



# HATTEN WYATT

*Solicitors & Advocates*

*Established 1844*



The history of Hatten Wyatt commences in 1844 when George Edward Sharland started to practice in Gravesend. In 1873 Charles Edward Hatten joined him, and the Firm took the name Sharland & Hatten with an additional office in Grays until 1891, when just the Gravesend office continued. The Hatten part of the name continued until 1937 when it was dropped briefly due to partnership changes, and was then taken up again in 1948 as Hatten Winnett & Holland. In 1969 the Practices of Hatten Winnett & Holland merged with the well established practice of Wyatt & Blackman, and the new merged firm continued under the name of Hatten Wyatt. The Firm to date has had some 21 Partners over its 164 year history.

Church Bruce was started in 1936 by Thomas Church as a sole practitioner. Over the years the Firm expanded and became Church Bruce Hawkes Brasington & Phillips, before reducing the name of the Firm to Church Bruce in 2007. The practice of Church Bruce has now been incorporated into Hatten Wyatt with some original partners remaining as consultants. The incorporation of Church Bruce has brought together the skill sets of the two practices and placed the enlarged practice in a stronger position to serve its clients.

We are committed to providing high quality advice and service to all our clients regardless of the nature or value of the matter. Your work will be supervised by one solicitor, with access to the combined knowledge of the firm, who will keep you informed about the progress of your case, explain the legal procedures and answer your questions and take in to account the longer term implications as well as the immediate benefits of our advice.

*Hatten Wyatt is a progressive, pro-active and dynamic law firm*

## Business Services

Whether you are considering setting up a new business or require assistance with growing your business, we can help. We will explain the various business structures, from sole traders to partnerships etc. We work closely with professionals who are able to provide tax advice, and financiers who can help with funding to grow your business. Our in house expertise in preparing business plans is invaluable to those seeking finance. For businesses which employ staff we can draft employment contracts, and explain the hurdles of employment law, and the ever increasing health and safety legislation. As your business grows and requires more space we can assist with commercial leases.



## Charity Law

With the passing of the Charities Act 2006 many changes have been introduced affecting the way that charities must operate today. These include new revised accounting rules and modifying powers for charities - especially charitable companies.

The Act has also introduced a new statutory definition of "charity" replacing the definition that has been in existence since Queen Elizabeth I.

Charities small and large need to review their constitutions and governance documents.

We are able to assist in both the formation of charities and their continued governance, as well as provide advice in relation to day-to-day charitable activities.



## Child Care & Adoption

At Hatten Wyatt, we understand how traumatic and stressful being involved in a children's case can be. We offer professional advice and representation with a level of concern and understanding that only the most experienced lawyers can provide. We have a large specialist family, child care and adoption department with experienced Solicitors handling all types of cases including the most complex. Our Solicitors are members of the Law Society's Children Panel and Family Panel and accredited specialists in Child law

We help parents and other family members such as step-parents, grandparents, uncles, aunts and others where children become involved with Social Services. We are able to provide you with a legal team who will help guide you through the complexities of the law and procedural rules relating to adoption; representing parents, children and relatives and adopters.

We will provide you with sound, practical advice and will obtain funding for you, if available. We hold a legal franchise in respect of family work.



## Civil Liberties

Hatten Wyatt has over the years obtained considerable expertise in protecting the civil liberties of those who have been mistreated by the police or public authorities, in overstepping their authority and conducting their investigation incompetently. In these circumstances we have been successful in securing redress for our clients.

Most potential claims fall into these causes of action categories:

- False imprisonment • Assault and battery • Wrongful/unlawful arrest • Malicious Prosecution
- Trespass to land and goods • Negligence • Wrongful exercise of lawful authority
- Confiscation of property • Death in custody • Human rights issues



## Civil Litigation

Hatten Wyatt's experienced litigation department has the skill and expertise in advising you on the merits of any proposed litigation as well as the cost implications of pursuing the litigation itself. In addition our department is equally equipped to defend actions which may have been brought against you.

The Department specialises in:

- Product Liability • Breach of Contract • Building Disputes • Personal Injury Litigation
- Contentious Probate • Public Liability • Criminal Injuries Compensation Claims



## Commercial Property

Hatten Wyatt's dedicated commercial property department is accustomed to dealing with commercial property transactions on behalf of both individuals and corporations. We are able to deal with freehold and leasehold sales, purchases and leases. We act on behalf of property developers, including acquisitions for investment and owner occupation. We can deal with Rent Reviews and Licenses to Assign.

The commercial property department is able to assist in the purchase of businesses, including licensed premises and re-negotiation and termination of existing leases.

We are also able to provide independent legal advice.



## Court of Protection

In the event of failing health, we can act in connection with Applications to the Court of Protection for the appointment of a Deputy who is then empowered to deal with the property and the affairs of the Patient and to make certain decisions for that Patient. In the absence of anyone else we ourselves can act as Deputies to act in the best interests of the Patient and to deal with the Patient's property and affairs and to make certain decisions for the benefit of the Patient.



## Crime

Hatten Wyatt is one of the few remaining legal practices in Gravesend retaining the skills of Criminal Legal Practitioners. We are able to assist clients who have been arrested and taken to a police station, and who would benefit from our expertise, and to represent them both at the Police Station and in Court. We can ensure that we support you and make sure that your rights are respected, and explain to you the legal procedures as well as discussing what you should be doing next. Expert and prompt handling of your matter in the first instance may result in no further action being taken.

If the authorities have been over zealous in the exercise of their powers you may have a right of redress against them, in which case our Civil Liberties team may be able to assist you. Hatten Wyatt holds a Legal Aid Franchise in respect of Crime.



## Debt Recovery

Cash flow for the majority of businesses, small or large, depends on the collection of bills in a timely fashion. Here at Hatten Wyatt we can review your terms of business and advise you of the changes needed to introduce interest and debt collection cost provisions for late payers. Outsourcing your debt recovery to professionals gives you the time to concentrate on running your business whilst allowing our debt recovery team to apply pressure on your debtors, and collect your bills. We can advise on individual matters as well as bulk portfolios.

Our case management system allows us to do the work at competitive prices, and our clients retain control of legal proceedings, with all steps sanctioned by you. Our fixed fees allow you to budget the cost of recovery. We will advise and guide you through the Court and enforcement procedures.



## Employment

Hatten Wyatt has a dedicated employment team which is equipped to act on behalf of employers in preparing contracts of employment and employee documentation, as well as providing general advice in assuring that best practices are adopted to lessen the chance of any claim being made by an employee. The team also advises employers on health and safety aspects, to ensure that they minimise any risks to themselves in the event that an accident may occur leaving them liable to litigation.

The Employment Team also act on behalf of employees, helping them secure their rights where they have been treated unfairly in the termination of their employment, or in respect of the employer's equal opportunity policies. They will assist you in negotiating a settlement, either through a Compromise Agreement, or alternatively represent you at a tribunal. At all times professional advice will be provided to ensure that all the options are explored, and the best settlement reached.



## Family

We appreciate that it is a difficult time for all concerned when relationships break down. Our team includes specialists who are advanced members of The Law Society Family Law Panel, and are skilled in assisting our clients in resolving their issues, and working towards an amicable solution. We understand that the needs of children need to be considered and put first. We are able to advise on issues involving the matrimonial home, business property, financial issues including pensions and investments.

Hatten Wyatt holds a Legal Aid Franchise in respect of family work.



## Immigration

Hatten Wyatt provides a very personal service to private individuals and their families wishing to live and work in the UK and UK companies seeking to employ foreign nationals. We can advise on the many aspects of immigration and nationality law as they affect you in the context of your family or business. Whether you are planning to study, work or join your family in the UK, we can advise you on the likelihood of achieving your goal and guide you through the application process.

We can advise on:

- Work and training permits
- Business investor/innovator application
- Sole representative visas
- Bringing families together in the UK, including marriage
- Highly skilled migrants programme
- Studying in the UK
- Permanent residency/British nationality
- Alleged illegal entry

All other types of applications under UK immigration and nationality law.



## Licensing

There has been a complete change in licensing legislation. Hatten Wyatt's specialist licensing team is up to date with these changes, and is able to assist its clients in obtaining the correct licence to ensure that their businesses continue to operate within the new regime. Our knowledge will help you make the most of the new opportunities under the legislation, including 24 hour licences for those wishing to trade all hours.

We are able to advise promoting the licensing objectives, to assist obtaining your licence. Clients must remember that licences are also required for all businesses selling food after 11pm



## Notary Public

In England and Wales notaries are largely concerned with the verification of documents and information that will be used in other countries in the world, for clients who have business or property overseas, or who are involved in litigation in foreign Courts. Notaries form an independent branch of the legal profession, although most are solicitors. However, their practice as notaries is quite separate from their practice of any other profession or business, and is not controlled by rules affecting solicitors. While notaries have the powers of a Commissioner for Oaths (and most of them are also Solicitors) the work that they do is mainly concerned with foreign matters and their procedures are entirely different.



## Personal Injury

When you have been unfortunate to suffer a personal injury through the fault of another, we are able to discuss the merits of your claim with you and advise upon your rights in seeking compensation for your injuries. We are able to act on a private paying basis, and can also offer a no win no fee arrangement.

We undertake all forms of personal injury including:

- Road and other traffic accidents
- Fatal accident claims
- Occupational disease claims
- Accidents at work
- Product liability
- Claims arising from incidents with animals, such as dog bites
- Slipping and tripping accidents
- Public liability



## Powers of Attorney, Lasting Powers of Attorney

We can prepare Powers of Attorney to cater for different circumstances including Lasting Powers of Attorney which do not lapse as a result of incapacity and which therefore enables avoidance of a Court of Protection Application for the appointment of a deputy.



## Probate

Our Probate Department deals with the administration of estates whether a Will was left or not with a view to distributing the same amongst the rightful beneficiaries. On occasions depending on circumstances, a post-death variation of the Will maybe in the interests of the beneficiaries, as the variation may save Inheritance Tax.



## Professional Negligence

When you instruct professionals to act on your behalf, you expect them to act in your best interests and ensure the best possible results. Unfortunately this doesn't always happen, and you may find that you have been let down by your doctor, dentist, accountant, surveyor or lawyer to name but a few professionals. Whilst most professionals have professional indemnity insurance, they are usually advised by their insurers to deny liability or they cloud the issues with legal or technical jargon. Specialist help from Hatten Wyatt will help you narrow the issues which may have arisen, and identify whether or not you have a potential claim for negligence against the professional. Most professional negligence claims are settled without resorting to the Courts.



## Residential Conveyancing

Hatten Wyatt has a wealth of experience in property transactions. Our skilled professionals are able to deal with your transactions in a professional manner. We understand that moving home can be stressful, and we endeavour to ensure that the transaction proceeds as smoothly as possible.

We are able to offer our clients and referrer's online case tracking, through our secure web server, to keep them informed of their transactions as they progress.

For a quote, please call our free Conveyancing enquiry line: 0800 389 1657



## Wills and Trusts

In the absence of a Will, the law decides the persons who take your assets and you may not want these persons to have a share of your assets.

We can deal with the preparation of your will to ensure that your assets are dealt with by persons of your choice and that those assets pass to beneficiaries of your choice. Wills can be used to set up trusts, appoint guardians for children and to minimise Inheritance Tax. In the absence of a suitable person, we ourselves can be appointed as executors and trustees of a Will.

We can advise on various types of trusts and set trusts up during the lifetime of a client. These trusts can be for the benefit of minor children, disabled beneficiaries or for other purposes such as minimising Inheritance Tax. Such trusts may be used to ensure that your children benefit from your estate and meanwhile provide for your spouse/partner. Trusts can also be set up for property to be held by one or more trustees for one or more beneficiaries in equal or unequal shares and upon such terms and conditions as may be proper. Our services include the appointment of ourselves as trustees of trusts and we would in that event administer and manage the trust in the best interests of the beneficiaries.





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