

Motorsport boss turned privacy campaigner Mosley dies at 81

Jonathan Ames Legal Editor

Max Mosley, the Formula One chief who became a privacy campaigner and has died aged 81, was credited with “driving a stake through kiss-and-tell journalism”.

However, his death has raised questions over the funding of Impress, the press regulator that he helped to launch in 2013 and had funded since 2015.

Mosley, the son of the British Union of Fascists leader Sir Oswald Mosley, spent decades working in motorsports

and was president of its governing body, the Fédération Internationale de l'Automobile, but he originally qualified as a barrister. He became an advocate for tighter press regulation after a landmark court victory over the *News of the World* in 2008.

The newspaper had published a report of Mosley's participation in an alleged orgy involving five prostitutes that it claimed had Nazi overtones. Mosley sued for breach of confidence and the court found in his favour, awarding him £60,000 in damages. The

size of the award paled in comparison with the impact the ruling had on the development of UK privacy law.

“The ruling was the linchpin to the recent development of privacy law,” Mark Stephens, a media law expert, said. “A golden thread runs from Mosley's case through to the Cliff Richard ruling against the BBC and to a case that means that the media cannot identify people who have been arrested. That 2008 ruling drove a stake through the heart of kiss-and-tell journalism.”

Amber Melville-Brown, a media law-



Max Mosley sued the *News of the World* and won

yer, added that Mosley's legacy included legal action against Google to prevent the images from the *News of the World* story from appearing in searches. “He was a vocal advocate for the rights of victims of privacy invasion as

well as a silent financial support behind the scenes,” she said.

Mosley is understood to have provided nearly £4 million to Impress through the Alexander Mosley Charitable Trust, named after his eldest son, who died of a suspected overdose in 2009.

The press regulator's latest annual report said it “will receive core funding from the Independent Press Regulation Trust until 2022, guaranteed by the Alexander Mosley Charitable Trust”.

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Lawyer fights payout to her house husband

Jonathan Ames Legal Editor

A millionaire lawyer who wanted her “mischievous” house-husband to be awarded nothing when they split is fighting to cut the payout a judge imposed on her.

Sorour Bassiri-Dezfouli, 55, a barrister who specialises in matrimonial cases, was ordered to give her former husband £625,000 when their 11-year relationship ended in divorce — despite the lawyer arguing that “she was the only contributor to the marriage”.

Kianoosh Azarmi-Movafagh, 58, her ex-husband, who, a judge has been told,

“I rhetorically ask, on a gender-neutral basis, what would be the case if the gender roles were reversed?”

But now Bassiri-Dezfouli — who also specialises in asylum, immigration and human rights cases at the London chambers 12 Old Square — is asking the Court of Appeal to reduce the award to her former husband by a third.

The court was told that the pair met and married in an Islamic ceremony in 2006, before marrying in a civil ceremony a year later. They lived together in southwest London until separating in 2017.

In 2019 Judge Robinson ordered her to pay her former husband £400,000 for a house, £25,000 for expenses and a car, and £200,000 towards his legal costs after the pair had incurred a legal bill of £390,000 during the divorce.

The lawyer, who was called to the Bar in 1996, appealed against that ruling. Mr Justice Judd varied the order, telling the lawyer that it was still a requirement to pay the award, but that she could have a £200,000 charge over her former husband's property that she could claim if he died or started living with a new partner.

Bassiri-Dezfouli is now asking the Court of Appeal to quash the order that she pay £200,000 for her former husband's legal costs.

Representing the barrister in the appeal court, Sarah Phipps said that the order “contravenes the clean-break principle and ties the parties together financially, potentially for the rest of their lives. This outcome was not sought by either party and both parties regard this outcome as unjust, for different reasons.”

Judgment has been reserved to a later date.



Kianoosh Azarmi-Movafagh and Sorour Bassiri-Dezfouli: £390,000 bill

was unemployed throughout their marriage, was awarded the payout two years ago after claiming that he had been the main carer for their son and needed money to buy a home and launch a business.

Bassiri-Dezfouli, who owned a portfolio of property worth £2.3 million, had insisted that her estranged husband did not need funds to buy a property of his own. But Judge Richard Robinson ordered the payment, saying that as the couple had been together for 11 years, Azarmi-Movafagh had “an entitlement to have his needs considered”.

In his ruling Judge Robinson added:



Slam dunk Yinka Ilori, a British-Nigerian artist, unveils a free-to-use basketball court that he designed in Canary Wharf, east London. Ilori works with the colours of his African heritage, adding a contemporary twist. He's even got basketballs to match

Helpline passes cases of classmate sexual abuse to police

Emma Yeomans

A helpline for pupils claiming to have experienced sexual abuse in schools has already resulted in 65 cases being referred to police or child services.

The Report Abuse in Education helpline was set up after thousands of testimonies about sexual abuse and harassment perpetrated by pupils were posted on the Everyone's Invited website. It has received 350 calls in less than two months.

It was commissioned by the Depart-

ment for Education and is run by the children's charity the NSPCC. Its staff are trained in safeguarding and come from professional social care backgrounds. On average, more than one call a day resulted in a referral to outside services. Incidents include pupils looking up classmates' skirts, sharing indecent images and rape.

The helpline has also heard from parents who were concerned that safeguarding incidents are not being appropriately handled in schools.

One parent of a 14-year-old girl told

the NSPCC: “We received a visit from a police officer who told us they were investigating an incident of up-skirting by a male pupil at my daughter's school.”

“We were told that a teacher had been searching this boy's phone for something unrelated and discovered several pictures of up-skirting of different girls and the only girl that could be identified was my daughter.”

The family did not know the boy's identity or whether the images of their daughter had been shared anywhere.

Gavin Williamson, the education

secretary, said he wanted all victims of abuse to feel supported. “That is exactly why we set up this additional specialist NSPCC helpline — so there is a dedicated route for raising concerns or reporting an incident which may require appropriate action from authorities.”

The website Everyone's Invited, where young people can submit anonymous testimonies, gained popularity in the wake of Sarah Everard's death.

It received more than 10,000 testimonies ranging from sexist harassment to rape. Several schools reported stu-

dents to police as a result of allegations presented to them, and the Department for Education pledged to do more.

As well as setting up the helpline, an Ofsted review was launched into safeguarding procedures and peer-on-peer abuse, which is due to report shortly.

Kam Thandi, head of the helpline, said: “It is absolutely vital that people feel comfortable to raise concerns about child abuse and harassment, including children themselves, and we thank everyone so far who has found the courage to contact the helpline.”