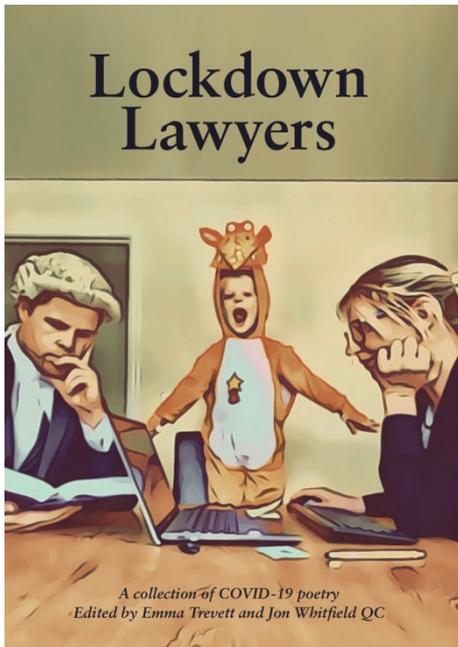


Lockdown Lawyers

A collection of COVID-19 poetry

Emma Trevett and Jon Whitfield QC (eds)

The genesis of this book may be the current storm, but it stands as testament to those people who are weathering it.



Lockdown Lawyers is an anthology of poetry on how the COVID-19 crisis has hit legal aid lawyers and the provision of advice and advocacy. There are over 50 contributions from barristers, solicitors, advisers and some of their family members.

The poetry ranges from haiku to multi-page poems and touches upon crime, mental health, the lack of courts and remote working. The original brief to writers was simple: write about the lockdown and near collapse of the legal system. How have you coped? Have you coped? How have you continued to support clients?

Lockdown Lawyers aims to mark what has been the most unusual and difficult of times and to show how despite the decades of cuts we as a sector have coped. It aims to raise a smile and most importantly, all proceeds from the book will be donated to Law Centres Network to continue their work for the most vulnerable people in society.

Emma Trevett, Irwin Mitchell LLP

“Lockdown Lawyers has seen legal aid lawyers from all over the country come together to create something positive and remarkable during these unprecedented times. Legal aid lawyers work tirelessly to help vulnerable clients. We have survived numerous cuts over the decades. The challenges we face alongside our clients during the pandemic are evident throughout this collection. However, we will survive the pandemic and ensure that our clients continue to access justice.”

Jon Whitfield QC, Doughty Street Chambers

“How has the publicly funded legal system survived this pandemic at all, given it has endured decades of cuts matched only by huge increases in expense and workload? As I pondered on this and read the contributions, I realised the answer is simple. It is the lawyers that work themselves to a standstill to keep a broken system going. It is typical of legal aid lawyers that despite the endless worry of practice, multiplied by the pandemic they still find time to support each other, smile, be creative and say ‘we are still here!’”

Details

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Jon Whitfield QC, Doughty Street Chambers, defends in cases of homicide, terrorism and fraud and advises in regulatory proceedings as well as sitting as a judge in Mental Health Tribunals and the Court of Protection. Jon is a trustee of the Winchester Poetry Festival and his own poetry, photography and books can be found at www.jonwynne.co.uk.