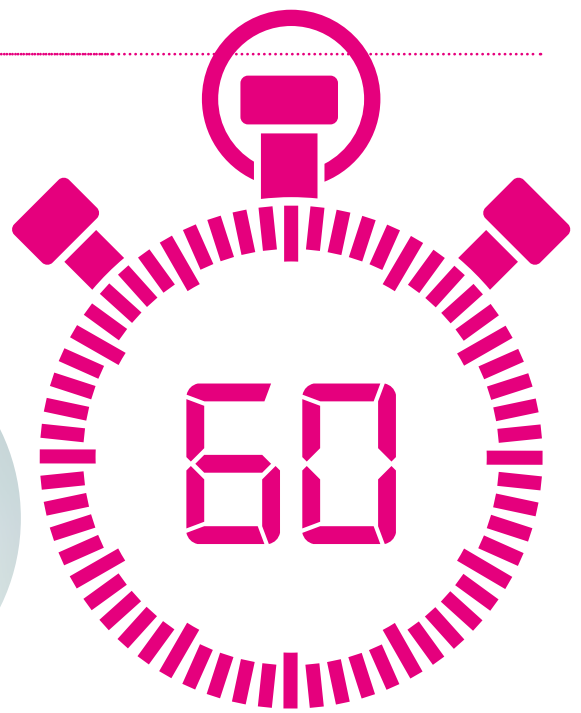


# 60-SECONDS WITH:

## ALEXANDER CHANDLER KC BARRISTER 1KBW



**Q** What do you like most about your job?

**A** That it doesn't feel like a job. It's unpredictable. You have intense periods of work followed by lulls when a case unexpectedly settles. It's endlessly challenging: as the saying goes, you're only as good as your last case.

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

**A** Writer / House husband.

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

**A** Representing the wife of a Russian oligarch in the Court of Appeal against Lord Pannick QC, who was arguing that the High Court had broken international sanctions by ordering his client to pay my client maintenance. Happily, the Court of Appeal didn't agree.

**Q** What is one of your greatest work-related achievements?

**A** Turning around a case which had gone very badly for the preceding two years: advising my client to draw a line under his missteps by lodging a schedule of admissions, so we could go into battle on the nineteen remaining allegations about allegedly hidden assets. At trial the court found in our favour on all nineteen issues.

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

**A** There's one way to win a case when you're very junior, which is to be fully prepared and on top of your brief. Also, never be arrogant or behave in a condescending way to anyone, whether judge, solicitor, witness, opponent, court staff or clerk. Legal careers are long and a reputation for being sharp or arrogant, once picked up, is hard to lose.

**Q** What do you see as the most significant trend in your practice in a year's time?

**A** I'm afraid that in a year's time the courts are likely to be dealing with the fallout from an economic recession: inflation, rising interest rates and a stagnant property market, which alter clients' priorities when it comes to financial remedy claims.

**Q** What personality trait do you most attribute to your success?

**A** Grit. What you don't see when you're starting out is that everyone has their setbacks. It's a hard and at times lonely profession. You need to be resilient and have the ability to brush yourself off and keep going. Aside from that, a willingness to be open to new ideas – I've enjoyed going paperless and building up a social media profile (Twitter: @familybrief, Blog: www.familybrief.org).

**Q** Who has been your biggest role model in the industry?

**A** Can I have two? Firstly, Philip Marshall QC, who was an inspirational pupil supervisor and one of the best cross-examiners I've seen in court. He was instrumental in my move back to 1KBW, was for many years my head of chambers with Deborah Eaton QC, and is now a friend in chambers. Second, James Turner QC who I've always admired as a polymath: who would appear in the House of Lords one day on a family case, and in the Crown Court on a murder on another. Sadly, we are all too siloed these days in our specialisms.

**Q** What is something you think everyone should do at least once in their lives?

**A** Everyone should try distance running, even if it's a 5km parkrun. You'll learn something about yourself and may find you have hidden strengths. And if you don't, at least you've had some exercise in the fresh air.

**Q** You've been granted a one-way ticket to another country of your choice. Where are you going?

**A** Japan, with a stopover in Sweden if that's allowed.

**Q** What is a book you think everyone should read and why?

**A** Shuggie Bain by Douglas Stuart which I thought was magnificent. Stuart breathes life into the characters and makes them fully three-dimensional, sympathetic, and compelling in spite of the hopelessness of the story. Essential reading for anyone interested in family law, or who wants to understand how hard life can be for some of our clients.

**Q** If you had to sing karaoke right now, which song would you pick?

**A** I'm a big fan of karaoke duets: "No one in your life is with you constantly/ No one is completely on your own..."

**L**