What drew you to the bar?

I have a probably unhealthy appetite for hard work, and I like to solve other people’s problems.

Really, though: it is an opportunity to be someone’s voice, to be on their side, and to help them navigate a system which can often seem to them to be opaque or oppressive.

What do you enjoy most about being a member of 7BR?

I really enjoy practising in a truly multi-disciplinary set. Although the barristers here do specialise, they all cut their teeth across multiple areas of law. That lends certain levels of insight which can be highly advantageous: it turns out that not all cases fit neatly into a box, and in fact much of the most interesting work we do here sits on the intersection of different disciplines.

Do you think your lockdown experience will change the way you work going forward?

Inevitably, to some extent. I anticipate there will be slightly more remote work, especially in civil cases and administrative hearings. I already was making an effort to do most of my work paperless, and I imagine that this will become easier too. I will probably spend slightly less time eating meagre train platform lunches at 3pm, although weirdly I have kind of missed this over lockdown.

Finally, I think that although I have always taken an approach which is focussed on my clients’ experience, over lockdown I have become even more aware of the public perception of the justice system, and our role in it. I think I’ll carry that awareness into my future practice.

Thank you for listening to Kate’s podcast, if you would like to discuss any of the issues raised in further detail please contact Eleanor De on ede@7br.co.uk