



60-SECONDS WITH:

SIMON ATKINSON BARRISTER WILBERFORCE CHAMBERS



Q Why did you choose a career path in the legal industry?

A For the intellectual stimulation and the freedom of being self employed.

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

A First, giving clear, frank and practical advice. Secondly providing clear, frank and robust court room advocacy.

Q What motivates you most about your work?

A The variety of the workload, the wonderful colleagues I work with (and sometimes against!) and knowing that I am providing specialist help to those who need it.

Q What is one work related goal you would like to achieve in the next five years?

A A trip to the Supreme Court would be nice! I made it to the Privy Council during Covid but the hearing was remote unfortunately.

Q What has been the best piece of advice you have been given in your career?

A Everyone suffers the same sense of aching self-doubt even if they don't show it. It's a useful reminder which comes to my mind frequently.

Q What is the most significant trend in your practice today?

A I have seen a huge surge of contentious probate work since the pandemic. Many of my largest and most complex instructions I am currently working on are probate matters.

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

A Jonathan Evans KC (one of my former pupil supervisors, now a vicar). A man who embodies that rare combination of intellectual acuity, incisive advocacy, dedication, professionalism and innate kindness. Plus the confidence and maturity to know when it is time to pursue another calling. A salutary reminder to us all as to how to live.

Q What is one important skill that you think everyone should have?

A Does respect count as a skill? Advocates who respect their opponents, the judge and the witness are frequently the most persuasive (and unflappable) advocates in my experience.

Q What cause are you passionate about?

A Education. I am a governor of an academy primary school in Cambridge. It has been wonderful to see the hard work and enthusiasm of the staff and students make the school a really

special and thriving community. Given all the funding strains and recruitment difficulties facing the education sector, it is heartening to see such drive for the next generation to succeed.

Q Where has been your favorite holiday destination and why?

A Portugal. But my husband is French-Portuguese, so I would have to say that wouldn't I? Seriously, though, Lisbon is stunning.

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

A Kane Williamson. Who wouldn't want to meet the world's number 1 test batsman and a kiwi to boot? My husband would NOT be invited. He hates cricket.

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