



# HATTEN WYATT

*Solicitors & Advocates*

Special Edition 2008

## ANNOUNCEMENT

For those of you who do not know it may be of assistance and interest to provide a brief history of the practices of Hatten Wyatt and of Church Bruce together details of the incorporation of the latter into the former, and the benefits to our mutual clients and objectives which will be realised.

The practice of Hatten Wyatt has undergone significant change over the last 4½ years, when **Jasvinder Singh Gill** acquired the practice from the then former equity partners, namely, Michael Holland, Farook Girach and Anna Turnbull-Walker, becoming its sole proprietor.

The Hatten Wyatt has grown over the years, since its foundation in 1844 by George Sharland. More recently considerable time and effort has been spent in developing the Firm and giving it a recognisable brand. In addition the Firm promoted 3 Salaried Partners to head and oversee their growing departments. Over this period the Firm has invested heavily in upgrading its IT infrastructure, to enable it to operate from more than one site.

Church Bruce was established by Thomas Church in 1936 and over the years has developed into a substantial practice in Gravesend with a well established client base. Colin Crowhurst, Graeme Bentley and Sunita Chauhan

are the current Equity Partners of Church Bruce.

The Partners of Hatten Wyatt and the Partners of Church Bruce considered that if their respective Firms were to combine forces they will be able more effectively to meet the challenges of changing

**The Partners of Hatten Wyatt are therefore now pleased to announce that as of 1st June 2008 the practice of Church Bruce will be incorporated into the practice of Hatten Wyatt with the Partners of Church Bruce remaining with Hatten Wyatt as Consultants.**



Senior Partner, Colin Crowhurst of Church Bruce & Senior Partner, Jasvinder Gill of Hatten Wyatt on the Incorporation of Church Bruce into Hatten Wyatt

times and conditions and therefore better to serve the needs of their clients across a wider spectrum of the law.

Each Firm whilst providing some services which are similar to those provided by the other, nevertheless has particular niches which the other does not have. The enlarged and combined Firm will cover the widest range of legal work in Gravesend and the surrounding areas.

At the same time **Karen du Rocher** will be joining Jasvinder Singh Gill as an Equity Partner.

The expansion does not stop there, as **Damien Jones**, will be joining Hatten Wyatt as a Salaried Partner to head its Private Client Department as of 1st June 2008.

Hatten Wyatt will now operate from 18/21 Wrotham Road,

Gravesend and 51/54 Windmill Street, Gravesend.

The incorporation will be for the benefit of the clients of both Firms, as they will have access to more specialised lawyers.

It should be noted that this is not Hatten Wyatt's first merger with or incorporation of another Practice. In 1969 the Firms of Hatten Winnett & Holland merged with Wyatt & Blackman forming Hatten Wyatt, a significant event at the time which proved beneficial to the Practice and its growing client base.

Jasvinder Gill, the Senior Partner at Hatten Wyatt said *"The incorporation of Church Bruce into Hatten Wyatt, will further strengthen our market position, and enable us to better serve our Clients by combining our resources and expertise. The incorporation will create one of the largest practices in Gravesend and the surrounding areas."*

As of 1st June, the Firm will have 30 fee earners and approximately 70

staff split between the two offices, which are no more than a couple of hundred yards apart.

The Firm will offer the following Practice Areas:

- Business Services
- Charities
- Civil Liberties
- Civil Litigation
- Commercial Property
- Crime
- Debt Recovery
- Employment
- Family
- Immigration
- Licensing
- Mental Health
- Notary Public
- Personal Injury

- Probate
- Professional Negligence
- Residential Conveyancing
- Powers of Attorney, Lasting Powers of Attorney & Court of Protection
- Trusts
- Wills

Further information on each Practice Area and brochures for the same can be downloaded from our website [www.hatten-wyatt.com](http://www.hatten-wyatt.com) or obtained from our offices.

Each Practice area is headed by a Partner or Consultant and supported by our legal teams, which will be merged to deliver increased benefits to our clients.

In conclusion we hope that the incorporation of Church Bruce into Hatten Wyatt will benefit the clients of the unified Firm allowing us to deliver high quality professionally led services.

## Meet the Team...



**Mr J S Gill LL.B (HONS) LL.M  
Senior Partner**

Mr Gill read law at the University of East London graduating with an LLB (HONS) in 1995, followed by the Legal Practice Course at the College of Law, London. This was pursued by an LLM in International, Commercial and European Law at the University of Sheffield, graduating in 1997, following which he joined Lucas & Co (London) in 1997 as a Trainee Solicitor, qualifying in December 1999. Upon qualification he remained with Lucas & Co for four years, after which he joined Hatten Wyatt in December 2003 as the Senior Partner. He is currently undertaking the Notarial Practice Course at Cambridge University to become a Notary.

His main practice areas are business services, civil litigation and employment. He is the Partner with overall responsibility for the Firm.



**Miss K du Rocher LL.B (HONS)  
Partner**

Miss du Rocher read Law at Newcastle Upon Tyne University, qualifying with an LLB (HONS) in 1985. She undertook the Solicitors Finals, as they were known at the time, at the College of Law, Chancery Lane, in 1986 followed by her articles at Peter Carter-Ruck and Partners, qualifying as a Solicitor in 1988. She moved to Tinklin Spingall following qualification and became a Partner there in 1990 until 2001 before taking a career break. She joined Hatten Wyatt in September 2004 and became a Salaried Partner in June 2005 and an Equity Partner as of June 2008. She is also studying the Notarial Practice Course at Cambridge University in order to become Notary.

Her main practice areas are Commercial and Residential Property, Lasting Powers of Attorney and Court of Protection. She is the Partner responsible for the Property Department.



**Miss Avril Croud BA (HONS)  
Partner**

Miss Croud read English at Exeter University, qualifying in a BA (HONS). Subsequently Miss Croud undertook the Solicitor's Final Exams at College of Law, Chancery Lane, London in 1986

following which she secured articles with Emmerson Brown and Brown, qualifying in 1988. Miss Croud joined Hatten Wyatt's Family Department in 1999 and became the Partner in the Family Department in September 2004. Further to Miss Croud's credit, she was amongst the first Solicitors to be admitted to The Law Society's Family Panel, and is also currently a member of Resolution (formerly Solicitor's Family Law Association) and an Advanced Member of the Law Society's Family Law Panel.

She is the Partner responsible for the Family & Children Departments.



**Miss S Williams LL.B (HONS)  
Partner**

Miss Williams read law at the University of Wales, Cardiff College, graduating with an LLB (HONS) in 1995. Miss Williams then attended at the Inns of Court School of Law, being a

member of Lincoln's Inn, and was called to the Bar in 1996. Subsequently, Miss Williams was employed at Simmons & Simmons in their Litigation Department. Miss Williams joined Hewitt Burroughs criminal department in 1999 where she completed the Qualified Lawyers Transfer Test and was admitted to the Roll in 2001. Miss Williams joined Hatten Wyatt's criminal department in 2002 and although she left for a brief period in 2006 she returned in December as head of the Criminal Department and became a Partner in July 2007.

Miss Williams is the Partner responsible for the Criminal, Mental Health & Immigration Departments.



**Mr D J Jones LL.B (HONS) TEP  
Partner - as of 1st June 2008**

Mr Jones read Law at the University of East London, graduating with an LL.B (HONS) in 1995. Subsequently, Mr Jones undertook the Legal Practice Course at the College of Law in

1996. He qualified as a Solicitor in 1999 with Graham & Rose Colley before joining TG Baynes in 2000. Mr

Jones initially practised in the Family Law Department, before subsequently specialising in Private Client work and was appointed as a Partner in 2006. Mr Jones is a member of the Society for Trust and Estate Practitioners, the Probate Section of the Law Society and Solicitors for the Elderly. Mr. Jones provides legal advice in a clinic organised by the Dartford and Gravesham Advocacy Network and through a carers group organised by the Ellenor Foundation.

His main practice areas are wills and inheritance tax planning, trusts, estate planning, probate and Court of Protection work. He will be the Partner responsible for the Private Client Department.



**Mr F Girach BA(MW) LLB(MW) LL.B  
(HONS)(Lond) TEP  
Consultant**

Mr Girach read History and English at the University of Malawi, graduating with a BA in 1970. He then read law at the same University and graduated

with an LLB with distinction in 1973 entitling him to practice in the fused legal system in Malawi as a Legal Practitioner performing the functions of both a Barrister and a Solicitor. Mr Girach practiced in Malawi thereafter whilst continuing to read law externally at the University of London and graduating with an LLB (HONS) in 1977. With his qualifications and professional experience Mr Girach was exempted from articles and completed his Law Society's finals in 1980 and was admitted as a Solicitor in 1981. Recruited from Malawi by Hatten Wyatt, Mr Girach joined Hatten Wyatt in 1983 and became a Partner in 1984 until 2005, specialising initially in Conveyancing and subsequently in Private Client work. He is a full STEP member and a member of the Solicitors for the Elderly. Some of Mr Girach's works are published in the Butterworths Encyclopaedia of Forms and Precedents.



**Mr J V Brasington KSG  
Consultant- as of 1st June  
2008**

Mr Brasington trained at the College of Law, London and was articled to a firm of Solicitors in the Strand, qualifying as a Solicitor in 1957.

Following a Short Service Commission in the Royal Air Force he joined Church Bruce in 1960. He was made a Partner in 1962 and became Senior Partner in 1989. During this time he dealt mainly with Commercial and Domestic Property work. Since retirement in 2001 he has remained as a part-time Consultant dealing mainly with Wills.



**Mr C P Crowhurst LL.B (HONS)**  
**Consultant - as of 1st June 2008**

Born and educated in North Kent, Colin Crowhurst has practised in Gravesend for over thirty years. He holds an LLB (HONS) degree from London University and is both a solicitor and a notary public, enabling him to deal with international documentation. He joined Church Bruce in 1974, becoming a Partner in 1975 and Senior Partner in 2005. Following the incorporation of Church Bruce, Mr. Crowhurst will remain as a Consultant to the Firm. Mr. Crowhurst has also been involved for some years in local charitable housing work for the elderly. In addition, he provides work in property buying and selling for a large number of local contacts, in particular through his senior membership of the local church.

He specialises in wills, winding up of estates, trusts, Conveyancing and Notarial work.



**Mr G F Bentley LL.B (HONS)**  
**Consultant - as of 1st June 2008**

Mr Bentley graduated from the University of Leeds, practising in the Medway towns until 1988 when he joined Church Bruce, becoming a Partner in 1991. Mr. Bentley remains

with Hatten Wyatt as a Consultant following the incorporation of Church Bruce. Since 1994 he has been a member of the Law Society's Children Panel, as well as being a member of the Law Society's Family Panel and of Resolution. He regularly appears in court as an advocate and specialises in child care proceedings for local authorities and parents, guardianship and adoption matters.



**Mrs S Chauhan BSc (HONS)**  
**Consultant - as of 1st June 2008**

Mrs Chauhan read Law at the University of Hertfordshire, graduating with a BSc (HONS) in 1993. Thereafter, she undertook the Legal Practice Course with the same institute, St Albans branch, which completed in July 1996. Qualifying as a Solicitor in November 1998 after completing her training contract with Martin Tolhurst Partnership. This was followed by employment with Macleish Littlestone Cowan and Kemp from 1998 to September 2002 where she initially practised in the civil litigation department, followed by specialising in Family Law. Mrs Chauhan subsequently joined Church Bruce in October 2002 continuing to practice in Family Law and became an Equity Partner in February 2005. She remains with Hatten Wyatt as a Consultant and deals principally with divorces, separations, financial settlements and private children matters. She also appears in court as an advocate. Mrs Chauhan is a member of Resolution.



# HATTEN WYATT

*Solicitors & Advocates*

18/21 Wrotham Road

Gravesend

Kent DA11 0PF

Tel: 01474 35 11 99 Fax: 01474 33 43 45 DX: 6802 Gravesend

Email: [advice@hatten-wyatt.com](mailto:advice@hatten-wyatt.com)

Website: [www.hatten-wyatt.com](http://www.hatten-wyatt.com)

**This firm is regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority.  
A list of partners is available for inspection at the above address.**

The information contained in this newsletter is intended for general guidance only. It provides useful information in a concise form and is not a substitute for obtaining legal advice. If you would like advice specific to your circumstances, please contact us.