

EDWARD FENNELL'S LEGAL DIARY

Diary news, commentary, insights, appointments and arts from the legal world

July 8 2022 Editorial Contact: fennell.edward@yahoo.com

Pinsent Masons Celebrates Hope with Quilt Participation



Artist-in-residence Susan Stockwell with the Pinsent Masons' quilt

With what might be regarded as extraordinary prescience Pinsent Masons' artist-in-residence Susan Stockwell decided to launch a participatory quilt project for the firm in 2020. But then Covid arrived. And, bad though that was, it could have been a lot worse because lock-down and quilt making might be said to complement each other. As Susan Stockwell explains, "Quilting is a bit like meditation, where someone can take time out and forget about everything happening around them. It can be very relaxing."

So, despite everything, the work went ahead with a number of staff involved in quilt-making workshops and gradually swatches materialised in diverse forms – sewn, drawn, collaged, painted, knitted and even written. David Isaac, then Senior Partner and chair of the Art Committee, made his own unique contribution and the result – called *We Are All in This Together?* – can now be seen in the firm's reception area at 30 Crown Place.

Meanwhile earlier this week Susan Stockwell talked to an invited audience about how the project had unfolded and in conjunction with one of the firm's lawyers, Iain Connor, discussed some of the intellectual property issues which can surface in these kind of projects – as well as in her own work. As Stockwell pointed out, arts students receive almost no guidance on IP issues while at art college yet the issues are increasingly pressing due to the impact of technology.

Overseeing the quilt initiative is art consultant Maggie O'Regan, Director of InSitu art consultancy, www.insitu-art.co.uk who said that while Covid had disrupted the firm's long-standing artist-in-residence programme activities are now returning to full-strength. As Kevin Boa, the current chair of the art committee, added, "It's important to reach outside the legal bubble and collaborate with artists such as Susan."

For more on Susan Stockwell's work go to www.susanstockwell.co.uk.