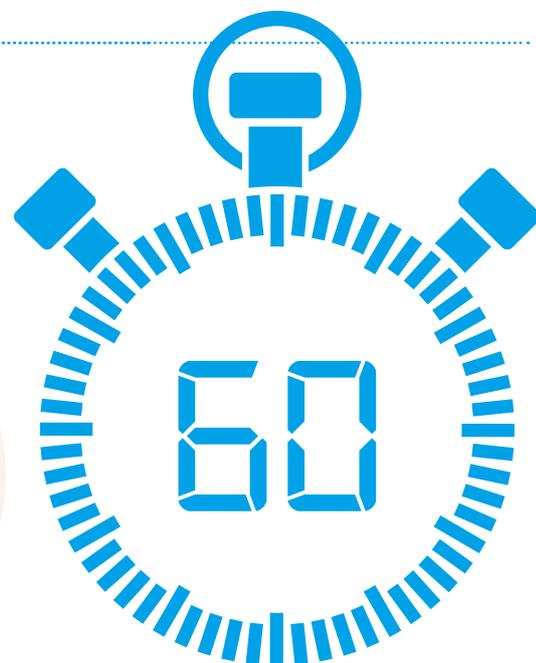


60-SECONDS WITH:

NICK RACTLIFF PARTNER PCB BYRNE



- Q** What would you be doing if you weren't in this profession?
- A** A journalist following the English cricket team (men and women) around the world. Although the last few months following the men's team would not have been much fun, particularly cooped up in a Covid bubble and not being able to sooth the painful losses with the joys of the Aussie sun and outdoor lifestyle.
- Q** What's the strangest, most exciting thing you have done in your career?
- A** The strangest thing was in 2009, having previously worked in mid-tier multi-disciplinary practices, walking into the office to start work with PCB Litigation – at that time a contrasting practice of three partners, two other fee-earners and three support staff! The most exciting thing is being involved in the rise and development of that practice into what it is today, PCB Byrne - a leading practice dealing with asset recovery and complex UK and international disputes in the civil, criminal and regulatory sectors with a combined total of partners and fee-earners in excess of 40.
- Q** What is the easiest/hardest aspect of your job?
- A** Dealing with people. Given human nature and individual characteristics whether it is clients, colleagues or fellow professionals this can be both pleasurable and a challenge.
- Q** If you could give one piece of advice to aspiring practitioners, what would it be?
- A** Beware the small dog. A few years ago, I had to serve personally a petition on a Russian businessman who owned a Doberman and a Chihuahua. On serving the petition, it was the Chihuahua that ran out of the front door and bit me on the

ankle, the Doberman remained barking from inside the house.

More seriously - keep it simple. This advice was given to me by my principal on my first day as an article clerk. Civil fraud and asset recovery work is complex but it helps to start from a sound base of simple building blocks.

- Q** What do you think will be the most significant trend in your practice over the next 12 months?
- A** An upturn in people working from the office as they begin to recondition to the benefits of in person contact. Insolvency, electronic fraud and developments in the law on cryptocurrency are likely to be the key areas for generating work.
- Q** If you could learn to do anything, what would it be?
- A** To fly fish and catch a wild salmon.
- Q** What is the one thing you could not live without?
- A** It pains me to say it – but it is probably my i-phone. It is amazing how these devices now control our lives. Although I think having a sense of humour is vital to maintaining a positive and proportionate approach in the face of adversity when dealing with cases.
- Q** If you could meet anyone, living or dead, who would you meet?
- A** Richie Benaud – I am not old enough to have seen him play but he was the consummate professional as a cricket commentator. His knowledge and understanding of the game was second to none. I would love to sit down with him to discuss and get his views on the current issues facing English cricket both on and off the field, and the game generally.

- Q** What songs are included on the soundtrack to your life?
- A** Anything by the Police, Dire Straits, U2, David Bowie, Queen, George Michael or Coldplay. My family would insist that I include Summer Holiday by Cliff Richard and Daddy Cool by Boney M.
- Q** What does the perfect weekend look like?
- A** No work emails.
- On Saturday, a walk with the dog, either a round of golf or a day at Lord's or Twickenham, followed by dinner with friends in the evening. On Sunday, read the newspapers, a walk to the pub with the dog and a roast at home with the family.
- Q** Looking forward to 2022, what are you most looking forward to?
- A** Face-to-face contact, interaction with colleagues and clients, and a return to pre-pandemic normality.

