How the SBA helped us

Julie

Julie was married to a solicitor for more than 10 years and had two children. When her daughter Felicity was diagnosed with a brain tumour, her husband financially abandoned the entire family. Felicity's mobility was permanently impaired by the operation to remove the tumour and it was considered a miracle that she survived. Julie has recently suffered from breast cancer.

"It is good to know that you can fall over and that there is someone there to pick you up again"

SBA The Solicitors' Charity has helped Julie to bring up both her children on her own by paying for various living expenses and some "extras" such as school uniform, school trips, petrol for the school run, extra lessons and a leisure award which has meant that Julie has been able to give her children some kind of holiday every year.

Kabir

Kabir is 24 years old, and a newly-qualified doctor. He read medicine at King's College, London.

"Qualifying would have been an immense struggle"

His father initially qualified as a barrister but then became a solicitor. When his father suffered several prolonged periods of unemployment the family finances took a severe turn for the worse.

The SBA helped Kabir with his substantial expenses whilst studying medicine- living expenses, extra tuition fees, all his books and even his stethoscope!

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Vice Patron
Clive Anderson
President
The President of
The Law Society

Solicitors Benevolent Association Limited
A charitable company limited by guarantee
registered in England & Wales number 6601907
Registered Charity number 1124512

Julie and Felicity
SBA beneficiaries

SBA The Solicitors' Charity

SBA The Solicitors' Charity

Conditional Donations

Your firm can make a donation to your profession's own charity without it costing a single penny

Helping solicitors
SBA The Solicitors' Charity financially assists solicitors and their families when things go wrong through illness, accident or other misfortune. Although it is easier to be hard-hearted about a charity for professionals, it is a little-known fact that solicitors are four times more likely to develop depression than a member of the general population, twice more likely to develop alcoholism and a shocking six times more likely to commit suicide...Most of the beneficiaries we help experience situations that are quite simply, uninsurable.

Help us to be there should things go wrong for you...

Who will the money help?
SBA The Solicitors' Charity helps individuals just like you and your dependants with grants and interest-free loans. Although each case is considered individually, all our beneficiaries are in serious financial need. Circumstances vary widely but include examples of such debilitating diseases as MS, manic depression, schizophrenia and serious traffic accidents.

Helping us
We all know that there are many deserving charities competing for our money, but by helping SBA The Solicitors' Charity all you need do is donate any unclaimed balances in your firm's client account to us and we'll be able to start transforming the lives of solicitors just like you.

Helping yourself
Unclaimed balances in your client account need to be accounted for each year which involves time-consuming administration and additional costs in untangling the clutter of year-end accounts. By donating them to SBA The Solicitors' Charity you'll be doing yourself and your firm a favour by clearing them from your balance sheet.

SBA
The Solicitors' Charity
Acting for you

How do I donate an unclaimed balance?

1. For individual sums each under £50–whatever the total of these–simply send a cheque.

2. You need to apply to the Solicitors Regulation Authority for permisssion to transfer the money at:

   Professional Ethics
   Solicitors Regulation Authority
   Ipsley Court, Berrington Close
   Redditch B98 OTD
   (DX 19114 Redditch)

3. Show that you have made full enquiries to trace the proper destination of the unclaimed balances in your client accounts or that the reasonable costs of doing so are likely to be excessive in relation to the money held. Generally you will need to prove that 6 years or more have elapsed since the money was due to the client. Your accountant may be required to verify the application. The above procedure does not need to be followed for sums of £50 or less.

   Send us a cheque made payable to:

   SBA
   The Solicitors' Charity
   1 Jaggard Way
   London SW12 8SG

   On receipt of your cheque we will send you an immediate acknowledgement and a letter of indemnity which states that we will refund all, or any part of the received sum if requested, in order to comply with your professional obligations to the entitled party.

   In addition, we undertake to pay a substantial 4% interest above base-rate, should you need to have the money refunded.

   For further information on the Accounts Rules, please visit the SRA website at: www.sra.org.uk

How can I help in other ways?

1. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you hear of anyone within the family of the profession whom you think may need our help. Many people in genuine need–particularly hard-working professionals–are reticent about approaching us.

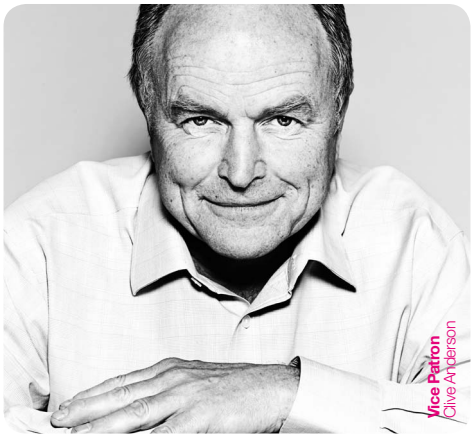
2. Consider giving SBA The Solicitors' Charity an annual donation. For just £5 a month you can subscribe to the charity and help to transform the lives of legal professionals, just like you.

3. Consider leaving us a gift in your will, and if appropriate, suggest to your clients that they might do the same.

4. Organise a fund–raising event in your firm.

5. Keep up–to–date with our news and activities by visiting our website and signing up to our newsletters.

   For more information, please visit: www.sba.org.uk

   Thank you! We couldn't do it without you.

"How appropriate and benevolent it is to help a fellow professional in trouble. And how forward thinking. One day it could be you"
Clive Anderson