



Q&A with Mark Abrol

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the contentious rapper

What is your role with the firm?

I head up the contentious trust, property and probate litigation team. Our primary area of work is to find a way to resolve our clients' issues arising from the death of somebody close to them. This type of work has been the fastest growth area in litigation in recent years.

How did you decide upon a career in the law?

Sport was my life during my teenage years. I loved the way that the psychological balance of a football, rugby or cricket match could change. It was during those formative years that I looked ahead to see where I could find a similar challenge in a working environment and decided that I wanted to be a litigation lawyer.

What is your favourite sporting moment?

I am passionate about most sports and never cease to be amazed at the standards of the real top performers. You wonder how the All Blacks continue to perform with such unbelievable consistency, how Tiger Woods has continued to defy the odds and win 15 majors and how Lewis Hamilton has broken all Formula One records. How on earth did Phil Taylor win 16 world darts championships? However, I have been a Stoke City supporter since the age of 4. Gordon Banks was my hero in the England team, and he moved to Stoke City in 1967. Shortly afterwards Stoke won their only piece of silverware, the League Cup, in March 1972. For me, that takes pride of place.

Do you have a claim to fame?

In or around 1987, I played cricket for David Nicholson's horse racing yard – he used to be a National Hunt trainer. I opened the batting with Richard Dunwoody who had won the Grand National on West Tip in 1985. As we walked out to bat, Richard turned to me and said, "I don't know anything about cricket so you tell me what to do and when to run." Whilst he did not last long at the crease, we managed to win the match off the very last ball.

What do you see as your main challenge at work?

It is crucial to have a team that continues to develop and evolve. Technology has started to change the law a lot, most recently in relation to how Court hearings operate in these times of COVID-19, and we have to adapt to meet these new challenges.

What do you like most about your job?

I am blessed to have worked with some excellent individuals in my team for their whole careers and it has been very pleasing to see how they have developed. More recently, it has been a revelation to work within the niche private client team at Meridian. There is a particular ethos about the firm which is very different to traditional law firms – the supportive and collaborative approach enables the best service to be given to clients, as well as making it an enjoyable place to work.

What is your guilty pleasure?

Other than sport, I have two other (very different) interests. I have been a keen student of personal development for more than two decades and have a huge reference library which I make regular use of. When opportunity allows, I also like to get on stage and do some rapping. When I (foolishly) volunteered on a stag trip at Cheltenham Races to "rap with the band" at next week's wedding, I did not know what a change of direction my life was going to take! In the cold light of day, I realised my folly but gave it a go regardless. Since then, I have been on stage at a whole array of events.

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