



# legal update

BROUGHT TO YOU BY MWR SOLICITORS

## MWR CASE REVIEW:

# Schoolgirl hurt in self-defence class gets pay out

A schoolgirl who suffered excruciating back and neck injuries after a self-defence class was held in a classroom without safety mats has received compensation thanks to MWR.

Tanya Malone was a year 10 student at St Catherine's Catholic School for Girls, Bexleyheath, Kent, when she was injured in a fall with the class instructor in January 2005.

MWR took on the case as part of an extended services scheme with the Bakers and Food Allied Workers Union, of which Tanya's father is a member.

The incident happened when the female instructor, working for an independent contractor, was demonstrating a manoeuvre while holding Tanya, now 19, in a headlock. The instructor lost her footing, falling heavily and sandwiching Tanya between her weight and the carpeted concrete floor.

She suffered ongoing back problems after the accident and had to undergo several sessions of osteopathy to cure muscle and ligament damage, injuries she only recently fully overcame.

The pain disrupted Tanya's GCSE studies

and she initially thought the injuries would jeopardise her life-long ambition of becoming a police officer.

Tanya said: "It took a long while for the doctors to find out exactly what was causing the pain and I had to have lots of treatment. It took six months just to be able to sit comfortably again. All the hospital visits caused a lot of disruption at school and my GCSEs went terribly."

Tanya currently works as a sales assistant, but has recently been accepted to become a trainee police officer with the Metropolitan Police. She added: "I'm over the moon to be accepted to train as a police officer. It's a dream come true, especially as I thought I might never get the chance following the incident."

Howard Moorby, a legal executive with MWR Solicitors, said: "Holding a self-defence class without safety mats was a clear breach of health and safety rules and resulted in Tanya sustaining painful back injuries.

"The extended services scheme is excellent as it covers the member's families as well. We're delighted with the outcome."

Steve Finn, BFAWU regional officer for

London and South East, added: "On behalf of our members in the South East I would like to thank MWR Solicitors for its excellent work once again in representing one of our members and his family.

"Without union representation under the extended services scheme, Miss Malone would have had to take on the risk of funding her own legal claim for compensation. This case serves to highlight to all members the benefits of union membership."



HOWARD MOORBY

## LEGAL SHORTS...

...The EU intends to impose 18 weeks fully paid maternity leave for EU countries. This will take the form of 6 weeks compulsory leave for new mothers from the date of birth with the remaining 12 weeks to be taken before or after the baby is born. Under current laws the EU enforces a minimum of 14 weeks fully paid leave but member states are free to offer more generous provisions...

...A man who worked on his cousin's farm for 30 years for nothing in the expectation that he would one day inherit it has been told by the Appeal Court that he can't have it. Farmer, David Thorner, 57, was bequeathed the farm in Cheddar, Somerset, by his second cousin, Peter Thorner, in a Will made in 1997. But the Will was later revoked to exclude one of the beneficiaries and Mr Thorner failed to make

another before he died in 2005. Lord Justice Lloyd said: "This is another case, where, what appear to have been a man's testamentary intentions have failed because, for whatever reason, he did not take the proper steps to put them into effect..."

## FIRM NEWS:



THREE CHEERS FOR MWR: JESSICA BOWMAN, JAYNE RAVEN, SADIQ VOHRA AND HOWARD MOORBY



HELEN SCOTT-PARKER

# Cricket appeal gives Kenya kids sporting chance

Children in one of the most deprived areas of Kenya will be able to start their own cricket team thanks to MWR's Cricket4Kenya appeal which has now drawn to a close.

MWR launched the appeal two years ago, encouraging sporting clubs and members of the public to donate unwanted or old sporting equipment.

The ever-growing mountain of bats, balls, stumps and other sports kit have been held in storage for two years by Preston-based storage specialist, Stor-It.

Now the appeal has finally closed, the equipment is due to be dispatched to Kenya thanks to a tie-up with Feed the Children UK,

a charity that provides aid to children suffering the effects of poverty, especially those who have been orphaned or abandoned.

Jane Booker, partner at MWR Solicitors, said: "Many people came together to make this project possible and now the appeal is complete, I would like to thank all those who made Cricket4Kenya a success."

Brian Main, of Feed the Children UK, added: "We are very grateful to MWR Solicitors for organising this appeal. This sports equipment will mean so much to these youngsters because there is no other way their schools can purchase it on their own."



JESSICA BOWMAN

## Jessica's joy

Jessica Bowman has qualified as a solicitor at MWR. The 24-year-old, who is also a former world champion brass musician, will be added to the roll of solicitors in England and Wales after a two-year training contract.

## Helen Scott-Parker on board

Helen joins MWR after five years with South Lakeland-based legal practice Temple Heelis, where she worked in the firm's Kendal, Windermere and Ambleside offices. Helen, who lives in Poulton-le-Fylde with her husband Steven and their two children, qualified as a solicitor in 2003 after completing her law studies at Manchester Metropolitan University and UCLan.

## WILLS NEWS:

MWR held two drop-in clinics in November offering free initial advice on how to make a will. It also signed up for Lancashire Wildlife Trust's Wills for Wildlife week in October allowing clients a discount on making a will, with the money saved going to the trust. MWR has a free phone advice number of 0800 731 0717 for people to obtain advice on wills and future planning.

Jessica is also a former goalkeeper of the England junior hockey team and watched three of her ex-team mates compete for Great Britain at the Beijing Olympics this summer. She won 24 England Hockey caps but turned her back on the sport at 18 to embark on six years of study to become a solicitor.

## HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

MWR Solicitors is different from many legal organisations. We guarantee a personal and compassionate service, no hidden charges, speed and access to qualified solicitors. If you would like to know more, visit our website – [www.mwrlaw.com](http://www.mwrlaw.com)  
We offer a free consultation on all cases.

**Freephone 0800 731 0717**

**MWR Solicitors** No.6 Cannon Street, Preston, Lancashire PR1 3PY  
Telephone 01772 254201 Fax 01772 202976  
Email [advice@mwrlaw.com](mailto:advice@mwrlaw.com) Website [www.mwrlaw.com](http://www.mwrlaw.com)

Our services include:

- Accidents at Work
- Occupational Diseases
- Employment Law
- Injury Claims
- Road Traffic Accidents
- Wills and Probate
- Buying or Selling your Home



Lawyers for life