

A cuppa with...



Janice Hall, Driving Offences and Criminal Defence Solicitor

Janice has over 20 years' experience as a solicitor in criminal defence and representing those charged with driving offences.

You can find her on Twitter @janicehalldg

Our 'cuppa with' series is an informal chat with one of our team to give a deeper understanding into their area of law and share some little-known legal facts.

1. What is the best part of your job?

Saving someone's driving licence. We often don't consider how important a driving licence is until we face losing it.

2. And the worst?

Causing death by dangerous or careless driving are the most serious types of offence someone can commit without meaning to. Dealing with first time offenders facing these serious charges requires sensitivity and an understanding that it really could happen to anyone. It can be difficult helping someone navigate the criminal justice system for the first time while they are coping with guilt and condemnation from media and community.

3. What does a typical day entail?

I am representing clients in the magistrates court almost every day. Fortunately, I can also work remotely providing advice at short notice

for clients by email, phone or zoom. This means I am much more flexible to the needs of clients.

4. What would people be most surprised to find out about your job?

Legal advice in a police interview is free regardless of your income even for minor road traffic offences

5. My friend received a Court summons for multiple speeding offences, should she represent herself?

She can, but every day I see people who have tried and ended up in a worse position. I always suggest to get some initial advice as early as possible, don't muddle through yourself without knowing the consequences.

If you then want to proceed yourself, we will advise you how best to do this.

6. I've been caught just over the drink-drive limit, what should I do?

Contact us as soon possible to discuss your options. Even though borderline reading offences are less serious than high readings, you should still obtain legal advice. The consequences of being convicted of drink driving can have a devastating impact on your life and perhaps your career or business. We will check if the police procedures were correctly carried out and if the reading is correct.

If you decide to plead guilty we will work with you to keep any punishments to a minimum.

7. A little known fact about this area of law is....

When you move address you have to notify DVLA to change your driving licence, but also separately if you are the registered keeper of any vehicle. Otherwise, if you are flashed by a speed camera, the notification will go to your previous address.

If you would like to speak with Janice or one of the Motoring team, give us a call on

0191 243 8167 or visit www.davidgray.co.uk