

The Barrister Broker - reducing your legal costs



I'm delighted with the response I've been having to the articles I've been including in this great magazine. It seems my message of reducing legal costs by using

Barristers instead of solicitors is starting to hit home with many of you and one of the things I enjoy most about my work is being able to help people.

So, back to work and to the world of The Barrister Broker and how I will significantly reduce your legal costs...

Each month I receive calls from people who either have or have had a solicitor acting for them but who have become disillusioned with the legal process because of a lack of progress, increasing legal costs and no end in sight. By this point they are becoming emotionally exhausted, angry with the legal profession and feeling at a loss as to how they can regain control of the situation and their lives. So they start looking for alternative solutions and come to me.

As an example, I was contacted by a member of the public who is going through a divorce and has been using a family law solicitor (not local) from the outset. Two years on there is no end in sight, no court application issued for financial remedies yet the solicitor's fees come to more than £10,000. This is an example of how "hourly rate" billing can spiral out of control. This is not a good experience for the client and cannot be said to represent value for money.

If you are contemplating using a legal advisor do not be hoodwinked by offers of "free consultations". Avoid being enticed by the fat carrot only to regret it later down the line when that hourly rate starts to pinch... ouch! If you are getting a "fixed fee" service, this will help

you to budget but make sure you know exactly what you are getting for your fixed fee. Also, ask questions of the person you are dealing with – Is the legal advisor a qualified solicitor or a legal executive? Will they do the work themselves or will it be done by a trainee? What level of experience does the legal advisor have dealing with contested matters? Will they represent you at court? If not, why not? If they will, do they have sufficient trial experience?... etc. Don't be afraid to ask questions, after all, you are putting your future and investing your money in this person's hands!

If you are involved in existing proceedings and you have a court hearing coming up, whether an interim hearing or the final hearing or trial itself, make sure you are represented by someone who knows what they are doing. This is where Barristers excel as they are the court room specialists trained in the art of advocacy. They represent clients before courts and tribunals, they argue your case before judges, they present legal arguments and are adept in cross-examination - uncovering the truth layer by layer – like peeling an orange! These are just some of the intricate skills of Barristers.

Also, bear in mind that if you have a solicitor acting for you who instructs a Barrister to represent you at court, you are then paying for two separate lawyers, therefore paying TWICE!

So, if you need legal advice or court representation, or if you already have a legal advisor acting for you but you are having second thoughts about them for whatever reason, give me a ring on **01732 866 562** or **07971 285 796** and let's have a chat in confidence to establish whether I will be able to arrange a Barrister to assist you. As I am local I'm also happy to meet face-to-face.

Remember, it costs nothing to speak to me but I could end up saving you thousands!

Russell Burton-Lawrence