

STEWART STRETTON-HILL  
Address: 10 Sherrard Mead, Newbury, Berkshire, RG14 2DF  
Telephone: 07989 593713 / 01635 600443  
Email: [stewart.stretton-hill@ntlworld.com](mailto:stewart.stretton-hill@ntlworld.com)  
LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/stewartstrettonhill/>  
Online CV available at: <https://shilldon.github.io/CV>

## PERSONAL STATEMENT

I am a successful and very experienced solicitor looking for a brand new technical challenge.

I have always had a passion for programming. At a very young age I enjoyed writing basic programs from books I borrowed from the local library. Since then that passion has built from a hobby I pursued in my spare time into something to which I want to dedicate my working life.

As a solicitor my natural talents for innovative problem solving, accuracy, project management and team work have served me extremely well. I have and continue to work on all manner of projects with a wide range of clients from individuals to multinational companies. I am either engaged directly with clients on a one-to-one basis or working within or managing a team of advisors.

My communication and presentation skills have been honed over the years for a role that requires the essential ability to present technical and complex issues in language that is easily understood by the lay client.

## TECHNICAL EXPERIENCE SUMMARY

I am currently studying a Diploma in Full Stack Web Development with the Code Institute. I have completed 3 out of the four 'milestone' projects achieving the following results:

- Milestone project 1 – User centric frontend development 87%
- Milestone project 2 – Interactive frontend development 78%
- Milestone project 3 – Data centric development – 89%

Through this course I have experience in:

Frontend	Backend	Frameworks	UX/UI Design
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• HTML5</li><li>• CSS3</li><li>• Jinja 2.0</li><li>• Javascript/jQuery</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Python 3</li><li>• Django</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Bootstrap 3 and 4</li><li>• Materialize 1.0</li><li>• Flask 2.0</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wireframes using MarvelApp</li></ul>

Source and Version Control	Database creation and design	Deployment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Git</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• MongoDB</li><li>• SQLite 3</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Github</li><li>• Heroku</li></ul>

## PROJECTS

I refer to my Github portfolio where you will find examples of the projects I have undertaken:

- **Frontend website for a rock band**  
**HTML5, CSS3, Javascript and Bootstrap**  
<https://github.com/Shilldon/band-site>

The brief for this milestone project was to create a web presence for a rock band to showcase examples of their music and upcoming events. I created a simple eye-catching, responsive site immediately demonstrating their 60s genre.

- **Frontend website for a start up pet sitting company**

**HTML5, CSS3, jQuery and Bootstrap3**

<https://github.com/Shilldon/priority-pets>

A friend is starting a pet-sitting dog walking business and needs an online presence. This work in progress website provides an obvious overview of her skills, working practice, area covered, contact details and prices. I worked with her making recommendations for logo design, colour scheme and website design.

- **Frontend 'scavenger hunt' website involving interaction with Google Maps API**

**HTML5, CSS3, jQuery and Google Maps API**

<https://github.com/Shilldon/scavengerhunt>

As our office's "sports & social" committee chairman I sought innovative ways to provide staff entertainment on a restricted budget. By creating this frontend website I used Google Maps API to pin 'clues' to an interactive in the local area. By tracking user location the text of clues is not displayed until the user is close enough to the location. This scavenger hunt was particularly successful and highly praised in the firm.

- **Interactive frontend website for a Special Educational Needs Consultant**

**HTML5, CSS3, jQuery, Google Maps API, Postcode API, d3 (dimension charting) and Bootstrap3**

<https://github.com/Shilldon/SENSite>

The brief for this milestone project was to create an interactive frontend website to demonstrate skills in API interaction, jQuery and data representation. I chose to create a web presence for a fictional Special Educational Needs consultant. Users can contact the SEN through the site, find schools in their local area catering to specific educational needs, take 'tests' to get an indication of their educational needs and check pupil numbers and gender ratio of schools in postcode areas.

- **Frontend and backend data centric website for a 'community cookbook'**

**HTML5, CSS3, jQuery, Python3, Flask, Jinja2.0, Materialize, MongoDB**

<https://github.com/Shilldon/cookbook>

The brief for this milestone project was to create a website enabling users to view, upload, edit and delete recipes. The project involved designing and creating a database structure. During the development phase I concluded a NoSQL database structure was appropriate and used MongoDB for backend database provision.

## **ADDITIONAL SKILLS**

- Accuracy
- Analytical complex problem solving
- Communication and presentation skills
- Project and team management
- Multitasking
- Financial budgeting and workflow analysis

## **EMPLOYMENT HISTORY**

Solicitor:

Private Client Specialism (Tax, Trusts, Estates and Probate)

- Irwin Mitchell – Senior Associate Solicitor – May 2016 to date
- Thomas Eggar – Senior Associate Solicitor – March 2014 to May 2016
- Thomas Eggar – Associate Solicitor – 2010 to March 2014
- Thomas Eggar – Senior Solicitor – 2007 to 2010
- Penningtons – Senior Solicitor – June 2007 - December 2007

## Personal Injury Specialism (High value Clinical Negligence claims)

- Penningtons – Senior Solicitor - 2004 – 2007
- Penningtons – Solicitor September 2000 - 2004

### As a solicitor and senior associate:

- I spend time ensuring that documents are accurate and tested. Attention to detail in drafting Wills, and trust deeds, is vital. The effect of a mistake may not be immediately evident on drafting the document but many years down the line it could give a result that is completely opposed to the client's instructions.
- I provide advice on inheritance, capital gains and income tax mitigation. This requires detailed understanding of extremely complex issues, relating those issues to the problem faced by the client and providing a solution tailored to their needs.
- I am very experienced in listening to and understanding clients' wants and needs. I clearly separate what a client wants from what they need as this is essential to providing the most effective and long-lasting solution.
- I advise on and explain complex issues face to face with individuals and groups in clear and easily understandable language.
- My typical caseload is between 30 and 40 clients which usually includes between 10 and 20 trust and estate administration cases at any one time. These cases can last many years during which I liaise with and oversee all levels of team members from juniors dealing with basic day to day tasks to senior management who will require project updates.
- I work hard to develop relationships of trust with clients and work colleagues. This is essential in an environment where individuals have personal and financial investment in the outcome.
- In my role as a senior associate I oversee junior solicitors, paralegals and team assistants on large projects, ensuring everyone is performing and motivated to hit project deadlines.
- I provide clear budget estimates to clients, provide regular updates on costs and ensure team members are working efficiently as possible to remain within the set budgets.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Chairman of Irwin Mitchell's 'Elderly and Vulnerable Client' Technical Committee**  
In this role I oversee the systems and precedents used across our offices nationally to ensure a consistent approach and style of advice provided to clients. Arising from this I have also written chapters in the Law Society's technical manual for Elderly and Vulnerable clients.
- **Later Life Training Supervisor**  
I ensure that our national team of Later Life advisors is fully experienced and possesses up to date knowledge of the law in this field. The national team is made up of 7 team heads, each managing between 2 and 10 advisors. This role involves presenting to individuals and groups of up to 50 people either face to face or across video-conferencing.
- **Later Life Advisor**  
I have achieved recognition across the firm as the 'go to' person on technical later life issues. Working with others I have developed 'packaged' technical legal advice products. These packages have:
  - Increased national fee income by reducing the amount of advice given away for free;
  - Provided a clear, easy to understand solution for clients;
  - Streamlined processes and improved efficiency by reducing the time spent on files by qualified advisors; and
  - Reduced the risk of claims by ensuring advice provided nationally is clear and consistent.

- **Chairman of the office Sports and Social Committee**

Aside from the management of budgets, arranging events and dealing with logistics of providing entertainment for an office of 30 people I strive to ensure events are different from the 'usual office party' or quiz.

With only 'hobby' programming experience at the time I have written six webpage 'quiz/gameshow' events. I hosted these events within the office asking a variety of general knowledge questions on which the players needed to 'buzz in' using handheld buzzers which I made. The webpages are designed to be fun and interactive taking styling and inspiration from University Challenge, Monopoly and Dungeons and Dragons.

These annual quiz nights have become the highlight of our sports and social events and we have started to run them more frequently inviting third parties to raise money for local charities.

The wild popularity of these events coupled with my enjoyment of successfully programming the underlying code with no formal training fuelled my desire to pursue this career change.

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION**

Technical:

- Code Institute – Diploma in Full Stack Web Development – part-time distance learning

Soft Skills (internal courses with employers):

- Project and team management
- Presentation and communication skills
- Time management
- Financial accounting and budget management

Legal:

- Solicitors for the Elderly Accreditation - pass
- Society of Trusts and Estates Practitioners – Diploma in Trusts and Estates with Distinction
- College of Law Guildford - Postgraduate Diploma in Legal Practice with Distinction
- College of Law Guildford – Diploma in Law with Commendation

Education:

- University of Reading - BSc(Hons) Chemistry 2(ii)
- Charterhouse School – A-Level Maths, Physics and Chemistry

## **INTERESTS**

- Programming webpages for personal use and office entertainment and customising games – involving writing and hosting 'gameshow' quizzes and writing custom code for role-playing games such as Neverwinter Nights/Skyrim.
- Running a Live Action Role-Playing Club for five years - involving arranging events including booking venues, taking bookings and payment, and logistics of taking props and equipment to and from venues.
- Karate – achieved 1<sup>st</sup> Dan grade.
- Fatherhood – my most challenging hobby! Raising and entertaining two young boys (under 5) which mostly involves building models, playing interactive games and engaging in interactive play.
- Training at the gym - up until the arrival of our second child I regularly attended the gym with a personal trainer working on strength training. With time now dedicated to studying and fatherhood my attendance has reduced somewhat but I was delighted with a personal best leg press of 450kg!

## **REFERENCES**

Available upon request.