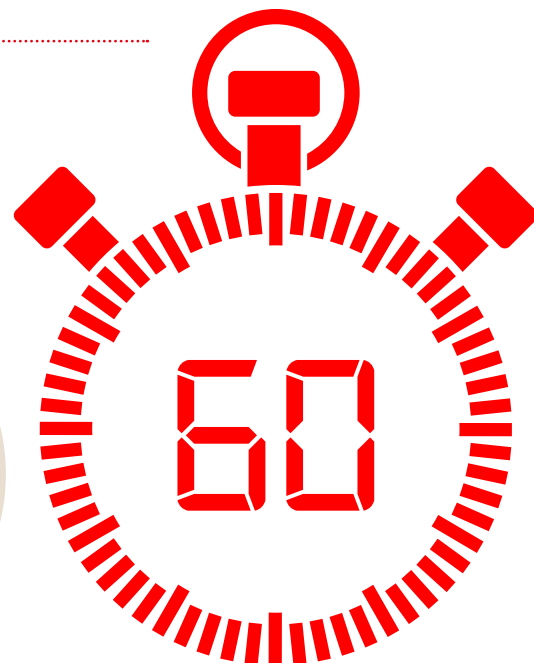


## 60-SECONDS WITH:

**ANTHONY RIEM**  
**SENIOR**  
**PARTNER**  
**PCB BYRNE**


**Q** What would you be doing if you weren't in this profession?

**A** In some ways, it would be easier to say what I would not have been. Before becoming a lawyer, I worked in banking and insurance but they did not grab my attention. I think I would either have been a historian as I am fascinated by the past – a good job at my age! – and our continual failure to learn from mistakes that have been repeatedly made during the course of history or, dare I say it, a politician. However, I think any political career would have been short-lived as it appears that strategic thinking and an ability to actually answer questions are traits that do not sit comfortably with being a successful politician.

**Q** What's the strangest, most exciting thing you have done in your career?

**A** Highlights include from the 1980's being chased around the Elephant & Castle Estate in London by an angry husband with a knife after I had served him with a divorce petition; from the 1990's having to escape out of a building where we had been locked in by our client and in seeking to find a way out through a window had found a room where he had created documents to support his case; from the 2000's pursuing a fraudster to stop him fleeing the jurisdiction and then having him arrested and in another case getting full recovery of stolen monies because the defendant wanted his passport back which we had seized; and more recently, working on the deals by which Burford took an investment in our firm and our subsequent merger.

**Q** What is the easiest/hardest aspect of working on FIRE cases?

**A** The answer to both these questions is the challenges they bring. It is the challenge of identifying a route by which the client recovers assets; the challenge of finding a strategy that works to recover those assets; the challenge of adapting that strategy to take account of developments as they happen; the

challenge of co-ordinating teams in several jurisdictions when seeking interim relief; the challenge of ensuring the client understands what is happening and why it is happening. All these challenges and more can be difficult but they are also exhilarating.

**Q** If you could give one piece of advice to aspiring practitioners, what would it be?

**A** Put in the hard yards. Asset recovery requires solid foundations: a good understanding of the relevant law and procedure. A solid foundation then enables you to build the skill sets necessary to build and implement successful asset recovery strategies.

**Q** What has been the most interesting case you have seen in 2021?

**A** I am going to have to pick a case that appears to have generated more column inches than any other case which luckily enough happens to be one of my cases! It is the Akhmedova case as it involved bringing or defending proceedings in several jurisdictions, each of which threw up its own particular challenges. As a practitioner, there is nothing more interesting than finding ways to overcome or sidestep those challenges. One particular cherry on the cake was to obtain an order in the US to require Google to disclose contents of emails, notwithstanding the hurdles put in our way by the defendant and Google.

**Q** What do you think will be the most significant trend in your practice over the next 12 months?

**A** The growth in cybercrime and crypto currency and more generally in digital assets and fintech. We are investing heavily in this area.

**Q** If you could learn to do anything, what would it be?

**A** Learn to play a musical instrument. As I am close to tone deaf and lacking any proper form of musical co-ordination, I think this is best left as an aspiration.

**Q** What is the one thing you could not live without?

**A** To my mind there is nothing better than a good book, so it would be settling down with a kindle loaded with books (and a marmite sandwich and whisky)

**Q** If you could meet anyone, living or dead, who would you meet?

**A** Given my interest in history, I would be happy meeting any of the dominant world figures. If I had to choose someone, then it would be Napoleon, just as much for his introduction of the Napoleonic Code as for his military prowess.

**Q** What songs are included on the soundtrack to your life?

**A** Various Clash tracks – London Calling, Rock the Casbah, Should I stay or should I go; Lou Reed – Perfect Day, Femme Fatale; David Bowie – practically anything from Ziggy Stardust, Diamond Dogs and Station to Station; Otis Redding – Sittin on the Dock of the Bay; The Police – Walking on the Moon; Dexy's Midnight Runners – Come on Eileen. That's enough to get started with.

**Q** What does the perfect weekend look like?

**A** A lie in, leisurely breakfast, country walk with the missus and dog to a pub for lunch, a sporting afternoon either going to a game (rugby/football/cricket – all fine though the latter requires all day participation!) or "playing" golf followed by dinner with friends and/or family.

**Q** Reflecting on 2021, what have you been most grateful for?

**A** The support of family, friends and work colleagues (and for Breaking Bad which I finally found time to watch during lockdown!).

**L**