

Private Client Enews – 14 February 2007

Hoist with her own petard

Dinah Lambert thought that she could use a W H Smith DIY will kit to increase her entitlement in her late mother's estate from £17,500 to £64,000 by forging her signature.

What she did not bank on was a running up against the heady cocktail of a tenacious solicitor and a forensic graphologist.

The solicitor sought a court order for release of copy cheques and even resorted to attempting to secure a sample signature on the deceased's Mecca Bingo application form.

The resultant bounty upon which the graphologist based his uncontested report ran to 40 or so examples of the deceased's signature.

The police then took over and what is thought to be the first case of fraud using a DIY will with the result that the rightful beneficiaries finally received their inheritance. Ms Lambert received a 7 month stretch at Her Majesty's Pleasure after pleading guilty to obtaining money by deception, using a false instrument and making a false statement on oath.

If you have any queries you can phone or email Glenn Smyth or Rod Smith on glennsmyth@boltburdon.co.uk or rodsmyth@boltburdon.co.uk or phone 020 7288 4700. Our full range of services includes Financial Planning, Trusts Wills & Probate, Property, Matrimonial and Family Law, Commercial Law, Commercial Dispute Resolution, Debt Collection, Compensation Claim Litigation. Visit our web site at www.boltburdon.co.uk. To stop receiving this bulletin,, reply stating 'unsubscribe'.