

Serving the wider community

In the 17 years since JMP Solicitors was established by Ian Howard and Yvonne Carratt it has grown to become one of Grantham's leading law firms serving individuals, businesses and professional services companies. The firm has always emphasised and supported community involvement in and around Grantham. They have provided free mentoring and assistance to former winners of the Young Apprenticeships of the Year, raised £950 for MacMillan in the last twelve months, continue to support the Arts through the Guildhall and Gravity Fields Festival in addition to supporting the Swimarathon and sponsoring several youth teams within the DNF Football Academy based in Nottingham. JMP Solicitors were one of the founders of the Grantham Women in Business network, hold positions on the Grantham Business Club Executive Committee and were proud to participate in the fund raising in support of "Born Still, Still Born".

What sets JMP apart is the emphasis and investment in their staff.

Choosing to promote from within the Firm whenever possible, they are currently funding four members of staff through their professional legal qualifications having moved from administrative roles within the company. In addition JMP currently employ two trainee solicitors one of which is Monika Borek, a Polish speaking litigator due to qualify in 2019.

"We were excited when we interviewed Monika as her academic background was very strong, she was fluent in English, had undergone a brief period of work experience at JMP before working in London as a paralegal. We knew that Monika would be an asset to the firm in



Monika Borek

addition to being able to provide a great benefit to the wider Polish speaking individuals and thriving business community in the East Midlands and Lincolnshire" explains Managing Director Ian Howard. Monika originally started coming to England in 2008, dividing her time between Poland and Britain while studying towards her Masters' Degrees in Law and English Philology before finally settling in Grantham in 2011 to complete her legal education at Nottingham Trent University. Trainee solicitors normally undertake up to two years training while employed by a law firm during which time they work within different departments to broaden their experience by being exposed to different areas of legal practice. Monika started in Civil Litigation explaining that "what I most enjoyed was helping clients who found themselves in a very difficult position having sustained injuries". While Monika represents clients from all nationalities she has found her language skills to be essential and her list of clients has grown through

word-of-mouth and reputation. One such case involved Monika successfully acting for an elderly Polish man visiting the UK who was knocked down by a car while he was taking his granddaughter to school.

In addition to retaining her litigation files, Monika has now recently moved into JMP's busy Family Law Department as part of her training. "It is certainly very challenging and no two cases are ever the same" says Monika "but I am always keen to develop my knowledge and learn from experienced lawyers within JMP Solicitors". Of course, Monika's native language is perfect for helping our Polish Grantham residents and companies in such matters as making Wills, family issues including divorce, buying and selling properties and whatever legal queries come through JMP's doors on a daily basis. Her ability to explain complex legal matters in a straightforward way is what JMP prides itself on with every client regardless of nationality or background. "Every client is different and you often find yourself working on a range of cases from those that are relatively modest up to assisting more experienced lawyers on very large high value matters" but, adds Monika, "this variety is what makes working at JMP so exciting and challenging".

It's a proud boast of this law firm that JMP stands for 'Just More Personal', of course with Monika on the team they can do that bi-lingually too; so, 'Thank you Monika', or to put it in Polish, 'Dzi kuj Ci Monika'.



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