



JE Bennett Law

Expert Witness Services

Court of Protection
specialists

**EXPERT
WITNESS**

Report writing
Witness Statements
Trial Attendances
Claimant & Defendant

Our Expert Witness Services

JE Bennett Law offers Expert Witness services regarding Court of Protection deputyship costs

Managing Partner, Jane Bennett, a highly experienced and industry-recognised Court of Protection specialist, prepares reports and witness statements in catastrophic personal injury cases. Jane receives regular instructions from leading catastrophic lawyers nationwide.

CLAIMANTS AND DEFENDANTS

Instructed by Claimant and Defendant firms, the firm's approach is "straight bat", whichever side of the proceedings we're instructed on.

AN EXPANDING EXPERT WITNESS TEAM

In recent years, with increased demand, we have expanded the Expert Witness team at JE Bennett Law. Reports are now also prepared by Jemma Cahan, Senior Associate (a former clinical negligence solicitor herself with a number of years' experience) and by Alexandra Edwards, Partner, both of whom have extensive brain injury deputyship experience. Alexandra also acts as a professional deputy and signatory of JE Bennett Law Trust Corporation.




Jane is easy to work with and can always be relied upon to give a sensible opinion on points of difficulty



Stephen Grime KC, Deans Court Chambers





Jane is a true expert in this specialised area of the law. Thoroughly recommend her.



Tony Stanger
Head of Large Loss
Ageas Insurance

OUR COURT OF PROTECTION EXPERIENCE

There are five professional deputies at the firm, two of whom (Jane and one of our senior partners, Ian Macara) are on the Office of the Public Guardian's national panel of professional deputies. The firm provides specialist services in this area, based on over sixty years of collective experience.

The firm acts for over 200 deputyship clients so the evidence provided is based on experience. As a niche Court of Protection firm, the team is well placed to provide prompt, pragmatic and effective input for your most complex cases.

OUR PATH TO EXPERT WITNESS INSTRUCTION

Jane founded the firm in 2011, and expert witness work is her particular passion. She first approached Tony Stanger (Head of Large Loss, Technical Claims, Ageas Insurance) in 2013, having encountered him on the other side in a catastrophic personal injury claim, where she acted as professional deputy. Discussions focussed on insurers' requirements in defending claims for Court of Protection costs. Jane continues to work with Tony and his colleagues on a regular basis.

In more recent years, Jane has increased the volume of work she does with Claimant firms. Her expert witness work has also led to referrals for catastrophic injury deputyships, professional trusteeships, and Litigation Friend appointments.



I have worked with Jane on numerous high value complex brain injury cases over the years. Her expert witness reports are clear, well written and are well liked by counsel. Jane and her team are very approachable and "user friendly" making it much easier to work with them in what can often be highly pressurised cases. The team go out of their way to meet deadlines and help keep the case on track.

Jonathan Clement, Partner, CL Medilaw



THE JE BENNETT LAW EXPERT WITNESS TEAM



Jane Bennett
Managing Partner



Alexandra Edwards
Partner



Jemma Cahan
Senior Associate



I have worked with Jane on many cases. In some cases she has been the appointed Deputy of the Court of Protection and on others she has been our chosen Expert Witness. She is instructed by some big players. She invariably brings expertise and experience, always accompanied with good sense, calmness and even a sense of humour when needed. She is respected by her clients and colleagues alike. I value her input whatever her role in a case and would unhesitatingly recommend her as experienced, skilful and extremely competent in all that she does.



Richard A Hartley KC, Cobden House Chambers



I would, unhesitatingly, recommend working with Jane and her team.



Sarah Mir
Partner
DWF Law LLP

THE FIRM'S EXPERTISE

The team at JE Bennett Law consists of 30 specialists, each bringing relevant skills and experience to serve our clients' needs.

We currently manage in excess of 200 deputyships and are trusted to handle highly complex referrals from industry-leading insurers; law firms; investment advisors; local authorities; case managers, and the Court of Protection.

The company is rated as a **Leading Firm** by The Legal 500, the leading industry standard, featuring in the rankings for Court of Protection. Our Managing Partner, Jane Bennett, is also listed by the Legal 500's **Hall of Fame** in her field, making her part of what is considered a very elite list. Our Partners, Richard Shearing, Lorna Halfpenny-Beeby and Amy Paxton are recognised as **Next Generation Partners** and **Jemma Cahan is a Recommended Lawyer.**

Jane Bennett is also included in the prestigious Chambers rankings and with one of our Senior Partners,

Ian Macara, is a member of the Office of the Public Guardian's national panel of professional deputies. Very few firms have more than one panel deputy.



A very strong team ethic as the practice has developed over the last few years. Jane Bennett is a leading industry figure, with a strong business acumen built upon excellent client care

The Legal 500 Testimonial



PHONE

01892 487746

CASE EXAMPLES

CASE 1

The deputy involved in the case had included a lot of litigation-related time in addition to Litigation Friend-related time and was seeking to claim all such costs in their annual general management Bills of Costs. Jane successfully challenged those in her report when acting for the Defendant as the expert witness.


CASE 2

The deputy produced assessed Bills of Costs which were seen by both the Claimant and Defendant COP experts and Jane successfully challenged a lot of time that had been duplicated with the case manager and work that was properly pertinent to health and welfare

aspects not those related to financial deputyship. Not surprisingly, the bills were heavily marked down by the SCCO and so COP costs for future years were significantly reduced following Jane's challenge.

CASE 3

Jane fought for the justification of a period of time involving higher deputyship costs for work to be done, over and above routine deputyship general management (to enable the Claimant a period of intense work with the deputy in order to be successfully discharged from the COP down the line, as there was a real prospect of success). Jane won on the point, as lifetime COP costs were thought to be unnecessary due to an evolving capacity position.



... a very strong practice that deals with these matters in a sensitive and efficient way



I recently worked with Jane, on behalf of the defendant, on a complex case where a young man had sustained a severe brain injury. Primary liability had been admitted but contributory negligence was a live and significant issue. Jane prepared a helpful advice which took heed of the issues regarding capacity, the liability position and the likelihood that the claimant would not recover 100% of any deputyship fees. Jane advised upon alternatives to the costly traditional deputy model.

Jane was instantly approachable - her advice was clear, detailed and practical. Jane's knowledge and experience is applauded.



Sarah Mir, Partner, DWF Law LLP

CLIENT CARE & PRACTICE MANAGEMENT

We are proud to have been awarded Lexcel accreditation. Lexcel is the Law Society's legal practice quality mark for practice management and client care.



A WORD FROM OUR MANAGING PARTNER



I know, first-hand, the challenges faced by deputies, and how easily some of those challenges can cause an escalation in costs. There is no substitute for keeping a tight rein on COP costs; keeping capacity under regular review and above all, empowering clients to make as many decisions as they can for themselves in a supported environment.

My aim is to provide realistic and pragmatic opinions regarding COP costs claims, based on an understanding of how deputyships work and where costs can escalate in practice, without appropriate justification. I never knowingly under or over value a claim for COP costs.



JANE BENNETT
Managing Partner



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