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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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