

« *Life after Law* »

LEGAL BUSINESS, Mai 2007

FIFTY OVER 50

Saga-generation partners continue to be nudged out of law firms. But lawyers over the age of 50 have a lot to offer the commercial world, as the following roll-call demonstrates

BY CLAIRE SMITH

Like Peter Cornell at Clifford Chance, Guy Beringer at Allen & Overy and Tony Angel at Linklaters, Clark is considering his options after years at the pinnacle of a private practice legal career. And the job offers don't always flood in thick and fast – solicitors are rarely top of the list when headhunters seek to fill plc board roles, for example. It is also

unusual to see former partners at the helm of regulatory bodies or active in the public sector.

But it's not all doom and gloom for the over-50s seeking second careers, as the first *Legal Business* 'Fifty over 50' shows. Amongst its number are former partners who have made it as chairs of plcs and charities, private equity professionals, investment bankers and consultants. The list includes peers, knights

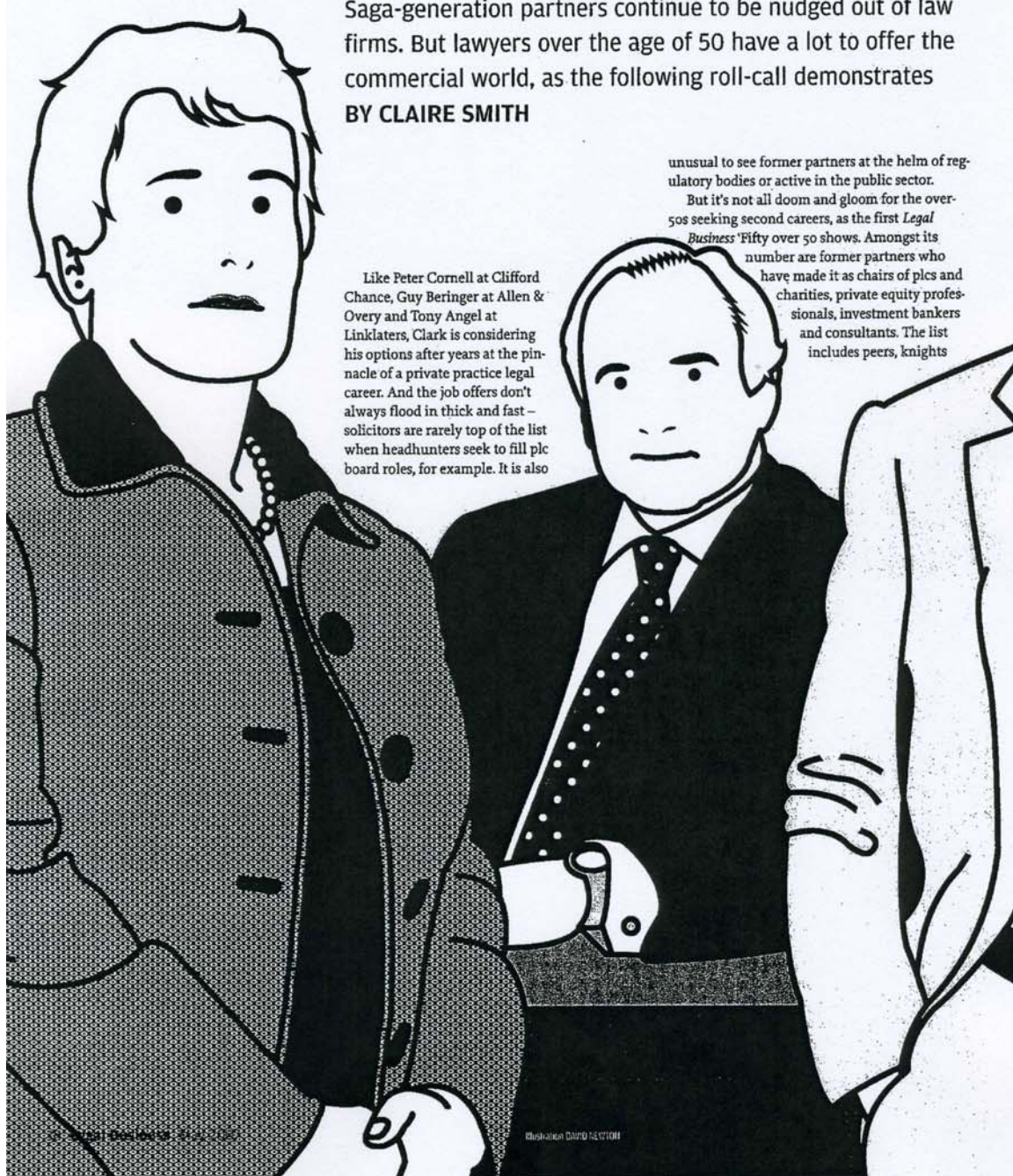


Illustration DAVID REPTON

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and CBEs. As Sir Robert Finch, the chairman of FTSE 100 property company Liberty International, says: 'At 61, I was comfortably the oldest person to retire from Linklaters in recent years, and most of my colleagues had left the City. I think that's a tragedy – there are senior people with huge ability in these law firms, who are being lost to business.' The following 50 profiles should give Clark et al food for thought.

claire.smith@legalease.co.uk

Non-executive director, Caledonia Investments
Former senior partner, Linklaters

Charles Allen-Jones, 67, was a partner in Linklaters for 33 years, and was senior partner for five years until 2001. He is now a non-executive director of Caledonia Investments, the London Stock Exchange-listed investment trust company, and sits on the board of Hongkong Land Holdings. He is also a member of the Financial Reporting Council and the Council of the Royal College of Art.



Founder, Law Management Consulting
Former managing partner, Andersen Legal
 Patrick Bignon, 59, was managing partner of the Andersen Legal network from 1999, and a board member of Andersen Worldwide. In 2002, when Andersen joined Ernst & Young in France, Bignon took responsibility for the worldwide EY Law network. In 2005, he set up Law Management

Consulting to advise law firms and corporate legal departments on strategy. He says: 'It's booming, and I'm very happy.'



Chairman, Lloyds TSB Group
Former partner, Clifford Chance

Sir Victor Blank, 64, made partner at Clifford Chance in 1969, and left in 1981 to become director and head of corporate finance at Charterhouse Bank. He was chairman of Charterhouse until 1997, and chairman of Trinity Mirror from 1999 to 2006. He joined the board of Lloyds TSB Group

in March 2006, and was appointed chairman two months later.



PETER BLOXHAM
Policyholder advocate (nominated), Prudential
Former partner, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer
 Peter Bloxham, 55, was a partner at Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer from 1983 until 2006. He founded the firm's restructuring practice in the 1990s, and headed it until 2005. In March 2007, he was nominated for the role of the independent policyholder advocate at Prudential. He is currently suing Freshfields for age discrimination in a case that is expected to be heard early in the summer.

GRAEME BRISTER

Founder, Blaqwell Consultants
Former partner, Linklaters

Graeme Brister was a partner at Linklaters for 20 years, and left his position as head of litigation to become London managing partner at Pinsent Curtis (now Pinsent Masons). In 2000 he retired and started his own consulting firm, Blaqwell, which focuses on profitability management, organisation design and development, negotiation, marketing, merger transactions and practice area development for law firms.

Chairman, Enodis

Former partner, Clifford Chance

Peter Brooks, 60, has been chairman of London-listed food equipment manufacturer Enodis since 2000, and is also executive deputy chairman of Stanley Leisure, the UK's largest casino operator. After seven years as a partner in Macfarlanes, Brooks joined Clifford Chance in 1984, where he eventually became head of corporate. In 1996 he left to become general counsel at Deutsche Morgan Grenfell.



Chairman, Changing Faces
Former senior partner, Linklaters

Anthony Cann, 59, recently retired from Linklaters after five years as senior partner, five as head of corporate, and close to 30 as a partner. He is now chairman of Changing Faces, the disfigurements charity, and a non-executive director of Smiths News, the newspaper wholesaler.

He says: 'I think my most useful experience was being senior partner at Linklaters, leading a people business through international expansion.'



Deputy chairman, Charity Trustee Network
Former partner, Slaughter and May

Michael Carpenter, 64, was a partner at Slaughter and May for 20 years, and left in 1994 to join Withers, where he worked for two years. He served as Legal Commissioner at the Charity Commission for five years to October 2002, and is now deputy chairman of the Charity Trustee

Network and a consultant to Charles Russell.



Commissioner, Commission for Racial Equality
Former managing partner, Garretts

Julia Chain, 50, co-founded Garretts and became head of corporate and then managing partner. She left to become GC of T-Mobile UK, and set up The Kite Consultancy. In 2003 Chain became a Commissioner for the Commission for Racial Equality.