

# Today's Wills and Probate Industry Champion

Sponsored by:  arken

**2021 Nominee - Ian Bond**

**Head of Wills & Estates, Thursfields Legal Limited**



## Why do you believe your chosen nomination is a champion?

Ian is an estate planning guru. Not only is he at the top of his game in terms of subject specialty and client service, heading up the Wills and Estates team at Thursfields, Ian is a member of the Law Society of England & Wales' Wills and Equity Committee and contributed five chapters to the Law Society publication 'The Probate Practitioners Handbook.' He has also written a number of articles for both legal and non-legal publications on diverse topics as well as fulfilling speaking engagements for local Law Societies, and other organisations. Ian was the inaugural sector lead for professional services at the Black Country Business Festival in 2018, and he took that role on again last year. Ian is a member of the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (STEP), the Law Society Private Client Section and is a Trustee of the independent Law Society Charity.

Ian is a highly engaged and respected activist for law and best practice reform for the benefit of the estate planning and legal communities. He particularly champions the use of technology in the legal sector for the benefit of professionals and their clients and his Twitter feed (@ianbondtep) is the source of valuable information, opinion and industry debate for over 1600 people and is generally updated at least daily. During the first wave of the pandemic Ian was a pillar of support for the estate planning industry providing significant guidance around how to execute wills at a time when wet signatures were required but where in many cases they were virtually impossible to obtain. As Chair of The Law Society Wills & Equity Committee, Ian was instrumental in bringing to pass the temporary amendment to s.9 of the Wills Act to allow the video witnessing of wills to ensure that everyone had the ability to record their final wishes regardless of their vulnerability. And in addition to finding technological solutions for practical problems, Ian is also an expert in the need to find practical solutions to the problems that have been created by new technologies. Ian writes regularly on the subject of digital assets, including bitcoin, and has contributed the chapter on digital assets to the Law Society's "Probate Practitioners Handbook" as well as multiple podcasts, webinars, guidance notes and articles on the subject.

## Why should the industry vote for this individual?

Ian is a highly respected and well liked leader of the wills and estate planning area. He is generous with his time and experience to his colleagues, clients and the industry in general. Ian is at the cutting edge of law reform and is a vocal advocate for establishing best practice in the industry and for the use of technology to achieve it. He is also instrumental in ensuring that the industry keeps abreast of technological developments (such as the prevalence of digital assets) and that it should be able to adapt to and keep pace with them.

Ian is softly spoken, tactful and modest with enormous integrity, expertise and generosity of spirit. He would be the last person to expect any sort of recognition and this is why we believe he so amply deserves it

Brought to you by:



Headline Sponsor:

