



meadows ryan

SOLICITORS SINCE 1940



A wealth of experience

At Meadows Ryan we offer a broad range of services and pragmatic advice to businesses and private individuals. Our team aims to provide a swift, practical and informed service to clients in whichever areas of the law they seek advice.

The firm has been established for over 70 years, but a series of mergers in the last two years has led to a rapid expansion of the business and the client base. The firm offers a wide spectrum of legal services; furthermore we are firmly rooted in the local Surrey community, not only living and working here but actively supporting local social and charitable concerns.

We pride ourselves on our proactive, innovative and long-term approach to our clients' needs. As well as our established legal services we also offer frequent seminars and other events for key clients, client sectors and schools and colleges. Our philosophy also underlies our membership of the international legal network Lexlink, enabling us to readily arrange the provision of quality legal services for our clients in an ever increasing number of countries.

Our base in Surrey is close to Central London and London Heathrow Airport and easily accessible by the road networks. We also have the use of offices in St James's, London SW1.

“Our 25 year relationship has very much grown through referrals. What I like is that you can speak to a member of the team personally, rather than relying purely on correspondence.”

Ian Oswin, Curchod & Co



Gabrielle Dell – Full Member
Sophie Andrews – Affiliate Member

Our services

Corporate & Business Services

Our corporate clients include private companies, entrepreneurs and family businesses in industries throughout every stage of their life cycle. We offer a full range of commercial legal services including drafting partnership agreements, shareholders' agreements, M&A and assisting with the formation of companies; drafting contracts and providing guidance on regulatory compliance, licensing matters and commercial agreements.

By building relationships with our clients we are able to offer advice not only to address the specific needs of their business, but also help them to reach their long-term business goals.

Commercial Property

Our commercial property team is able to assist at every level, providing comprehensive advice on property acquisitions and disposals, residential and commercial development and portfolio management. We regularly advise both landlords and tenants on leasehold issues for commercial and industrial premises, which include office blocks, industrial units and retail units.

Our philosophy is to pay attention to all property management related issues to ensure asset value is not eroded. This philosophy is shared by members of our property dispute resolution team who provide support when disputes arise and try to prevent them happening unnecessarily.

Residential Property

We aim to help smooth the process of what can be one of the most stressful of life's experiences. Our service is designed to minimise problems wherever possible and to keep the client informed throughout.

Our wide range of experience includes residential property transactions ranging from high value properties to studio flats for use as a home or as an investment; advising on the purchase and disposal of land; acting for house builders; and the refinancing of property. Our client base is diverse, from first-time buyers to sophisticated investors. We also receive instructions through buying agents, property finders and relocation agents.



Employment

We work across the whole spectrum of employment law, including contentious and non-contentious matters. The cost of failing to deal correctly with the ever changing demands of employment law can be high; we not only inform our clients of changes in employment law regulations, but also highlight how these could impact upon their overall strategy.

Our clients range from large companies to smaller private and owner-managed businesses in a variety of sectors. We tailor our advice to the client's specific size, services and operating procedures. We also offer representation at Employment Tribunals and have successfully acted in a number of reported cases.

Litigation

Disputes are, unfortunately, part of life. We work closely with clients in an open, frank and honest way to advise on the potential strengths and weaknesses of their cases and to devise tactics to resolve matters as effectively as possible, including through litigation, mediation or Alternative Dispute Resolution.

Litigation can be costly; we assist our clients in their attempts to resolve disputes without having to resort to the courts. However, when our client's interests are best served by litigation, then using the Civil Procedure Rules (CPR) and, if required, involving high quality, specialist barristers, we are able to deliver excellent value for money results.

“The personal attention and the rapid response to our needs are what makes all the difference and why we are still entrusting all our legal work to Meadows Ryan 30 years down the line.”

Runnymede Homes Ltd



Our services

Family

Our family law team has the expertise and experience to provide clients with sound advice and support during what can be an emotional and stressful time. Whether already in dispute, seeking to avoid conflict, requiring representation in complex proceedings or advice on how to negotiate a settlement, we are here to help.

Our experience extends across all areas of family law, including divorce settlements, pre and post-nuptial agreements, financial issues, property disputes between unmarried couples and all aspects of law relating to children. We have particular expertise in high value cases, including those with international elements. Our Family Team are members of Resolution, and Christian Abletshauser is a Collaborative lawyer.

Personal Injury

If you are unfortunate enough to be involved in an accident that is not your fault and which results in injury or loss, our highly experienced Personal Injury Department could help in securing you compensation.

We will be able to guide you through the claims process and ensure that you are fully compensated for your injuries and losses. We take pride in going the extra mile for our clients so that they achieve the best possible result. We can also arrange for home and hospital visits.

Please feel free to discuss any claim you may have for a quick appraisal of the potential value of your claim

Immigration

We are able to provide immigration legal services to a wide range of individuals, businesses and companies, and have helped many professionals worldwide to secure permits, approvals and visas.

The rules and regulations governing immigration have become more complex and we are well placed to offer advice on this ever changing area of law to foreign companies, such as financial institutions and other law firms, helping them through every step of their immigration issues. We have solicitors experienced in all aspects of immigration work, as well as specialist immigration associates who can give proactive support and deliver results efficiently and effectively.



“Both firms are on the same wavelength and the relationship we have developed has not only benefited our firms, but also our mutual clients.”

Phil Monk, TWP Accounting

Private Client

Our Private Client Department offers private individuals and Trustees a tailored, well-informed and comprehensive service based on common sense, having regard to the client's personal and family circumstances and to the tax and other Laws applicable.

Services include the drafting of Wills and Tax and Estate planning; the establishment and administration of Trusts; probate and the administration of estates, including advice on the variation of Wills; advising and drafting Lasting Powers of Attorney; and dealing with Lifetime Estate and succession planning for individuals and private company owners. We also offer a service designed to provide peace of mind to elderly clients.

Notarial Work

Peter Meadows and Piers Meadows offer a full range of Notarial services to satisfy the requirements of a public or judicial authority outside England and Wales, or as evidence for use in a foreign Court of Law.

Meadows Ryan can act on behalf of either or both parties in relation to any of the following matters:

- Attesting execution of documents
- Providing certificates certifying the genuineness of copy documents, signatures and execution of documents
- Taking declarations, Affidavits, Oaths and Acknowledgments
- Preparing Powers of Attorney
- Dealing with foreign probates
- Dispute resolution and the recording of private and commercial agreements
- Witnessing / attesting events and transactions

Meadows Ryan are members of Certainty, the National Will Register.



Social and charitable activity

We are actively involved in the Weybridge community and are always looking to support and foster relationships with social and charitable concerns.

Woking & Sam Beare Hospices

The firm and our individual staff are keen supporters of Woking & Sam Beare Hospices. Our Elmbridge Property Professionals lunches raise funds and many of our staff get involved in the annual events such as the Midnight Walk. We are also called upon, sometimes at very short notice, to visit Sam Beare to write a will for a patient. We hope to continue our support for the Hospices for many years to come.

St George's Hill Lawn Tennis Club

Since 2012, we have proudly sponsored the Juniors section at St George's Hill Lawn Tennis Club

which gives us the opportunity to support the Juniors by attending various games with clients and hosting events at their exclusive facilities.

Make a Will Fortnight

In April 2015, Meadows Ryan joined other local solicitors by donating their time and expertise for free during Make a Will Fortnight. Fees paid by clients were donated to Woking & Sam Beare Hospices, raising nearly £1,000 towards care for local people living with life-limiting illness.



To read more about our current partnerships, visit our website.

Educational and business activity

Elmbridge Property Professionals

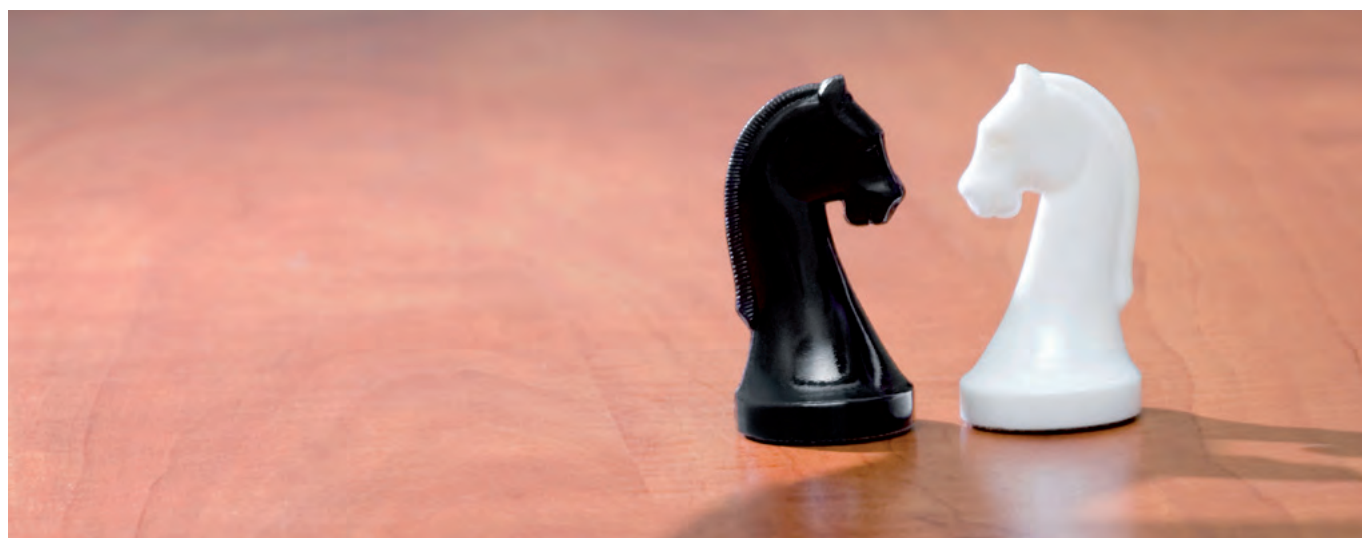
Working in partnership with Curchod & Co., we host three to four lunches per year, inviting a selection of property industry professionals such as residential and commercial estate agents, surveyors, architects, lawyers, accountants, financial advisers and property developers.

It is the perfect platform to discuss the industry and explore business opportunities and funds raised go to Woking and Sam Beare Hospices.

Seminars and Events

Meadows Ryan conducts legal update seminars and workshops to share their knowledge and expertise with both individuals and businesses on an ongoing basis.

For future events, please visit our website or our Facebook page.



Key contacts



Peter Meadows

Senior Partner

Peter acts for builder and developer clients in the acquisition of building land for the construction of both high and low density housing. His clients also buy and sell hotels and retail shops.

Peter also has many clients who live on the various private estates in the area and having lived in Weybridge for more than 25 years, is therefore familiar with the matters including the covenants affecting the estates and issues relating to the private roads. At the start of his career Peter worked in-house for a public company in the property development sector.



Piers Meadows

Managing Partner

Piers trained and worked with Mayer Brown prior to joining the firm in 2003 as Managing Partner. His practice extends to both property and company/commercial matters. He acts for property investors with large portfolios and assists with legal issues including acquisitions and disposals of freehold properties, leases and estate management. With broad experience in both commercial and residential property, Piers is also instructed by property finders and relocation agents to assist with property acquisitions by international buyers.



Gabrielle Dell

Partner

Gabrielle qualified in 1972 and rejoined McNamara Ryan in 2003, after a five year absence at top 50 firm, Charles Russell. Gabrielle specialises in Private Client work, including will drafting, probate, inheritance tax planning, the creation and administration of trusts, preparation of Lasting Powers of Attorney and residential property work. Gabrielle is a member of the Society of Trusts and Estate Practitioners and is an experienced seminar speaker. She has considerable expertise in elder client law.



Christian Abletshauser

Partner

Christian is an experienced family and litigation lawyer. He is a Resolution trained Collaborative lawyer with broad experience in all family areas, in particular regarding high value ancillary relief proceedings. Christian also has a broad litigation practice which regularly involves the High Court, often regarding emergency applications. His employment practice covers all areas and he has successfully acted in a number of reported cases.



Anna Hamilton

Partner

After training and qualifying in central London in 2001, Anna specialised in both residential and commercial property matters; first at a major regional practice in Sussex where she practiced for four years, before moving to Surrey. She joined Meadows Ryan in October 2013 as a Residential Property solicitor specialising in all aspects of residential property law: dealing with sales, purchases, re-mortgages, transfers of equity and new build transactions. Her approachable manner and desire to work proactively enables a swift conclusion to transactions.

For a list of our other partners and associates, please visit our website.

Steeped in history

The home of Meadows Ryan Solicitors, 56 Church Street, has a colourful history dating back to 1654, when it was bought by James II for his mistress Catherine Sedley.

Portmore House stood in the triangle of what are now Balfour, Devonshire and Portmore Park Roads, with large grounds and a brick wall dividing it from the High Street.

The garden of Portmore Cottage was cut off and made into part of Jarvis Yard but originally the two gardens were bounded by the brick wall of the Portmore Estate with a door in the wall at the Portmore House end.

When James II abdicated and fled the country, Catherine Sedley, by now created Countess of Dorchester, fell upon hard times and reluctantly let her mansion to the Earl of Aylesbury, retiring to Portmore Cottage. However, much to the annoyance of the Earl, she frequently trespassed the grounds, entering by using a key she had retained to the door in the wall.

In or shortly after August 1696, she married Sir David Colyear, who later became the 1st Earl of Portmore, leaving the little house and returning to the mansion which, with its grounds, became known as 'Portmore Park'.

In 1733 the house was altered, adding the staircase, altering the windows and raising the parapet. A Date Brick of 1733 was added to mark these alterations and the separation of the building into two Georgian houses.

By 1770 it had become a flourishing village inn called 'The Portmore Arms'; the Vestry was used as a meeting place as there was no room in the parish church opposite. The Inn became the stopping place of the London to Chertsey coach and it was stated in 'Records of a Girlhood' that Fanny Kemble was met there in 1824 by her mother when she and Charles Kemble, her father, arrived in Weybridge. After the railway opening in 1838 the coaches stopped running and the building ceased to be an Inn.

Portmore House then became the home of Mr Thomas Liberty, a well-known resident and builder of Weybridge, and two of his children were born here. There is a ghost story attached to Portmore House and many of the older residents of Weybridge have attested to the fact that they personally have seen what is claimed to be the ghost of old Mrs Liberty.



Catherine Sedley



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