

# Private Client Services Newsletter – December 2025



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2025 is coming to a close. It has been a unique year, but one where we have had the privilege of achieving a number of stand-out achievements. For the fourth year running, we have been proudly recognised as one of the “Top Family Law Firms 2025” and “Top Law Firms 2025” in the 2025 eprivateclient awards. It’s a double recognition that highlights our continued commitment to excellence in private client services, alongside the outstanding strength of our Family team.

But our awards aren’t the only achievements throughout 2025. This year, **Sandeep Sandhu** completed her mediation training, enabling us to provide clients with a valuable and resource-effective method for resolution. **Siobhan Jeffels** also recently qualified as a Collaborative Lawyer and alongside **Rachel Spencer Robb** can provide clients with a further dispute resolution model that tries to resolve family law matters outside of the court process. In the Private Wealth team, we’re proud to welcome **Niamh Burke** as an Associate after qualifying as a solicitor within the team.

Speaking of qualifications, **Kerri-Anne Ball** is now fully STEP (The Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners) qualified, having passed her third and final exam. We now have 8 fully qualified TEPs within the firm (7 in our Private Wealth team, and 1 in our Contentious Private Client team), which is a fantastic accolade for us to achieve. These qualifications take years to obtain, with the requirements involving completion of rigorous exams in the lawyers’ spare time. The qualification is a globally recognised kitemark for Private Client advisers, demonstrating the firm’s commitment to having the best of the best Private Client lawyers.

We’ve also had a fantastic year for recognition. **Lynsey Harrison** has been named among the UK’s leading contentious trust lawyers in Spear’s 500, the indispensable guide to top private client advisers and service providers for high- and ultra-high-net-worth individuals.

She has also deservedly secured a place in the Hall of Fame in the Chambers High Net Worth 2025 Guide.

Alongside this incredible achievement:

- **Lynsey Harrison** moved up to Band 2 in Chambers & Partners for Court of Protection: Property & Affairs. We are also ranked Band 2 in Private Wealth Law, and Band 2 in Family Law.
- In Legal 500, we’ve achieved Tier 1 for Contentious Trusts and Probate, Tier 1 for Family, and Tier 2 for Personal Tax, Trusts and Probate.

And finally, **Kerri-Anne Ball**, **Sarah McGovern**, and **Jo Crowley** attended AutistiCon, a Leeds Autism Services event with information stalls, guest speakers, performers, and a digital art exhibition. **Kerri-Anne** was invited to be on the radio following this event.

On another note, if the recent Budget has raised questions about your business or personal finances, contact our team for clear, expert guidance to help you plan with confidence.

If you have any questions or you’d like to discuss anything we’ve covered below, please don’t hesitate to get in touch with [Lynsey](#), [Rachel](#) or [Steph](#).



## Why aligned private and corporate legal advice is key to protecting your family business

Your business is more than just a commercial venture. You and your family have dedicated years, possibly multiple decades, creating and nurturing something that is not only successful, but is a collective reflection of your family's values and commitment. It's a legacy. One that has evolved and developed throughout generations. Yet with recent UK inheritance tax reforms complex succession challenges could create a ripple of detrimental waves in the future of that legacy.

The nature of legal and tax planning for the transfer of business or share ownership requires new considerations.

It's a process that requires a proactive approach with the right balance of priorities, and one where aligned support from connected Private Wealth and Corporate legal teams can make a considerable difference.



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[Click here to read Stephanie's blog.](#)



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[Click here to read Charlotte's blog.](#)

## Prenuptial and postnuptial agreements: Why every couple should consider one

Many people think prenuptial or postnuptial agreements are only for celebrities or the wealthy. In reality, they can be one of the most practical tools for couples and families from all financial backgrounds.

Nuptial agreements help protect assets you bring into the relationship, from property to savings or inheritances, and can be especially valuable for blended families or where parents have helped you onto the property ladder. They also reduce the risk of costly, stressful disputes if things change down the line.

Far from being unromantic, they're simply sensible financial planning offering clarity, fairness and peace of mind for both partners.

## What happens at a Will instruction meeting?

For many, making a Will is something that gets pushed down the 'To Do List' often due to fear of the unknown or discomfort around the topic.

But the process does not have to be a daunting experience!

At Clarion Solicitors, we aim to make the process straightforward, personal, and some clients even say therapeutic.

Our initial meeting typically lasts around an hour and can take place in person or over Teams.

It is an informal, no pressure conversation where we focus on understanding your personal situation and what you want to achieve through your Will.

Making a Will is not a box ticking exercise, it is about future proofing your plans and protecting the people who matter most to you.



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[Click here to read Kerri-Anne's blog or watch the video.](#)



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## The Court of Protection: Key themes for 2026

As we move into 2026, the Court of Protection continues to play a pivotal role in decision making for people who lack the capacity to make decisions about their property and financial affairs.

This year we have seen increased scrutiny of how Deputies manage assets, rising care costs that affect property decisions and the modernisation of the Court's systems, with more moving online.

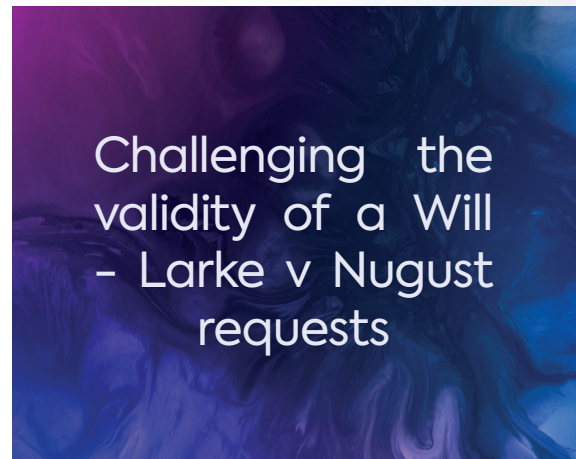
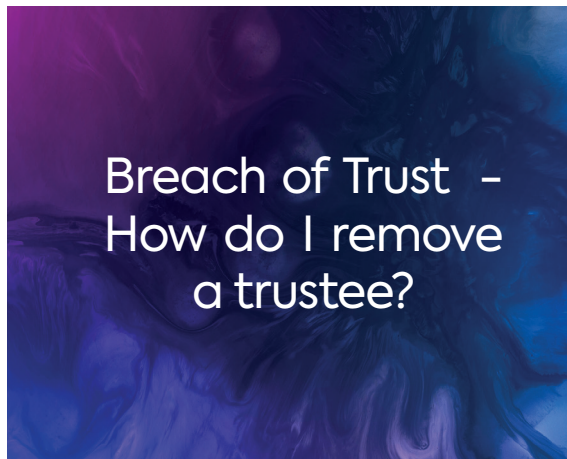
For families and deputies alike, understanding these shifts is essential to ensuring good decisions and compliance in the year ahead.

[Click here to read  
Katie's blog.](#)

### Latest videos

The Contentious Private Client team at Clarion have produced a series of informative videos on topics such as challenging the validity of wills, proprietary estoppel, breach of trust, and more.

We set out below two of these videos (click on the image to access the video) but you can access more videos on our YouTube channel.



[Visit our Youtube Channel](#)



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## Q&A with Sandeep Sandhu

### When did you join Clarion and what sort of law do you do?

I joined the firm in January 2024, so coming up to two years! I am part of Clarion's Family team and deal with children, finances, injunctions and intervener proceedings. I have also just qualified as a family mediator and am looking forward to mediating. I hope to bring my experience of dealing with family law issues to my mediation practice, which will help clients to find practical and child focused solutions. I shall be offering both in -person mediation as well as virtual appointments to suit schedules.

With the courts placing more emphasis on non-court dispute resolution options, it means that Clarion can offer a comprehensive package of solutions for clients (including collaborative work) to those who require family law solutions.

### If you weren't a lawyer, what would you be?

I love writing and at one point was considering a career as an advertising copywriter. However, there weren't many courses in the region at that point, so I opted to go down the legal route instead.

### What do you do outside law?

I love sport and being a proud Leeds United supporter, I was delighted to become a member of the West Riding Football Association's Inclusion Advisory Group which helps promote equality and diversity at grassroots level. I have also helped to form the new and upcoming Northern Asian Lawyers Association (NALA) which is a non-profit organisation hosting networking and career development events across the north of England. We are an inclusive body, and we proudly welcome people of all background to our events. We are hoping to launch early 2026!

**Thank you**

**The Private Client Services team**

*Disclaimer: This document is intended as guidance only and does not constitute legal advice. Please do not rely on its contents without taking specific advice from one of our lawyers.*

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