

Criminal Law & Litigation

Lawyer of the Year

Howell & Co *SOLICITORS*

Jim Crocker

UNITED KINGDOM



AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Jim's case load covers insolvency and fraud work, with a particular emphasis on investigations by HMRC in respect of tax and VAT (whether criminal or civil based). However, he now tends to concentrate on major commercial litigation, often involving commercial property. Jim has recently been involved in three separate disputes before the High Court, one of which involved 16 arbitrations in three different Asian countries. When asked to comment on Jim's work, the client in this case said: "He's the best all round litigator in the UK. Never a dull moment with him. Nothing gets past him. He is available 24/7 and, with 50 years' experience, as sharp as the day he started. I just hope he never retires. Irreplaceable".

CONTACT DETAILS

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ABOUT JIM CROCKER

Jim started his legal career with a firm of solicitors in the West End of London at just 15 years old. Now, at 71 years, he has over 50 years' experience in the legal profession.

Jim started his career as a legal clerk. However, within a short time, he was appearing before the Masters in the Bear Garden at the High Court on summonses for directions and summary judgments. This led to further jobs with several other well-known London litigation firms including Philip Kimber & Co and Howard Kennedy (formerly Howard Kennedy & Rossi).

In around 1970, Jim moved from London to the Midlands so that he could devote more time to his parachuting activities. Jim is an advanced parachute instructor and examiner and was, in fact, the chief instructor of the Midland Parachute Centre and the leader of the Royal Green Jackets Parachute Display Team. Jim enjoyed huge success during his time as a sky diver, including becoming European sky diving champion at championships held in Austria. He also competed in two world cups in South Africa and one in Germany and many major international competitions in other countries around the world.

Jim is a member of the British Parachute Association (BPA) and has been for over 50 years. He was a former chairman of the BPA Safety and Training Committee, an elected chairman of the BPA for 10 years, and continues to be a Vice President of the BPA. In terms of the wider air sports industry, Jim is a former elected chairman of the Royal Aero Club of the UK (RAeC) and is now Vice President. He is the chairman of the Royal Aero Club Trust, a registered charity.

After founding Howell & Co in around 1977 (where he is now managing partner) Jim has continued to work primarily in the fields of criminal and civil litigation. Outside of the office, Jim still has a keen interest in air sports. He is a qualified pilot with 3000 flying hours. He is also a qualified scuba diver and a Royal Yachting Association yacht Captain with commercial rating.

FIRM PROFILE

Established in 1977, Howell & Co operates from its South Birmingham office in Hall Green, which is conveniently near Birmingham Airport, Birmingham International Train Station and the motorway network. In spite of its suburban location, the firm has a wide client base, both nationally and internationally, and acts for clients in the UK, Europe, North America, Asia and Australia.

After initially establishing a reputation as a leading criminal defence firm in the Birmingham area, Howell & Co now offers a wide range of services for private and commercial clients including, civil litigation, criminal litigation, confiscation and forfeiture proceedings, HMRC tax disputes and investigations, residential and commercial property, family and matrimonial work, mediation and wills and probate.

Whilst Jim heads the litigation department, he is supported in his work by Dr Laura Brampton (partner) and Rhys Baker (solicitor). Litigation is considered to be a speciality of the firm, as is residential and commercial property matters. The property department is led by Roland Gibbins (partner), a licenced conveyancer of over 30 years' experience, and deals with matters ranging from residential purchases and sales, to large scale commercial transactions and leases. Roland is supported by Mason Quereshi, a solicitor of 12 years call. The firm's family law department, which deals with all facets of matrimonial and children work, is headed by Peter Burden (partner) an accredited mediator, authorised by the Family Mediation Council (FMC). This makes him one of only a few FMC accredited mediators in the Solihull and South Birmingham area.