the "Best of the UK" law firms. Again, McMillan Williams have been listed as a leader in the Claimant Clinical Negligence field. Chambers Directory say:

"McMillan Williams is known for its work on maximum severity personal injury and clinical negligence cases. It fields a small team of individuals who are proficient in both areas."

HIPs Companies take off!

Since 1st August, every homeowner selling a home with four or more bedrooms must now compile a Home Information Pack, which includes a home energy efficiency rating to be carried out by a qualified Domestic Energy Assessor. On 10 September 2007, the Regulations were extended to include all properties with 3 bedrooms and above. McMillan Williams have set up two separate companies both to produce the Energy Performance Certificates through our in house team of Assessors and to put the rest of the documents together to complete the Home Information Packs. See the attached article from the Croydon Guardian (15 August 2007) with a feature on our HIP team and an interview with Imran Khan.

Congratulations

-To Elise Bevan, Imran Khan and Darren Paddick, all former trainees with the firm who qualified as solicitors in September and October 2007 and who are all staying on at the firm as Associates – Elise in Clinical Negligence/Personal Injury; and Imran and Darren in Conveyancing.

-To Neil Perot and Jason Hooker who became proud Dads earlier this year with the births of Toby (Perot) and Tegan (Hooker).

-To Cassie Eley and Kimberley Christodoulou (Wallington) on their recent promotions.

-To Joanne Kheder, Canel Asim and Stephanie Leach who have all been offered training contracts with the firm to start on 1st December 2007.

-Welcome to Muteira Raouf, (private client, South Croydon); Andrea Appiah (conveyancing, Thornton Heath); as well as all our new paralegals this year, Koysor Miah, Rachel Nemchand, Lynsey Roadnight, Maria Richards, Jasicca Nava, Ashley Denteh, Sheri Isa, Sovani James, and Lisa Lal

Michael Sieff Foundation – MW Sponsors Conference in Windsor Great Park

The Michael Sieff Foundation is a registered charity which has been at work since 1987. The Foundation's current Secretary is Richard White who is a Consultant with MW. The Foundation is dedicated to improving policy and practice for children and young people in need, and encourages multi-agency collaboration. The Trustees of the Michael Sieff Foundation are most grateful to the Partners of McMillan Williams who have generously provided sponsorship for both the April 2007 conference in London on the future of care proceedings, and the 20th Anniversary conference in November 2007 at Cumberland Lodge in Windsor Great Park where the topic for discussion will be "Preventing the abuse of children and young people and protecting their emotional and mental health". See the Foundation's website for further details of the Foundation's work and aims – <http://www.michaelsieff-foundation.org.uk>

MW Expansion – MW house

McMillan Williams is pleased to announce the recent acquisition of MW House in Chipstead Valley Road, Coulsdon. Following refurbishment works, MW House will be used to house MW's Accounts, IT and Practice Management teams and will be occupied before the end of 2007.

Together with the re-occupation of part of our Grade II listed, C18th Orangery in The Square, Carshalton in late May 2007 by part of the private client team under Emily Osborne, this brings the firm's offices currently to a total of eight.

Caribbean Black Tie Charity Ball for ASL

MW is taking a corporate table at a Black Tie Charity Caribbean Ball on 20 October 2007 organised by Alexander Stewart Locations, one of its major clients who are based in London SW1. The ASL Fundraising Association is excited to be hosting their first Classical Caribbean Ball in aid of [The Sickle Cell Society](#). This chic and innovative approach to entertainment will take place on Saturday 20th October 2007 at the Porchester Hall in London's elegant Bayswater.

This event will take the form of an elegant dinner and dance, accompanied by the [Joe Carthey Steel Pan](#) and of course, the fantastic globally acclaimed [Reggae Philharmonic Orchestra](#). Naturally, the sumptuous three course menu will include a variety of mouth watering treats all of which will be accompanied by a selection of fine wines to enhance the dining experience.

Welcome to White and Sherwin –

A comment by Richard White on the April 2007 merger with MW:

"At Easter 2007 White and Sherwin closed its doors after 20 years of practice at its central Croydon office. The firm had been specialising in children's law and had developed a national reputation for its expertise. Regrettably central Government policy on legal aid had made the future bleak for small firms. The upside is that the combined skills of the partners Richard White and Michael Sherwin, their Associate Solicitor Karen Davies and their PA Kim Horner, who together have more than 100 years of experience, have now been put to public service within the Family Law department of McMillan Williams. A review of progress after six months suggests that the arrangements have worked well. To its substantial reputation in the field of clinical negligence and conveyancing, McMillan Williams has now added a dominant position in family law in the region. Large volumes of family work are coming into the practice, especially at the firm's office in Thornton Heath. White and Sherwin had a significant practice advising agencies providing services to and for children and families. McMillan Williams will wish to continue that service and look to develop it, while at the same time seeking to coordinate that area with its related work in clinical negligence and other family related fields".

Henry punches his weight in Court!

See attached articles for some recent cases in which Henry Oghoetuoma was defending his clients in Court.

New MW Website launched!

Please take a moment to look at our fantastic new website, redesigned by Tracey Van-Tongerren, Nicola Manning and Shivi Nathan.

www.mcmillan-williams.co.uk