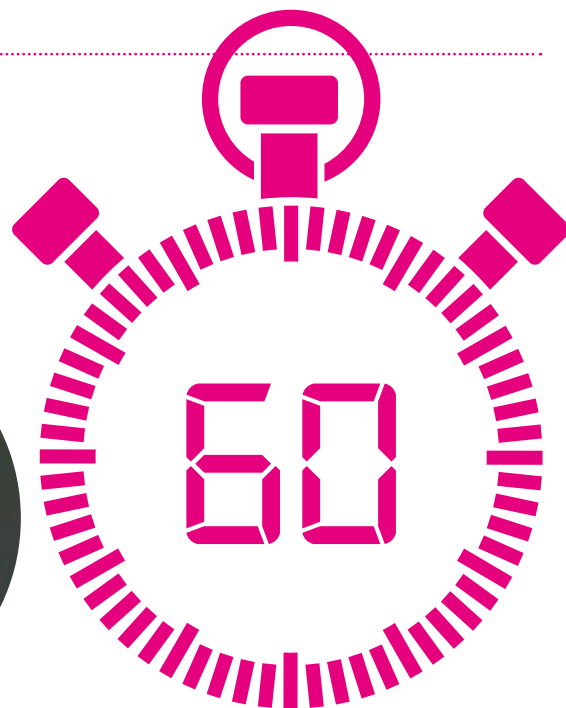


60-SECONDS WITH:

ELIZABETH
DOHERTY
PARTNER,
MACFARLANES

Q What would you be doing if you weren't in this profession?

A I love an old-fashioned book shop and I love freshly cut flowers. So I would be running a book shop-come-florist, where customers can browse with the scent and sight of flowers (and then buy some on the way out!). And if I could squeeze in a coffee shop too, all the better!

Q What's the strangest, most exciting thing you have done in your career?

A I'm not sure about the strangest, but certainly the most exciting was being called to our Senior Partner's office to be told I had made partner. I have grown up at Macfarlanes and have loved building my career here, and seeing it thrive while never compromising its culture. Making partner felt like the culmination of a lot of hard work and the beginning of a wonderful new challenge.

Q What is the easiest/hardest aspect of your job?

A The part of my job that I have always found the easiest, probably became the hardest during the pandemic. Meeting clients and interacting with colleagues and contacts has always been the part of my job that I most enjoy. It is so much easier to understand a client's true priorities and concerns when you can sit down in a room with them and so much easier to build a team, thrash out issues and provide support to colleagues (or seek it!) when you are in the same place. Learning to do all that 100% remotely was a challenge.

Q If you could give one piece of advice to aspiring practitioners, what would it be?

A Don't be afraid to build your career in your own way. No career path is linear, and a legal career is no different. Just because you aren't doing it in the same way or at the same time as your peers does not mean you aren't doing it right.

Juggling the demands of my family life (I have two young boys) with my work commitments has not always been easy, but with the support of family, friends and colleagues and some creative thinking, I manage to keep the balls in the air most of the time!

Q What has been the most interesting case you have seen in 2021?

A My work in the Court of Protection (the Court with jurisdiction over those who lack capacity to make decisions for themselves). Cases in the COP are always deeply personal to our clients and are therefore incredibly important to them. They are also very challenging, both legally and emotionally, and guiding a client and a team through them is extremely rewarding.

Q What do you think will be the most significant trend in your practice over the next 12 months?

A As a private client disputes team, we are seeing increasing numbers of cases involving regulatory investigations against settlors and beneficiaries. In some of these cases, trustees become directly targeted (for example where there is an issue about source of funds or claims are made against trust assets). Navigating the regulatory process, particularly where the regime of more than one jurisdiction is relevant, can be disproportionately complicated and expensive. Dealing appropriately with prosecuting authorities while making best interest decisions for beneficiaries and seeking to preserve trust assets and maintain liquidity creates an unusual and complex dynamic for trustees – and trust litigators!

Q If you could learn to do anything, what would it be?

A The ability to convince my children to eat vegetables and understand the importance of a lie-in at the weekend!

Q What is the one thing you could not live without?

A Coffee baristas (and also, Chancery barristers).

Q If you could meet anyone, living or dead, who would you meet?

A Without doubt, Her Majesty the Queen. I am in awe of her commitment and resilience and would love a few tips. My admiration is well-known to my friends. In fact, my best-woman invited her to my wedding. Her (very polite) letter declining the invitation is pride of place in my downstairs loo!

Q What songs are included on the soundtrack to your life?

A Barely a day went by when I was growing up when I didn't hear a Barry Manilow ballad blaring from the kitchen (my Mum is the ultimate Fanilow) and so I expect he would feature heavily...

Q What does the perfect weekend look like?

A These days, a day out in the countryside in our wellies followed by a long pub lunch and a glass of red wine.

Q Reflecting on 2021, what have you been most grateful for?

A When limits are put on travel and the health of loved ones can no longer be taken for granted, the world suddenly feels like a very big place. So I am grateful for time spent with friends and family and for technology for keeping me close to those I have not been able to see.

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