

Law

Lawyer of the week Dominic Bray

Dominic Bray, a partner at Lee & Thompson, acted for the screenwriter Nicholas Martin in the High Court in a dispute over the authorship of the film *Florence Foster Jenkins*. It ruled that Mr Martin was the sole writer of the film's screenplay.

What were the main challenges? There were two parties absolutely convinced that their respective — and directly conflicting — version of events was right. However, the human memory is fallible, so you start with the documents — on which the court found in our favour.



What's the best decision you've taken as a lawyer? Leaving a large international law firm to join a four-partner practice in Charlotte Street, Forbes Anderson Free, which then merged with Lee & Thompson. The City served me well, and there is comfort in numbers, but it was time for change. Being truly self-employed was both a challenge and a huge liberation. There is no hiding, and that's when you really know what you're made of and truly appreciate your clients.

Who has inspired you in your career?
John Magnin

at the US firm K&L Gates, who was my first supervisor as an associate. Tremendously clever and a thoroughly decent man. No word is ever wasted.

What's the funniest/oddest thing that has happened to you as a lawyer? At 3am, at the end of a successful mediation, finding some notes the other side had made on a pad they left on the table. All it said was: "I love West Brom" and "[my client's] a wanker".

What's the best advice you've received? Always have an opinion. You won't always be right, and people won't always agree with you, but express a view — that's what we're paid for.

Which three qualities should a lawyer have? Curiosity — always be ready to learn and don't be afraid to ask the stupid question; responsibility — it really is on you; and to be incisive — get to what really matters.

What law would you enact? Anything that might alleviate the war between cars and bicycles on London's and other streets. I ride a bike. We need to get along.

How would you like to be remembered? For being true to myself and for having a sense of adventure, in work and with my wonderfully fearless family.

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