

*Human Rights Law and Practice*, by Lester and Pannick was one of the first big books about the Human Rights Act. It was a 30th birthday present from the authors when I was working as a civil servant. They inscribed it, 'Let this illuminate the corridors of the Home Office'.

With a mobile and a Blackberry you can more or less be in the office wherever you are, which means less worry, but it can feel like you are being electronically monitored. My son calls it the raspberry.

We're both lawyers and so decided it might be good if our son didn't do law or politics. We'd prefer him to pursue international rock stardom or football really. We've done years poring over dusty law books so we'd like to see him do something fun. But he'll probably end up a quantity surveyor.

This is by Tess Barns, who is doing portraits of women in public life. I met her out of curiosity and then she blew me away with her personality. I feel a bit unsure about having a painting of myself in the house, but it was my husband's idea.

This is a classic example of a toy full of little bits. There are people in the plane with tiny hats and wigs on, and they have little cartons of juice on their tables, that naturally get lost, constantly.

