

give peer who chaired the event, asked the question of what Brexit means for business to the lawyers. "I hope you have some ideas," she said. "My colleagues in parliament certainly don't have any answers."

Smethurst concurred that the election result made parliamentary agreement on Brexit less likely, as a cohesive strategy would be sacrificed on the altar

Brexit advice."

Jacobs pointed out that international City law firms had created business models around providing advice on the flows of transactional capital. The referendum vote had stanching that flow considerably. "The new challenge of dealing with Brexit-related work does not compensate for the loss of far more

business view life through a Brexit prism, not all clients were so fixated, added Jacobs. He cited a recent survey of FTSE 100 chief executives, who were asked to list the biggest risks to their businesses. "Forty-five—nearly half—did not even mention Brexit." If clients do not view the UK's departure from the EU as a serious threat to their busi-

nesses, it is not, while two thought there was a legal case in favour. "It is a very debatable question," said Sweeting. The irony, he pointed out, is that it would "be a question for Europe's Court of Justice to decide". But such a judgment, they all agreed, would never be handed down within the tight timetable for Brexit.

presumably, of demand for its services. As a pioneer of flexible, challenger legal services out to disrupt the market, LOD had a point to prove and has done so, growing from its London base to eight offices around the world. As Simon Harper, its co-founder, says: "In the early days this was a maverick concept just for the early adopters. Fast forward ten years, it's now part of the mainstream."

Queen's Counsel

Alex Steuart

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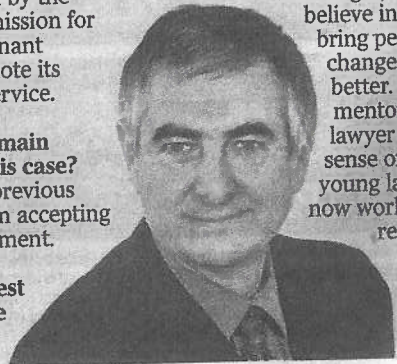
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Lawyer of the week Thomas Vinje

Thomas Vinje, the global head of antitrust at Clifford Chance, acted for FairSearch, a coalition of organisations seeking robust competition in the online sphere, against Google, which has been fined €2.4 billion by the European Commission for abusing its dominant position to promote its own shopping service.

What were the main challenges in this case? Preventing the previous commission from accepting an unwise settlement.

What are the best decisions you've taken? To hire



the fantastic lawyers who work with me — the leader of any team is only as good as his or her colleagues.

Who has inspired you in your career? Pete Seeger, the American folk singer, inspired me to believe in the power of song to bring people together to change the world for the better. The partners who mentored me as a young lawyer and instilled in me a sense of purpose. And the young lawyers with whom I now work who remind me to remain enthusiastic.

What's the oddest thing that has happened to you?

Having intensely fought IBM and Microsoft and then eventually to have them become friends and clients — IBM having become a member of ECIS, the client I represented in the Microsoft cases, and Microsoft having been a member of FairSearch, which I have represented in the Google cases.

What's the best advice you've received? Judge Pence, the federal judge for whom I clerked in Hawaii, advised me always to put aside emotion and passion and make one's decisions on the basis of reason. This might sound obvious, but it's not always easy, either as a lawyer or in life generally.

Which three qualities should a lawyer have? Honesty — shading the

truth will (and should) always come back to bite you. Curiosity — without curiosity, one will never find the right ways forward. Respect for and skill with language — a lawyer stands naked without a way with words.

What law would you enact? A single-payer healthcare system in the United States, because in a rich country, every citizen should be entitled to necessary healthcare.

How would you like to be remembered? For having pursued antitrust cases that have meant something and for being a decent son, a caring father and a loving husband.

Linda Tsang
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Magrath's home run

What will Whitehall watchers make of a decision by the Home Office to make Stephen Earl of the Migration Advisory Committee Secretariat available "at short notice" to speak at a British-American Business event organised by the immigration lawyers Magrath LLP next Tuesday morning? Apparently the committee will be launching a Brexit consultation imminently. What does Downing Street think? Does it matter?

Musical mentality

Thomson Snell & Pasmore is joining Chroma, an art therapy consultancy, next week to raise awareness of neurological music therapy (NMT) and how its techniques can be used to improve outcomes for their clients. "It does very much feel as though NMT is reaching a tipping point in the legal sector where awareness of its benefits among solicitors, case managers and the judiciary is growing," says Daniel Thomas, Chroma's managing director.

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