

Litigation Support Team Update

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DRIVING LIFELONG PROSPERITY

Forensic Accounting and Litigation Support

THE RIGHT ADVICE AT THE RIGHT TIME

To help reduce your costs and bring legal disputes to a swift conclusion, we can provide the right professional advice from the early stages of your case.

Researching, preparing and presenting complex financial arguments calls for an independent, pragmatic approach.

Challenging financial cases can be critically analysed by our partner-led forensic team to help lawyers, insurers, and judges understand the financial aspects of a case.

HOW CAN WE HELP YOU?

By combining accounting, tax, auditing, corporate finance and business valuation knowledge with investigative skills, we can support you with expert valuations, financial investigations and analytical reports in the following areas:

- Professional negligence claims
- Commercial disputes
- Matrimonial disputes
- Personal injury and insurance claims
- Fraud and false accounting
- Loss of profits and income claims

“The contents and layout of the reports were very clear and carefully explained. A very high level of detail and expertise was shown which has proved to be very useful in running the cases. Further and most importantly, as a firm you are very approachable and very quickly came back with the relevant CVs and quotes. Questions were answered promptly making the whole process very straightforward.”

Anna Patterson and Tara Connor, Things LLP

SECTOR EXPERTISE

Our forensic accounting and litigation support services can be tailored to suit your needs. Hazlewoods has developed a degree of sector expertise, which is hard to find elsewhere.

We have a thorough understanding of the business and tax issues that are relevant to particular sectors, which supports our forensic accounting work and will provide you with the knowledge and detail to make a difference in your case.

Our sector specialisms include:

- Charities and Education
- Dental
- Farms and Estates
- Food and Drink
- Health and Care
- Innovation and Technology
- International
- Legal
- Manufacturing
- Pharmacy
- Property
- Vets

Hazlewoods Partners in each of the above specialisms have relevant knowledge and experience in their sector that enables them to support cases that require them.

“I instructed Ruth Dooley, Partner at Hazlewoods, as a single joint expert in a matrimonial case in which a farming business was the consideration. The remit of her expertise allowed us to analyse the value of the husband's shareholding and address issues concerning maintainable income and liquidity. Her expertise within farms and estates was invaluable in assisting with the resolution of the case in a timely fashion.

Beverley Morris, Loders

“I am very much assisted by the expert Ms Dooley's helpful report (with her answers to subsequent questions). I accept her net valuation of the company”

District Judge - Valuation case

RECENT CASES

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY SCHEME

Hazlewoods were asked to comment upon a claim being brought against a valuer involved in a tax avoidance scheme centring around rights to Intellectual Property. HMRC had successfully challenged the scheme and for many participants reduced their tax claims to their cash contributions whilst excluding borrowed monies. The view of the Hazlewoods expert was that the valuation was an incidental part of the tax scheme and had no impact upon the efficacy or otherwise of the tax planning.

FILM SCHEME

Hazlewoods were instructed to assist the defendant firm of accountants in respect of a claim of negligence regarding their advice on various film schemes. The claimants included former Premier League footballers. Hazlewoods report argued that the standard of care provided by the accountants was, for the most part, that to be expected if a reasonable competent accountant and the technical advice was sound. The case settled just before trial.

PERSONAL INJURY

In this case, our client suffered a serious injury as a result of a road traffic accident. Prior to the accident he had a wide range of business interests and numerous sources of income. Hazlewoods was required to assess, based upon evidence of historical earnings, and potential future earnings, the extent to which his earnings had been impaired as a result of the restrictions the injuries had placed upon his ability to perform each of his business activities.

In-depth forensic enquiries were necessary into each of his income streams to establish, in each case, likely future revenues had the injuries sustained not have been suffered, through to the date of his assumed retirement.

MATRIMONIAL PROCEEDINGS

For the purposes of matrimonial proceedings, Hazlewoods expert witness was instructed to prepare a valuation of the shares that were held in various companies. Some of the companies held property investments, whilst the main company, in addition to its trading activity within the amusement industry, had entered into Development Agreements in respect of various residential properties.

Hazlewoods expert witness prepared a detailed valuation report for the relevant business interests, which also included a valuation of the Development Agreements. The report also considered the liquidity of the main company, the reasonable level of remuneration available to the directors and also consideration of the capital gains tax implications on the disposal of the shares held in the companies.



STATIONERS

Meet the team



RUTH DOOLEY Partner and Head of Forensic Accounting and Litigation Support
01242 680000 / ruth.dooley@hazlewoods.co.uk

Ruth is a partner with almost 30 years accountancy and tax experience. She trained as an auditor and later moved to specialise in tax. Ruth has been involved for over 15 years in various aspects of litigation. She is frequently retained to provide reports as an expert witness, particularly in cases involving matrimonial disputes and cases of professional negligence and loss of profits as a result of personal injury claims or commercial disputes.



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**THE GLOBAL ADVISORY
AND ACCOUNTING NETWORK**