



# LOCAL PROFILE

*with one of Colman Coyle's  
founders Robert Coyle*

**WHAT SERVICE DOES COLMAN COYLE OFFER?** I established the company with Howard Colman 26 years ago and we have built a reputation in the local area for our property practice, but we also have strong company commercial, litigation and employment departments. Our dedicated private client team is also frequently instructed by local residents on all aspects of residential property, wills and probate, and personal injury law. From our offices overlooking Islington Green, our solicitors represent a wide variety of clients, from large corporate organisations to independent businesses and sole traders alike.

**WHY ARE YOU DIFFERENT?** I think we are known for offering a personal approach, whilst being able to offer expertise and experience which parallels anywhere else in London. Our larger clients know they can be assured of a good service, but at a more sensible price than the City-based firms; our local clients benefit from our highly experienced team being right on their doorstep.

**HOW HAVE YOU WEATHERED THE RECESSION?** Obviously the property department took a dip like all other firms a couple of years back and, as a result, we have all had to pull in our belts a little. I actually think it has made us more efficient as a firm, as we definitely keep a closer eye

on what we are spending now. In other departments, work has actually increased significantly and we haven't suffered at all. In fact, we have benefited because we were in a position to take advantage of the increased skills pool, and have recently recruited several excellent new senior associates, giving the firm a welcome extra boost. So far, 2010 is looking like a good year for us.

**DO YOU ENJOY BEING BASED IN ISLINGTON?** Islington is an excellent place to be. Not only are you never short of a place for lunch or to entertain, but we are also only a stones' throw from the City. This way we can still pass on the benefits of not actually being in the City to our clients, whilst enjoying a far more pleasant work environment. You could say it is the best of both worlds for everyone. Islington also has a wonderful unique community feel to it, which you don't see in many other areas of London. The local residents and businesses all work and live in close proximity and there is a real sense of everyone looking out for each other.

As a prominent local business, we have always felt it is very important to support the local environment and economy, to help keep the Islington community alive. I sit on the board of the Angel AIM (Angel Business Improvement District) which involves local businesses working towards

keeping Islington safer, cleaner and brighter. Initiatives like this definitely make Islington an even better place to be.

**WHAT SHOULD OUR READERS LOOK OUT FOR WHEN CHOOSING A GOOD SOLICITOR?** Go with a reliable recommendation and then with your instinct. You need to be able to trust and relate to your lawyer, so the most important thing is to make sure that they are able to answer your questions confidently, and are people you are happy to work with. Also, don't be scared to mention fees, as these can vary significantly from firm to firm and are not necessarily related to the quality of the service you will receive.

**WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD FOR COLMAN COYLE?** We aim to continue growing and developing into new practice areas, without losing sight of the importance we place on our client relationships. And, of course, staying right where we are at Wells House, 80 Upper Street.

**WHAT ARE YOUR FAVOURITE PLACES TO GO IN THE AREA?** The Euphorium Bakery for the best iced coffees around, and Fredericks for food.

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