

Spotlight on Russell-Cooke LLP



Russell-Cooke LLP is the top 100 London law firm on your doorstep. Russell-Cooke's 47 partners and around 100 solicitors are organised into five broad business sectors providing an exceptionally wide and diverse breadth of services; many of our solicitors are recognised nationally within their respective fields.

The firm has enjoyed substantial expansion in the past 25 years notwithstanding recessions past and present.

The Kingston office which occupies an enviable location overlooking the Thames at Kingston Bridge has seen significant growth of the Family and Children and the Private Client teams augmenting similar teams in our other offices. Expansion in Kingston has been assisted by mergers with Caporn Campbell in 2006 and Woodhouse Davies Martin in 2010.

Services for Charity and the Not for Profit Sector

The Charity team which advises over 600 not for profit organisations has a national reputation. Its fifteen qualified members each specialise in governance, commercial law, property or employment which enables the team to provide a holistic service covering all of the client's requirements for legal advice.

Services for Regulators and the Regulated

Our specialist team advises on matters relating to the codes of conduct which regulate professions or are laid down or enforced by statutory bodies. We act both for national professional regulatory bodies including the Law Society, SRA and ILEX and for individuals facing investigation or disciplinary proceedings. The team also has a long history of handling long and complex contested matters in relation to investigations by the FSA, SFO and HMRC.

Services for Business and the Property Sector

The Commercial Property team is headed up in our Kingston office by partner Roger Ford and is part of the firm's Commercial Property Group of over 20 lawyers across 3 offices. Given the breadth of experience and technical expertise of the group it is well placed to offer advice to a wide range of commercial clients

and is also able to refer clients to our specialist Property Litigation team which can be invaluable to clients when property disputes arise. Partner Paul Greatholder is presently chairman of the Property Litigation Association

Our Commercial teams act for a wide range of businesses and commercial organisations from publicly quoted companies, including major retailers and property development companies to professional and creative partnerships and start ups and the 6 strong Employment Team have particular expertise in relation to business immigration.

Services for individuals

The 6 members of the Family team in Kingston are part of the Family Group. The team members act as a client's legal ally and seek to ensure that a client is guided to the appropriate process that suits his or her particular circumstances whether married, civilly partnered or cohabiting. Across the firm there are 5 mediators and 7 collaborative lawyers. We are qualified to provide Mediation Information and Assessment meetings a requirement for clients to attend pre court since April 2011.

Therese Nichols who leads the team is well regarded in alternative dispute resolution and is a civil, as well as an accredited Family mediator.

The team also acts in child abduction cases and we are members of the International Child Abduction and Contact Unit.

The Children team working alongside the Family team is headed by Samantha Little and has 6 specialist solicitors, four of whom are on the Law Society's Children Panel. They advise and represent children, parents and other family members in children's care proceedings involving the Local Authority and in private law proceedings where parents and children need help following relationship breakdown.

It is not well known that every parent and some family members can get non repayable legal aid for care proceedings irrespective of their income and capital. Russell-Cooke is proud to maintain its commitment to legal aid when many firms have ceased publicly funded work. We are also experienced in adoption work including inter-country adoptions.

We believe it is essential that in proceedings involving children, clients have access to specialist and experienced solicitors. The team has strong links with referring agencies and is highly regarded by other professionals in the field. Samantha Little regularly delivers lectures to other professionals on Children law issues.

The team are members of Resolution and the Association of Lawyers for Children and campaign on children law issues.

The Private Client team based in Kingston is part of the firm wide Private Client Group which consists of more than 20 lawyers led by Richard Frimston. In 2011 Russell-Cooke was named as one of Private Client Practitioner's Top 25 Law Firms. The group has particular expertise in multi-jurisdictional estates; Richard is Chair of the EU STEP Committee and has advised the EU Commission on Brussels IV Cross Border Succession. This cross border expertise is augmented by our French team which is comprised of dual qualified solicitors and French Avocats led by Dawn Alderson.

Notable work of our highly-specialist Trust and Estate Disputes team includes acting for an interested party in Re P, the first reported case to come before the High Court for approval of a statutory will under the MCA 2005.

The Private Client Group's ability to tackle complex, multi-dimensional cases means that a significant proportion of its work comes from referrals by other solicitors.

Russell-Cooke provides specialist and skilled advice and representation across the whole range of criminal law and offers legal aid where it is available. Our experience is broad and extends to the most serious matters including murder cases. There is a specialist fraud team and we have considerable experience of extradition cases.

Russell-Cooke has a national reputation for excellence in relation to clinical negligence and personal injury work advising upon all aspects of such claims including road traffic accidents, injuries at work, clinical errors and misdiagnosis, cosmetic surgery claims, injuries sustained at birth and fatal accident claims. The team can also deal with Criminal Injury Compensation claims, and handle wide-ranging and complex matters. We are able to offer flexible funding arrangements. In certain circumstances we can offer in-house funding for claims which have a strong chance of success but where the client has financial difficulties. We also have a Legal Aid franchise for clinical negligence work.

Community and professional links

An increasing area of work is our representation of families at Inquests. We advise clients on procedure in the Coroner's Court and act as advocates during the inquest itself.

Russell-Cooke has a long standing commitment to local Law Societies, and at present Gareth Ledsham of our Disputed Trusts and Estates team is Treasurer of the South London Law Society and Kieran Bowe of the Private Client Team in Kingston is currently Vice President of the Surrey Law Society.

The company has a long tradition of building community links and of support for local charities, the arts and sport. The Kingston office and the firm have been involved with the Rose Theatre since its inception and we continue our sponsorship of what is now a thriving venue for the arts in Kingston. Theatrical links also include sponsorship of the Polka Children's Theatre in Wimbledon and the Southbank Centre in the heart of London.

We sponsored the Kingston branch of the U3A in its 20th year and in the last 12 months we participated in a number of events put on by the group to mark this anniversary.

The firm also has a long standing relationship with the Friends of Richmond Park and sponsors photographic and poetry competitions organised by the Friends.

Sporting sponsorships include Esher RFC currently playing in the Second Division of English rugby.

The firm continues to provide additional pro bono work in advice work at local law centres and Citizens' Advice Bureaux. We know only too well through our legal aid work just how great a need exists for good legal advice though for many people this is out of reach financially. Some of our lawyers also volunteer to help with reading schemes in local schools.

In this Olympic year Russell-Cooke is 1 of only 8 solicitors' firms to be appointed to the London 2012 Pro Bono Legal Advice and Representation Service to provide legal advice in respect of sports law criminal litigation defamation and privacy and personal injury to the athletes coaches team officials national Olympic and Paralympic committees and federations.

We are particularly excited at the prospect of the Olympic torch being carried over Kingston Bridge on its way to the Olympic stadium and then a few days later being able to watch the men's and women's cycle road races fly past the office reminding us of our association with Rebecca Romero who we first sponsored as a teenager and who went on to win a silver medal in rowing in 2004 before switching to cycling and becoming an Olympic champion in 2008.

All in all we hope that 2012 will be another golden summer.

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