

# The Savage Poodle

Tales from Legal Practice



**Richard Barr**

**SOLICITORS**  
JOURNAL

Cover image by David Haldane (who has been illustrating Richard Barr's stories for almost as long as Richard has been writing them)

Layout by Susie Bell, [www.f-12.co.uk](http://www.f-12.co.uk)

Printed by Canon (UK) Ltd, Cockshot Hill, Reigate, RH2 8BF, United Kingdom

ISBN: 978-1-78358-304-1

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

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Published by ARK Group, a division of Wilmington Plc

The company is registered in England and Wales with company number 2931372 GB.  
Registered office: 6-14 Underwood Street, London N1 7JQ.  
VAT Number: GB 899 3725 51.

To my wife Kirsten (who also features in these pages), along with  
my children Sophie and Nick, and my step children  
Becky, Bryony, Tom and Philippa



## Preface

Long before I met Richard Barr I had come to admire his humorous musings on life in private practice which generally provided light relief at the end of the Solicitors Journal. Here was a man of a certain age dedicated to looking after his clients but constantly tripped up by the eccentricities of those clients, his pet animals or modern technology. He was clearly an interesting chap with some unusual hobbies; not many people own their own fire engines. One article in particular always stuck in my mind; his beautiful depiction of his father and his father's career as a local solicitor as he described the day they buried him. Telling how most of his clients were friends and most of his friends were clients will have resonated with many more solicitors than me. And how his father, rather than claiming he was a war hero, always reckoned that his war injury had helped his fly fishing. When I finally met Richard upon his joining the Law Society Council it became clear that here was a kindred spirit. A contented man with an irreverent view of the quirks of life as a small town solicitor tempered with, on occasions, a little innocent mischief. And Council was not spared as he picked up on the foibles of Council Members and some of the quaint practices as we try to manage a growing profession in an increasingly technological age. I have no doubt whatsoever that you will enjoy this welcome volume of his 'greatest hits', sometimes chuckling, sometimes laughing right out loud.

Joe Egan, president of the Law Society of England and Wales  
September 2017



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