



## Q&A with Serle Court's New Tenants: Niamh Herrett and Stefano Braschi

### Q&A with Niamh Herrett

1. If you could change an existing piece of legislation or implement a new legal doctrine, what would it be?

I would endorse the Law Commission's recommendations to reform and modernise covenants and negative easements under a new legal interest in land. Having both studied and taught easements and covenants at undergraduate level, in my opinion this area of law is far too complicated and outdated.

2. If you were asked to write a fiction novel, who would it be based on?

Jane Austen – I admire her fiction and think that her story should be told as well. If her life was half as interesting as the female characters in her novels then then it is worth exploring.

3. In your opinion, what's the most interesting area of law in chancery and commercial?

The law of trusts. Trusts arise in all kinds of situations – their creation and operation is often complicated and bizarrely tends to involve a fair amount of 19th century case law (which is always fun to decipher).

4. During your pupillage what's the most important thing you learnt?

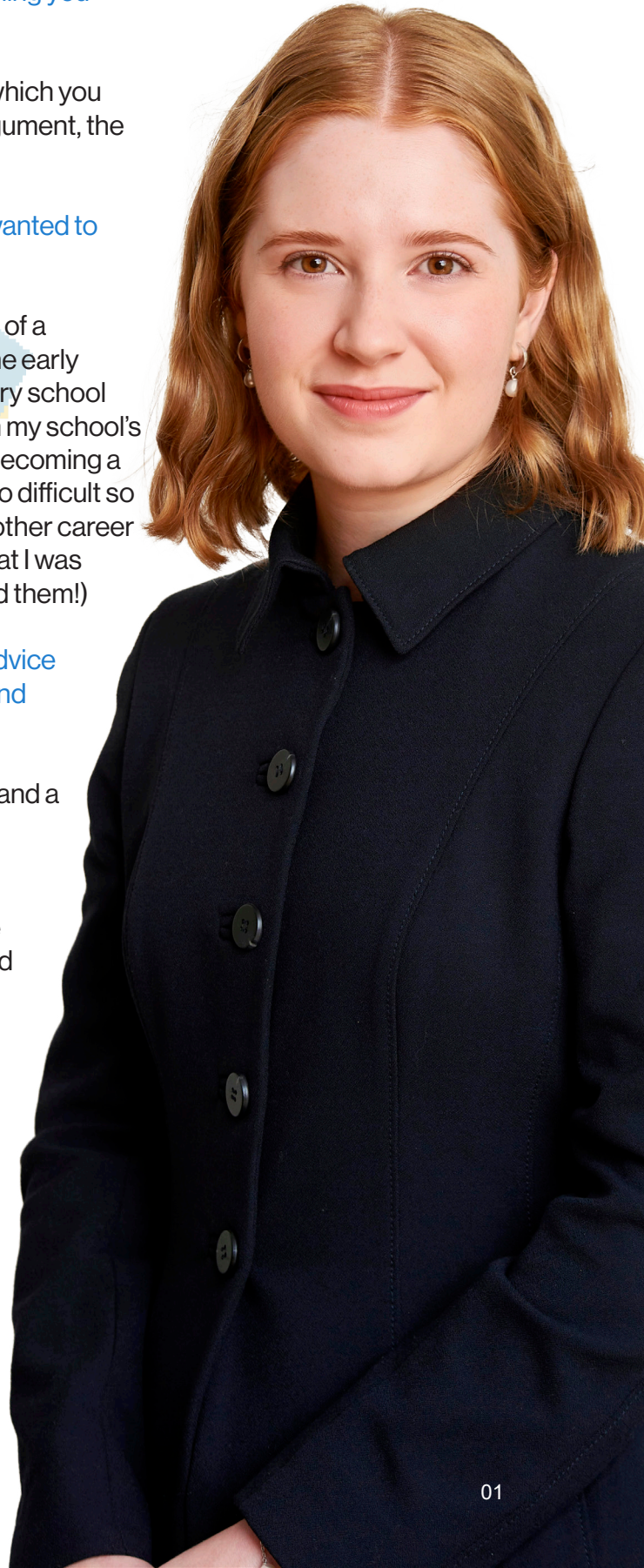
The fewer words in which you can express your argument, the better.

5. Have you always wanted to become a barrister?

I first started thinking of a career at the bar in the early years of my secondary school education. (Although my school's career advisor said becoming a barrister would be too difficult so I should consider another career instead... I am glad that I was stubborn and ignored them!)

6. Do you have any advice for incoming pupils and trainees?

It is a year of training and a year to learn. You are there because some very smart people believe that you have something to give and something to say, so don't be afraid to ask questions and don't be afraid to be yourself.





## Q&A with Serle Court's New Tenants: Niamh Herrett and Stefano Braschi

### Q&A with Stefano Braschi

1. If you could change an existing piece of legislation or implement a new legal doctrine, what would it be?

Law-making is best left to legislators. It is important that the law develops to reflect changes in our society but this does not always happen quickly enough. The law of surrogacy is one such example. After a period of consultation, the Law Commission are now considering recommendations and I understand that a draft bill is expected later this year. This is welcome news.

2. If you were asked to write a fiction novel, who would it be based on?

I would want the novel to focus on a political figure who worked for a future they wanted to live in. There are several candidates, each with a very different story. My top picks would be Marsha P Johnson or William Gladstone.

3. In your opinion, what's the most interesting area of law in chancery and commercial?

One of the things which most attracted me to this corner of the Bar is the sheer variety of work on offer. I have an open mind, like to try new things and want to be surprised. Perhaps ask me again in a few years' time.

4. During your pupillage what's the most important thing you learnt?

Don't worry about being perfect. Work hard at doing your best and back your own ability.

5. Have you always wanted to become a barrister?

Not at all. I never considered studying law at university. I read History in the U.S. and then trained as an actor in London. After several happy years in my first career, I sought a new challenge. I wanted to stimulate my intellectual curiosity but at the same time retain some of the freedoms and excitement I had as a performer. Once I started to think about a career at the Bar, I tried to learn as much as possible about what that would (or could) actually look like. I reached out to people, asked questions and sought help. I am very happy that I did, and very grateful to all those who supported me on this journey.

6. Do you have any advice for incoming pupils and trainees?

Be yourself and don't be afraid to ask questions. Pupillage is intimidating and exhausting, not least because of the pressure you put on yourself. You may make mistakes; that is ok. Never forget that this is

a learning experience and that everyone in chambers wants you to succeed. This is a fantastic opportunity to learn from the best, so seize it with both hands.

