

It's nice to see policemen
going outside and getting fresh
air in their lungs for once
Caitlin
Moran

NEWS COMMENT BUSINESS MONEY SPORT LIFE & STYLE TRAVEL DRIVING ARTS & ENTS ARCHIVE OUR PAPERS SUBSCRIPTIONS

MARKETS MARKET DATA ECONOMICS INDUSTRY SECTORS COLUMNISTS MOVERS & SHAKERS LAW CAREER MANAGEMENT

Where am I? Home Business Law

From The Times

January 28, 2010

Lawyer of the Week: Michael Wolkind

Linda Tsang

RECOMMEND? (3)

Michael Wolkind, QC, of 2 Bedford Row Chambers, acted for Munir Hussain, a businessman jailed for 30 months for permanently injuring an intruder. He was freed by the Court of Appeal headed by the Lord Chief Justice, and sentenced instead to 12 months, suspended for two years.



What were the main challenges in this case and the possible implications?

To encourage a jury to a "generous" verdict, if not, then the trial judge to a sympathetic sentence, if not, then the Appeal Court to a merciful review. Had I failed, the overwhelming mood of the public would have been left dramatically adrift from that of the courts. In the event, Mr Hussain received the benefit of a considered and enlightened judgment from the Lord Chief Justice.

What was your worst day as a lawyer?

Head down, checking my notes for a closing speech in a murder, I walked into an Old Bailey courtroom, crossed the entire room, But why was the judge there already, and a witness being cross-examined by strange counsel? The jury was unfamiliar. Wrong court.

What was your most memorable experience as a lawyer?

A defiant jury who recognised the tragedy of a young man who accidentally stabbed his brother. The prosecution eventually dropped the murder charge and he pleaded guilty to manslaughter. The jury refused to convict, ignoring the judge's directions.

Who has been the most influential person in your life and why?

My wonderful parents whom I miss daily. Kathy, the only one of my pupils I married. Anti-Establishment figures: Tony Benn, Paul Foot, the religious philosopher Maimonides, the author Bernard Malamud and whoever wrote "excel if you must but don't excel the World".

Why did you become a lawyer?

I have no university degree so I was looking for something fun and easy.

What would your advice be to anyone wanting a career in law?

Don't believe anyone who says it's fun and easy. It's stimulating, deeply satisfying, but constantly demanding.

If you had not become a lawyer, what would you have chosen and why?

I would have worked with children or as a bereavement counsellor. I volunteer in those areas now and am constantly

EXPLORE LAW

COLUMNISTS
LAW PANEL
LAW REPORTS
STUDENT LAW

TIMES RECOMMENDS

The best legal yarns this Christmas
Legal school 'earned £1m by exploiting bar course'
Axe may fall on 5,000 more City lawyers

TIMES LAW

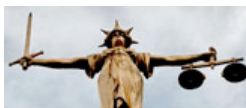


Criminal Bar chief likes a tough fight

STUDENT LAW SPECIAL



Our guide to joining the profession



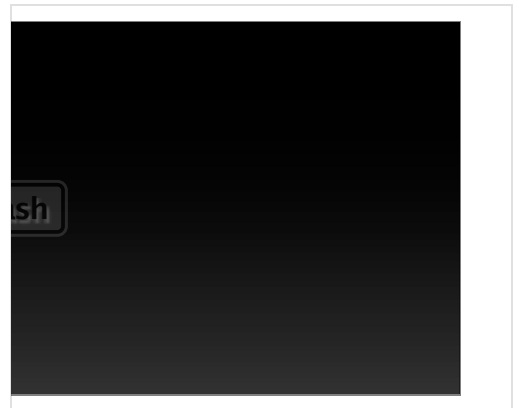
Law Central blog

THE TIMES LAW100


[MY PROFILE](#) | [SHOP](#) | [JOBS](#) | [PROPERTY](#) | [CLASSIFIEDS](#)
[MOST READ](#) | [MOST COMMENTED](#) | [MOST CURIOUS](#)

TODAY

The secret lives of married men
J. D. Salinger: Author of The Catcher in the...
Tony Blair admits Saddam threat was...
Live: Tony Blair at the Chilcot Inquiry -...



FOCUS ZONE

Mapping Business:

We are backing British business, what is the confidence of the nation and what businesses are succeeding?



Need to Know
Winter Sports

[Mapping Business](#)
More reports

Free CV Review

Sell yourself! Have your CV reviewed by experts



Times Health Club

Save £8 per month on British Military Fitness



FINANCIAL BROCHURES

Get free guides to saving and investing
Saving for your child
Online trading
Wine Investing

Save for Retirement
ISA Guides
Investment Trusts

AD FEATURE

Be Proactive
Businesses on guard



RELATED REPORT

British business
Who is succeeding?



enthused.

Where do you see yourself in ten years?

Still representing the most unpopular defendants like the London Nail Bomber and the occasional popular ones like Munir or Greenpeace protesters. I will still be infinitely proud of my son, David, and my daughters Rikki and Tori. I will still be enjoying my dogs Cato, Dylan and Milo, who have each promised me never to die. I will still be waiting for Barnet FC to win a game.

l_tsang@hotmail.com

PRINT EMAIL SHARE

HAVE YOUR SAY

Would you like to post a comment? Please register or log in

Login | [REGISTER](#)

[Submit](#)

[Terms and conditions](#)

Ads by Google

[HSBC Premier](#)

Exclusive Service, Global Insight, And Financial Tools. Join Today!
www.hsbc.co.uk/hsbcpremier

[Free New Politics Song](#)

Get a free download of "Yeah Yeah Yeah." Check it out here!
NewPoliticsRock.com

ALSO IN LAW

SFO charges Austrian count in BAE bribery case
Tough questions Tony Blair should answer at the Chilcot Inquiry
FSA to vet more senior staff

ALSO IN BUSINESS

US economy soars 5.7 per cent in fourth quarter
Davos: Cameron takes swipe at FSA and backs Obama



Britain's most powerful lawyers



Get breaking legal news by RSS



Sign up for our weekly e-mail bulletin

Got a story for us? Contact the editor

LAW CENTRAL



Our new blog about the UK's leading law firms, chambers, courts and lawmakers

Norton Rose to end four-day week
Straw appoints new libel law working group
New Supreme Court justice - delayed by snow and Chilcot
A tale of mice and peers
Lego bricks do not deserve EU-wide trademark, ECJ adviser says

LAW CENTRAL



Who is the City's most powerful lawyer?

BABYBARISTA



An insider's account of life at the Bar

WSJ: LAW

Find an IFA

Find a local independent financial advisor



CLASSIFIEDS

CARS JOBS

PROPERTY TRAVEL

JOBS

LEP GENERAL MANAGER

£COMPETITIVE
Transformation Learning Partnership
Six-figure package

Head of Democratic and Partnership Services

£82,000
Calderdale Council
North East

Assistant Director – North

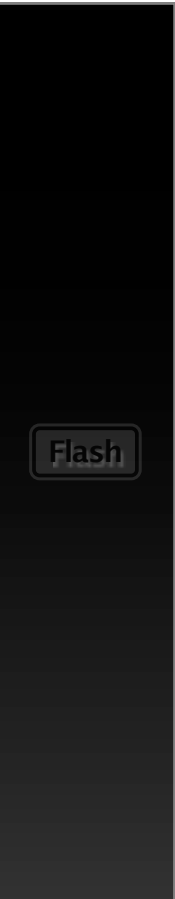
£60K - £70K
Turning Point
Yorkshire, North East, North West

Head of Business Finance – Centrica Energy Upstream

up to £120,000
Centrica
Scotland

[Search more Jobs](#)

[Place your advert now](#)



Articles from our sister site
WSJ.com:

You may be asked to
subscribe to read certain
articles

Times Online 

SEARCH

[Contact our advertising team](#) for advertising and sponsorship in Times Online, The Times and The Sunday Times, or place your [advertisement](#).

Times Online Services: [Dating](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Property Search](#) | [Used Cars](#) | [Holidays](#) | [Births, Marriages, Deaths](#) | [Subscriptions](#) | [E-paper](#)
News International associated websites: [Milkround](#)

Copyright 2010 Times Newspapers Ltd.

This service is provided on Times Newspapers' [standard Terms and Conditions](#). Please read our [Privacy Policy](#). To inquire about a licence to reproduce material from Times Online, The Times or The Sunday Times, click [here](#). This website is published by a member of the News International Group. News International Limited, 1 Virginia St, London E98 1XY, is the holding company for the News International group and is registered in England No 81701. VAT number GB 243 8054 69.

 **ENABLED**