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We have been asked to write a “bio”. Biographies tend to tell you things that have happened in the past and actually, what is important is our future. We need to unite and we need to act. We need to re-open the lines of communication with solicitors and together we need to reopen the dialogue with MOJ.

Here are some things about me you need to know: I am not standing because I have any judicial or silken ambition – quite the reverse – I am doing this to help protect and save a profession I love and a Criminal Justice system that was once the envy of other jurisdictions. I am following in the best traditions of my circuit, the Western; of doing what is right and standing up to be counted. We need to plan and we need to fight. A strong and diverse CBA is what is needed right now to employ the best skills of the Bar: Intellect & Advocacy.

We fight every day in court for our clients, now we must fight for all of us. “No returns” showed that we can fight shoulder to shoulder and that means we will again.

If you wanted a biography, I will tell you this instead. There are thousands of nameless juniors toiling up and down the circuits doing an honorable job in increasingly stressful circumstances for less and less. I am one of them. You will not have heard of me but you do know me. Look around your robing rooms and you’ll see me: I am the barrister that has been at this job 15 years. I am not led nor lead. I do not do VHCC. I both prosecute and defend. I won’t

become a silk nor will I become a judge. I am not at a silk heavy London set. I am a safe and honorable pair of hands who takes the responsibility of the job with the utmost seriousness. I am the barrister who laughs in robing rooms at the terrible jokes because we need to. I am the last of a dying breed as well - the female criminal practitioner. I have neither pension nor any real financial safety net. I drive a car that has seen better days. I am like you.

I am the barrister who knows that she works with solicitors and the CPS as part of a team. I am not "above" HCAs, they are my professional colleagues. I am the barrister that can see the Police, Prison and Probation service on their knees. We are all in this together – one falls now, we all fall.

There is no easy answer, no ready plan. We must fight the destruction of the CJS at every turn: whether it's "No Returns", JRs, Direct action or engaging with the MOJ.

Boring Bio Bit

I went to a fancy university but did not read law. I worked as a headhunter before coming to the Bar.

I was lucky enough to do pupillage at 2-4 Tudor Street (now Carmelite) in the days of Dick Ferguson QC. I then practised in London for the first 6 years and I almost exclusively defended for the firms like Fisher Meredith, Powell Spencer and Lewis Nedas – I loved every minute of working with them. It was the usual London practice of serious sexual offences, drugs (lots), violence and that London specialty indictment "Conspiracy".

I joined my current set in 2005 and the Western Circuit. My set and the circuit have become my family now – dysfunctional and eccentric but supportive and wonderful. I now predominately prosecute and defend in serious sexual offences as befits a woman barrister of over ten years standing. However, I am also a confiscation specialist as well as practising in regulatory crime.

However, like you I am much more than this. I'm a lone parent with two small children, which means I live off caffeine and nerves. I love music with a passion. I love shoes and having fun. I meditate. I support the West Indies in

cricket because I was born and bred in Trinidad and I am proud of my dual heritage.