

STEWART STRETTON-HILL
Address: 10 Sherrard Mead, Newbury, Berkshire, RG14 2DF
Telephone: 07989 593713 / 01635 600443
Email: stewart.stretton-hill@ntlworld.com
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 from one-off transactions (e.g. making a Will) to ongoing matters (e.g. family trust administration) with a wide range of clients from individuals to multinational companies. I am either engaged directly with the client on a one-to-one basis or working within or managing a team of advisors.

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

In my current employment I constantly seek opportunities to automate and streamline processes and to provide entertainment for office social events with Java applications/web pages I have developed e.g:

- Maintaining a database of client file reviews for compliance purposes;
- Management and automation of monthly payments received from the Legal Services Commission on cases across the team;
- Creating and implementing a system to maintain a database of 9000 Wills held on behalf of clients accumulated over 40 years;
- Writing and hosting a scavenger hunt website based utilising Google Maps API; and
- Writing and hosting quiz nights using websites coded with HTML and Java.

I am chairman of my firms' 'technical committee' specialising in Elderly and Vulnerable client law. 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

Over the last 12 months I have been studying for a Diploma in Full Stack web development, reducing to a four day week. I am nearing the end of the Diploma having successfully completed three of the four milestone projects.

With this experience and these skills behind me I am ready and extremely keen to pursue a dream of turning a hobby into a full time job.

KEY SKILLS

- Accuracy
 - I spend time ensuring that documents prepared 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.
- Analytical complex problem solving
 - 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.
- Communication skills
 - On a daily basis I advise on and explain complex legal issues face to face with individuals and groups in clear and easily understandable language.
 - I adhere to the adage "If you cannot explain something at a level a 6 year old can understand then you do not truly understand it yourself."
- Project management
 - I typically work on between 10 and 20 trust and estate administration cases at any time which can last many years. 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. Due to the length of these cases it is often necessary to adapt to change of personnel
 - I understand the need to build a framework that must be flexible to deliver solutions, reports and advice on time at every juncture
 - In my work with Court of Protection I work to deadlines imposed by the Court and ensure external third parties deliver on time.
- Team management
 - I oversee junior solicitors, paralegals and team assistants on large projects, ensuring everyone is performing and motivated to hit project deadlines.
- Trusted advisor
 - I work hard to develop a relationship of trust with clients and work colleagues which is essential in an environment where individuals have personal and financial investment in the outcome.
 - I currently manage a caseload of clients whose estates vary between £1,000,000 to £10,000,000
- Multitasking
 - My typical caseload is between 30 and 40 clients – all with different needs, levels of wealth and deadlines.
 - I keep schedules and summary information sheets enabling me easily to identify the position of any particular client matter at any time which is especially useful for when clients telephone out of the blue.
- Technical ability
 - I am familiar with:
 - HTML5, CSS3, Python3 languages;
 - Django and Flask backend frameworks;
 - Materialize and Bootstrap frontend frameworks;
 - Heroku and Github deployment; and
 - Use of Git for version control;
 - MongoDB and SQLite3 databases; and

- Travis continuous integration and Jasmine for Java testing;
- I am keen to build on my programming skills that I have already developed in Java, HTML, and Python and I have completed a number of projects utilising the above within and external to my Diploma studies:
 - Frontend website for a rock band
<https://github.com/Shilldon/band-site>
 - Frontend website for a start up pet sitting company (HTML and Java)
<https://github.com/Shilldon/priority-pets>
 - Frontend 'scavenger hunt' website involving interaction with Google Maps API (HTML and Java) –
<https://github.com/Shilldon/scavengerhunt>
 - Interactive frontend website for a Special Educational Needs Consultant involving interaction with external APIs and data manipulation/presentation (HTML and Java)
<https://github.com/Shilldon/SENSite>
 - Frontend and backend data centric website for a 'community cookbook' enabling users to upload their own recipes. (HTML, Java and Python) -
<https://github.com/Shilldon/cookbook>

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

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION

- Code Institute – Diploma in Full Stack Web Development – part-time distance learning
 - Milestone project 1 – User centric frontend development 87%
 - Milestone project 2 – Interactive frontend development 78%
 - Milestone project 3 – Data centric development – 89%
 - Milestone project 4 – Fullstack development – project started
- 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 Common Professional Exam in Law
- University of Reading - BSc(Hons) Chemistry 2(ii)
- Charterhouse School – A-Level Maths, Physics and Chemistry

INTERESTS

- Programming webpages for personal use and customising games (e.g. writing custom code for role-playing games such as Neverwinter Nights/Skyrim)
- Fatherhood(!) - raising and entertaining two young boys (under 5) – mostly building models and playing interactive games.
- Karate – achieved 1st Dan grade.

- Running a Live Action Role-Playing Club for five years which involved arranging events including booking venues, taking bookings and payment, and logistics of taking props and equipment to and from venues.
- 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.