



Gloria Sherrington: "Richard's memory has been vindicated"

J. RIFKIN

Evidence of second wife 'not credible'

Lawyer's children win fight to annul £10m will

BY LEON SYMONS

THE CHILDREN of a wealthy Jewish lawyer have won a High Court action to have their late father's £10-million will declared invalid.

Daliah, Donna and Ramon Sherrington were with their mother, Gloria, in court on Tuesday to hear Mr Justice Lightman declare that the will which they claimed Richard Sherrington had been pressurised into signing by his second wife, Yvonne, was not correctly executed.

Mr Sherrington signed the document in September 2001, on the eve of a trip to France. Seven weeks later, he died in a road accident.

His children face a week-and-a-half wait to find out whether Yvonne Sherrington, who was not in court, will appeal the judgment.

Although Judge Lightman refused her leave to appeal, she has 14 days to seek permission from the Court of Appeal.

In a statement issued by her lawyers, she was said to be "shocked by the decision and the contents of the judgment."

The judge raised questions about the evidence of Mrs Sherrington — whom one witness said her late husband had described as "a witch," saying that his marriage to her had been the "biggest mistake of my life."

Judge Lightman said the evidence of Yvonne Sherrington and her daughter, Nathalie Walker, that Mr Sherrington read the whole will was "not credible."

Mrs Sherrington had failed to

prove that her husband knew and approved of the contents of the will when he signed it, and thus forfeited her claim to probate.

In a statement which was read by Ramon Sherrington after the ruling, the children expressed their delight at the verdict.

"Our main concern in bringing this action was that we knew our father's will did not reflect his true intentions and his overwhelming love for us," they said.

Gloria Sherrington told the JC: "Richard's memory has been vindicated and justice has been done."

"This has been the longest day of my life. We had a wonderful champagne lunch with our solicitors afterwards."

She returned from court to find

reporters and photographers camped outside the family home in Hendon, while telephones rang incessantly inside.

Her children could not make any decisions about what they might do with their inheritance — they should receive half of Mr Sherrington's estate after tax — until learning whether their stepmother intended to pursue an appeal.

In reaching his decision, Judge Lightman had examined in detail the intricate relationships between Mr Sherrington and his wives.

Speaking of Mr Sherrington's continuing affection for Gloria even after their divorce in 1999, he stated: "He regularly visited her, ate her chicken soup, and gave her presents until his death."

Yentob criticises probe

BY MARK SCODIE

SENIOR BBC executive Alan Yentob is the subject of an official investigation over claims that he has misused corporation funds.

The BBC's director-general, Mark Thompson, ordered the inquiry after allegations that Mr Yentob used cars paid for by the corporation to take his daughter to school and secured upgrades for business flights.

A BBC spokesman commented

that "concerns have been raised about Alan Yentob's use of expense budgets... Mark [Thompson] asked the BBC's chief operating officer John Smith to examine the concerns and to report back to him."

Mr Yentob, the director of drama, entertainment and CBBC, has denounced the accusations as "malicious and unfounded." A 36-year veteran of the corporation, he is continuing his duties while the investigation is conducted. He also presents the TV arts documentary series, "Imagine."

Retrial for relatives of British suicide bomber

BY LEON SYMONS

THE BROTHER and sister of British suicide bomber Omar Sharif face a retrial on charges of failing to disclose information about his plan to mount an attack in Israel.

A jury of seven men and five women deliberated for more than 28 hours after a nine-week Old Bailey trial.

But they could not agree verdicts against Zahid, Sharif's 37-year-old brother, and his sister, Parveen, 38, a teacher.

Parveen faced an additional charge of inciting Sharif to commit an act of terrorism by allegedly sending him an e-mail of encouragement.

The jury cleared Sharif's widow,

Tahira Tabassum, who had also been accused of failing to disclose information about a terrorist act.

Sharif and his friend, Asif Hanif, both from Derby, attacked Mike's Place in Tel Aviv in April last year. Hanif detonated his device but Sharif's failed to explode.

He escaped from the scene and was found drowned in the sea off Tel Aviv 12 days later.

Three people were killed and 65 were injured in the explosion.

The charges arose out of an e-mail sent from Palestinian Authority territory by Omar Sharif to Zahid in two parts — one for Zahid and the other to be passed on to Tabassum — and the e-mail sent by Parveen to her brother.

Ms Tabassum had denied any knowledge of her husband's plans.

Howard's family values

BY LOUISE SCODIE

FIVE MEMBERS of the pressure group Jewish Unity for Multiple Parenting — JUMP — were invited to Tuesday's Tory Party "family access" summit in Westminster, which was addressed by party leader Michael Howard.

The event was organised to consider issues faced by lone parents, among them access, residency and international abduction.

JUMP representatives discussed access problems within the Jewish community during a debate chaired by Theresa May, the Shadow Secretary for the Family.

A JUMP spokesperson explained: "We approached her to raise issues specifically affecting us,

such as access on Shabbat and Jewish festivals, and we have asked for a further meeting with her to continue our dialogue.

"Not only has she agreed to this, but we also hope to arrange a meeting between ourselves and the Chief Rabbi, which she is willing to attend."

In the keynote speech, Mr Howard argued for a review of family law, declaring: "There should be a strong presumption in favour of equal rights for parents to have an influence on the upbringing of their children."

"The absence of that presumption means parents with residence have found it far easier to obstruct the other parent's access to their children and their ability to have a say on how their children are to be brought up."

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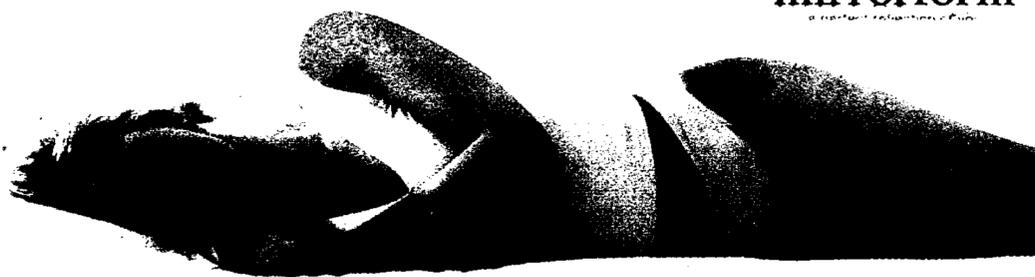
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