



Q&A with Tim Brewster

Tim Brewster is a solicitor providing specialist advice on Probate, Trust Administration, the preparation of Wills and Estate Planning. He joined Meridian in 2017, following a decision later on in his career to move into law.

What attracted you to the law?

I came to law in a slightly unorthodox route. Whilst I enjoyed studying politics at university, I wasn't drawn to a traditional career in the political environment. I'm analytical yet creative and enjoyed a short career in marketing communications. My later move to the law was driven by a desire to develop new intellectual interests and to help people make significant change in their life. This role lets me be analytical and, although the creativity is there, it's in a different way to marketing communications. As a lawyer, you need to relate to, question and even challenge clients to be able to give them the best advice, and every case is different.

You love to surf, how does this help you in your professional life?

As a boy who grew up in Cornwall, surfing is in my blood.

No two surf breaks are the same; the wave and the setting will always be different. Even the waves themselves have a singular characteristic; each one is different. Surfing teaches resilience and patience, because you can only surf when the ocean is providing the right conditions for it.

Mostly, it is just a great escape. If you are battling to get beyond the white water or taking wave after wave on the head and getting held under the water for a long period of time, you aren't thinking about anything else. Getting into big surf can also be very humbling, but a good lesson in how to work in a dynamic situation, assessing your risk and limits and knowing when to call it a day.

All great skills for the day job!

What do you find challenging professionally?

I have worked on a couple of separate matters concerning the unravelling of a complex series of trusts, which were originally established under some quite aggressive and ultimately unreliable schemes promoted by other advisors. That has been quite an eye-opener. However, being able to approach these situations with the benefit of input from our in-house tax and litigation experts, is great.

It can be challenging some days juggling a number of complex matters, each with their own nuances, but this is what makes a career in private client so interesting and diverse.

Who is your ideal mentor?

I would have to choose two. Firstly, Joel Parkinson, a former world champion and the most graceful surfer of all time.

Secondly and collectively, some of my senior colleagues at Meridian. To have colleagues who have decades of exceptionally high-level experience to work with can be a real pleasure. As we work as a team on almost every matter, there are no barriers across the firm, providing access to mentors with enormous experience who are willing to share their knowledge without question.

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