



**Matthew John Rogers**

Solicitor

Cartmell Shepherd Solicitors

STEP member since 2016

**1. Why did you decide to join a membership organisation of this nature?**

To be a part of an organisation of professionals committed to continually enhancing their knowledge in order to provide superior advice and service to their clients.

**2. What made STEP membership stand out from other options for you?**

STEP is the leading organisation for solicitors, accountants and other professionals working in Wills, estates, trusts and succession planning.

**3. Have you achieved new goals as a result of becoming a STEP member?**

STEP qualifications are recognised across the industry and I am working my way through the series of courses covering Wills, estates, trusts and succession planning to ensure that I am providing the highest quality advice to my clients.

**4. What is the biggest benefit for you as a STEP member?**

Being a member of STEP gives practitioners access to a huge pool of knowledge, resources and connections internationally and, perhaps even more importantly, locally too. I am a member of the Lakes and Lancaster branch of

STEP and there are typically five or six seminars throughout the year covering everything from estate planning, tax changes, care fees, powers of attorney, trusts, charities and pensions (to name just a few) which is brilliant for continuing professional development. STEP branches are also a fantastic networking opportunity to meet other local practitioners.

**5. Why would you recommend STEP to your peers?**

Will and estate planning is an increasingly complex area due to rising wealth and the complexity of modern family life. Being a member of STEP makes practicing in this area a little bit easier and the great thing is that you can make use of STEP membership as much or as little as you need to whether that's undertaking a qualification recognised across the industry, attending a topical seminar at a local STEP branch or just reading the STEP journal.

**6. What advice would you give to others considering becoming a member?**

Just join! One of the great things about STEP is the different tiers of membership available. You can dip your toe in the water as a Student or Affiliate Member or progress through to Full Membership.

Find out more about how to join STEP and which membership category is for you at [www.step.org/join](http://www.step.org/join) or email [step@step.org](mailto:step@step.org)