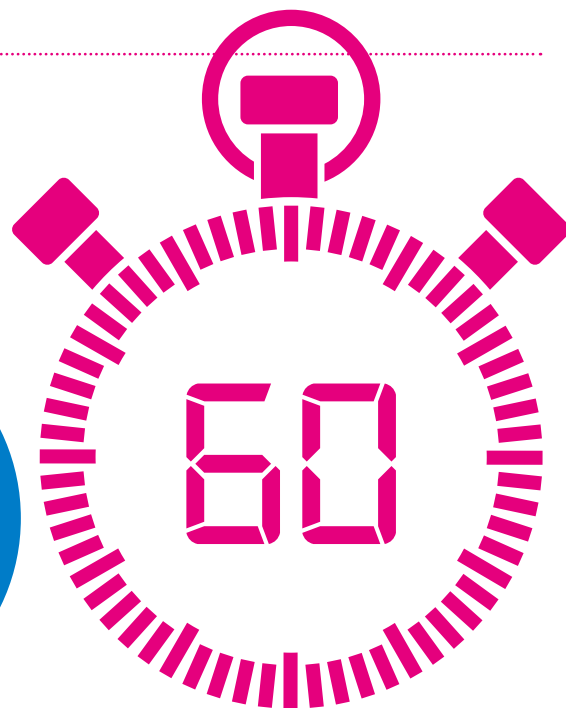


60-SECONDS WITH:

JAMES WEALE BARRISTER SERLE COURT



Q Imagine you no longer have to work. How would you spend your weekdays?

A Working: it's still fun and rewarding even if you don't have to do it! But if I really had to stop (and money was no object), I'd try to revive my long-lapsed PPL and fly around the world.

Q What do you see as the most rewarding thing about your job?

A Having the opportunity to present arguments before judges who are at the top of their game and (very occasionally) persuading them that I'm right.

Q What book do you think everyone should read, and why?

A The Story of Russia by Orlando Figes. It provides a fascinating insight into the psyche of Russia's rulers and subjects. As well as its current geo-political significance, it is essential reading for anyone in litigation involving Russian parties.

Q What legacy would you hope to leave behind?

A I don't pretend that I could leave behind any meaningful legacy. But decency and kindness are two qualities which I will certainly aim for.

Q Do you have any hidden talents?

A Handwriting that is so messy that only I can read it.

Q What's the most important quote you've heard that you have adapted to your personal or professional life.

A "Don't let the perfect be the enemy of the good". Particularly, when up against a deadline, don't get distracted by inconsequential details.

Q Is there anything you want to do/achieve that you haven't already?

A Gaining a better understanding of tax law, so that it doesn't scare me quite so much! Or, more realistically, learning how to make edible naan bread.

Q What piece of advice would you give to your younger self?

A Don't be intimidated by lawyers on the other side with impressive CVs; equally, never underestimate anyone who doesn't have an academic background.

Q Where has been your favorite holiday destination and why?

A South Africa. The scenery is unparalleled, and the people, food and wine are all amazing (and it's one of the few countries where the pound still gets you a long way).

Q Dead or alive, which famous person would you most like to have dinner with, and why?

A Volodymyr Zelenskyy: his unbreakable courage and resilience in the face of prolonged and horrific adversity is inspirational. What he and Ukraine may achieve in the coming months could shape the world for generations to come.

Q What's your go to relaxing activities to destress after a long day at work?

A Going for a walk on my own and/or listening to the latest broadcast of Choral Evensong – whatever your religious beliefs, good choral music is otherworldly.

Q What brings you the most joy.

A Family aside, travelling. Having spent most of the year in a single room (let alone country), there is nothing quite like opening one's eyes to entirely different scenery, culture and food and people (reminding us how much we have in common with each other).

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