



The Legal 500 recommends

Howes Percival LLP

2010 edition

This PDF is an extract of the full recommendations for the firm in the 2010 edition of The UK Legal 500.

The attached pages contain all the recommendations for the firm. This document relates to your firm only, to see how your firm has performed against your peers and our full editorial analysis please go to www.legal500.com or refer to the printed book.

East Anglia

Corporate and commercial

Corporate and commercial: Norwich

Dispute resolution

Commercial litigation: Norwich

Finance

Banking and finance | Insolvency and corporate recovery

Human resources

Employment | Health and safety

Private client

Agriculture and estates | Charities | Personal tax, trusts and probate: Norwich

Real estate

Commercial property: Norwich | Environment

East Midlands

Corporate and commercial

Corporate and commercial: Elsewhere in the East Midlands | Corporate tax

Dispute resolution

Commercial litigation: Elsewhere in the East Midlands

Finance

Banking and finance | Insolvency and corporate recovery

Human resources

Employment

Overview

Regional heavyweights

Private client

Personal tax, trusts and probate

Real estate

Commercial property: Elsewhere in the East Midlands | Construction | Property litigation

TMT (technology, media and telecoms)

Intellectual property and information technology

Corporate and commercial: Norwich

| | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Mills & Reeve LLP | | 1 |
| Birketts LLP Howes Percival LLP | | 2 |
| Kester Cunningham John Leathes Prior Steeles Law LLP | | 3 |
| Chambers & Co Fosters | Rogers and Norton | |
| Cozens-Hardy LLP Greenland Houchen Pomeroy | Hansells Hatch Brenner LLP | |
| <small>Firms are listed A-Z within tiers</small> | | |

Birketts LLP advised Klyne Aviation on its acquisition of Saxonair, and established a property investment vehicle for the Laing family. Adrian Possener has *'an in-depth knowledge of the market that allows him to add value'*.

Howes Percival LLP's Robert Colman *'has a first-class client manner, sound commercial judgement and is rapidly making his mark; he always thinks beyond the envelope of the original instruction'*. Acting for local and national businesses, the firm has been involved in deals up to £3m.

Edward O'Rourke's team at Kester Cunningham John is a favourite in Norwich. The acquisition of a chain of shoe retail outlets and the purchase of recruitment agency businesses by Servoca plc are among its recent deal highlights.

Commercial litigation: Norwich

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|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| Birketts LLP Howes Percival LLP Mills & Reeve LLP | 1 |
| Kester Cunningham John Leathes Prior Rogers and Norton | 2 |
| Greenland Houchen Pomeroy Hansells Hatch Brenner LLP Steeles Law LLP | 3 |

Firms are listed A-Z within tiers

Birketts LLP's 'overall level of service is excellent and response times almost immediate'. The team includes the 'insightful, calm and collected' Max Roessler and Paul Matthews, who rate as 'ten out of ten, head and shoulders above other lawyers.'

Howes Percival LLP defended the government before the tax tribunal in a number of high-value carousel fraud actions. Andrew Barnes and Richard Healey are recommended.

Mills & Reeve LLP's Rachel Higgs 'brings a keen intellect and common sense to any legal problem, is extremely client friendly and communicative, and provides robust advice'. The defence of a complex £90m fraud claim illustrates the team's prowess, as does an impressive client list that includes Norwich City FC and Archant.

Banking and finance

Mills & Reeve LLP Cambridge, Norwich

1

Birketts LLP Ipswich, Norwich
Taylor Vinters Cambridge

2

Hewitsons LLP Cambridge

Howes Percival LLP Norwich

Kester Cunningham John Bury St Edmunds, Cambridge

Prettys Ipswich

Steeles Law LLP Norwich

3

Firms are listed A-Z within tiers

Hewitsons LLP is new to the ranking having won appointments to the Lloyds Banking Group and the Co-operative Bank panels.

'*Practical and knowledgeable*' property finance expert Tessa Haskey gives **Howes Percival LLP** a presence among the UK's biggest banks. The firm is also on the panel of a Swedish bank.

At Kester Cunningham John, the '*friendly and responsive*' Ron Clare's advice is '*clear, logical and commercially focused*'. '*Its overall service is excellent*'.

Insolvency and corporate recovery

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|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| Hewitsons LLP Cambridge Howes Percival LLP Norwich Mills & Reeve LLP Cambridge, Norwich Taylor Vinters Cambridge | 1 |
| Ashton Graham Bury St Edmunds, Ipswich Birketts LLP Ipswich, Norwich Leathes Prior Norwich Prettys Ipswich | 2 |
| Buckles Solicitors LLP Peterborough Greene & Greene Bury St Edmunds Hegarty LLP Peterborough Kester Cunningham John Bury St Edmunds, Cambridge, Norwic... Nicholsons Lowestoft Steeles Law LLP Norwich | 3 |

Firms are listed A-Z within tiers

At Hewitsons LLP, Dominic Hopkins (*'top drawer'*), Jason Williams (valued for his pragmatism), and Helen Drayton (*'totally committed to her clients'*) are all highly regarded. Simon Biggin has an excellent reputation on the contentious side. *'If you want personalities and good advice, then this is your firm.'*

'A very strong team offering, good response times and value for money', **Howes Percival LLP's** insolvency practice provides contentious and non-contentious expertise for IPs and private clients. Richard Healey *'has the ability to find a practical solution, even in very complex litigation'*. Nicholas Gordon and Morris Peacock make up a formidable team.

Jamie Wheatley's *'very impressive, clear, concise and accurate'* team at Mills & Reeve LLP represents administrators such as Deloitte, Baker Tilly and McTear Williams & Wood, as well as corporates such as Ryder Inc.

Employment

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|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| Birketts LLP Ipswich, Norwich Eversheds LLP Cambridge Greenwoods Solicitors LLP Peterborough Hewitsons LLP Cambridge Mills & Reeve LLP Cambridge, Norwich Taylor Vinters Cambridge | 1 |
| Ashton Graham Ipswich, Bury St Edmunds Charles Russell LLP Cambridge Gotelee & Goldsmith Solicitors Ipswich Howes Percival LLP Norwich Leathes Prior Norwich Quantrills Solicitors Ipswich Steeles Law LLP Norwich | 2 |
| Blocks Ipswich, Felixstowe Buckles Solicitors LLP Peterborough Gross & Co Bury St Edmunds Hegarty LLP Peterborough Kester Cunningham John Cambridge, Norwich Prettys Ipswich | 3 |
| Cozens-Hardy LLP Norwich Greene & Greene Bury St Edmunds Hatch Brenner LLP Norwich | Kenneth Bush King's Lynn Rogers and Norton Norwich |
| Fraser Dawbarns King's Lynn Greenland Houchen Pomeroy Attleborough HC Solicitors Peterborough | Leeds Day Huntingdon Ward Gethin King's Lynn |
| Firms are listed A-Z within tiers | |

Brian Morron and Andrew West have attracted new clients such as P&O Ferrymasters to Gotelee & Goldsmith Solicitors, which also advised a well-known mental health charity, a top restaurant, and a Chinese-owned shipping group.

At **Howes Percival LLP**, Tom Sharpe *'covers the legal points but also provides practical solutions'*. He advised on complex issues relating to the sale of a nationwide hotel chain.

At Leathes Prior, *'excellent response times, commercial acumen and good value for money'* characterise the practice of Dan Chapman, who provides *'practical, workable solutions with no legal jargon'*.

Health and safety

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| Birketts LLP Norwich Greenwoods Solicitors LLP Peterborough Mills & Reeve LLP Norwich | 1 |
| Ashton Graham Ipswich Gotelee & Goldsmith Solicitors Ipswich HC Solicitors Peterborough Hewitsons LLP Cambridge Leathes Prior Norwich Metcalf, Copeman & Pettefar Kings Lynn, Wisbech Roythornes LLP Newmarket Taylor Vinters Cambridge | 2 |
| Howes Percival LLP Norwich Ward Gethin Ipswich | 3 |

Firms are listed A-Z within tiers

Headed by Edward Perrot, Taylor Vinters provides a *'responsive and in-depth service'* to a broad array of clients. Recent work has included reviewing the compliance policy for Penguin Foods UK, establishing an association with the University of Cambridge's health and safety department, and advising on numerous HSE prosecutions.

At **Howes Percival LLP**, litigator Julian Hayes has considerable experience as a health and safety advocate.

Ward Gethin is the first choice for many trade union clients.

Agriculture and estates

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| Birketts LLP Ipswich, Norwich Hewitsons LLP Cambridge Mills & Reeve LLP Cambridge, Norwich Taylor Vinters Cambridge | 1 |
| Ashton Graham Bury St Edmunds Barker Gotelee Ipswich Howes Percival LLP Norwich Roythornes LLP Newmarket | 2 |
| Blocks Ipswich Buckles Solicitors LLP Peterborough Greene & Greene Bury St Edmunds Greenland Houchen Pomeroy Attleborough, Wymondham HC Solicitors Peterborough Hansells Aylsham Hayes + Storr Fakenham Hood, Vores & Allwood Dereham Kester Cunningham John Leathes Prior Norwich Rustons & Lloyd Newmarket | 3 |

Firms are listed A-Z within tiers

Richard Barker at Barker Gotelee has long been the voice of the agricultural community at EU level. Andrew Nicholson, litigator Dermott Thomas and property expert Toby Pound cement the firm's standing among farmers.

Howes Percival LLP provides a 'very personal service with extremely fast response times'. It 'combines the professionalism of a top law firm with the friendliness of a small regional firm'. The 'knowledgeable, professional, personable and patient' Jeremy Heal is known nationally. Trained accountant Richard Lovett and Catherine Scott are 'extremely helpful and knowledgeable'.

Roythornes LLP provides 'practical advice and excellent depth of knowledge' to clients in the region as well as a growing number based in Kent. Graham Smith has 'detailed knowledge and a practical approach'; and gives 'excellent and creative advice'.

Charities

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| Hewitsons LLP Cambridge Mills & Reeve LLP Cambridge, Norwich Taylor Vinters Cambridge | 1 |
| Birketts LLP Ipswich Greenwoods Solicitors LLP Peterborough Howes Percival LLP Norwich Stone King LLP Cambridge | 2 |
| Cozens-Hardy LLP Norwich HC Solicitors Peterborough Hansells Norwich Kester Cunningham John Cambridge, Norwich, Thetford Leathes Prior Norwich | 3 |
| Firms are listed A-Z within tiers | |

At the *'practical, pragmatic, responsive and knowledgeable'* Greenwoods Solicitors LLP, Shelagh Smith focuses on charity law after a long stint as managing partner of the firm. Lawyers from many disciplines serve an impressive cross-section of local charities, including the Institute of Credit Management.

Howes Percival LLP advises many grant-making trusts, including a national charity. Tax and trusts advice is key, and the team also advises on charity incorporation and governance issues.

The *'timely, accurate and robust'* Stone King LLP now has a firm presence in Cambridge. *'All lawyers are specialists in their field and first-class practitioners.'* Robert Meakin stands *'head and shoulders above the rest in this field'*.

Personal tax, trusts and probate: Norwich

Mills & Reeve LLP

1

Birketts LLP

Cozens-Hardy LLP

Howes Percival LLP

Steeles Law LLP

2

Fosters

Hansells

Hatch Brenner LLP

Kester Cunningham John

Leathes Prior

Rogers and Norton

3

Overburys & Raymond Thompson

Firms are listed A-Z within tiers

Alistair Sursham, well known locally as a tax, trusts and probate expert, heads one of Norwich's largest teams at Cozens-Hardy LLP. The practice attracts clients from London and Europe, as well as Norwich.

'A high-quality firm with promising young partners', **Howes Percival LLP** finds cost-effective solutions. Richard Lovett 'forgets nothing, and is bright and prudent', and effective negotiator Jeremy Heal is 'wise, sympathetic and intelligent enough to see beyond the legal issues to the human ones'.

'Everyone meets the grade without exception', in Karen Bacon's team at Steeles Law LLP, which includes three STEP members and a trained bereavement counsellor. 'Service, response times and business acumen are without fault.' Contested probate is a core strength; Nick Porter has been handling a longrunning £1.3m claim.

Commercial property: Norwich

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| Mills & Reeve LLP | 1 |
| Birketts LLP Fosters Howes Percival LLP Kester Cunningham John | 2 |
| Hatch Brenner LLP Leathes Prior Rogers and Norton Steeles Law LLP | 3 |
| Cozens-Hardy LLP Greenland Houchen Pomeroy | Hansells Overburys & Raymond Thompson |
| Firms are listed A-Z within tiers | |

Tracy Guest's team at Fosters include the *'professional, prompt and invaluable'* Rachel Appleton. The recent arrival of Robert Pyke from Rogers and Norton further strengthens this popular Norwich practice.

Howes Percival LLP Philip Hunter and Tessa Haskey are recommended for their *'good commercial judgement and real grasp of the subject'*. The team is appreciated for its *'speed of response, practical approach and value for money'*; it is *'second to none'* and provides *'London standards at a local price'*.

An *'excellent service, speedy response times and helpful, constructive advice'* characterise Kester Cunningham John's practice. Chris Gilbert and James Slinger are advising on the redevelopment of two substantial sites in Hemel Hempstead. Other highlights included the representation of Norwich City Council on a £1m land disposal. Simon Cunningham's property investment expertise is in great demand.

Environment

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|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| Hewitsons LLP Cambridge Mills & Reeve LLP Norwich | 1 |
| Andrew Bryce & Co Cambridge Greenwoods Solicitors LLP Peterborough Richard Buxton Cambridge Taylor Vinters Cambridge | 2 |
| Birketts LLP Ipswich, Norwich Greene & Greene Bury St Edmunds Howes Percival LLP Norwich | 3 |

Firms are listed A-Z within tiers

Greene & Greene joins the ranking on the strength of the regulatory defence work of Michael Batty and Andrew Kinnison for clients prosecuted by the Environment Agency.

Howes Percival LLP's Philip Hunter sees continued instructions from clients prosecuted by the Environment Agency, including many from the automotive industry.

Corporate and commercial: Elsewhere in the East Midlands

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| Harvey Ingram LLP Leicester Howes Percival LLP Leicester, Northampton | 1 |
| Freeth Cartwright LLP Leicester HBJ Gateley Wareing LLP Leicester Hewitsons LLP Northampton Nelsons Solicitors Limited Leicester | 2 |
| Langleys Lincoln Spearing Waite Leicester | 3 |
| Chattertons Boston, Horncastle, Lincoln Roythornes LLP Nottingham, Spalding | Wilkin Chapman Grimsby, Lincoln |
| Firms are listed A-Z within tiers | |

At Harvey Ingram LLP, Roy Botterill is notable for his demerger and reconstruction expertise and insolvency practitioner qualification. John Stobart leads on transactions and plc compliance, while Simon Bates has over 20 years' experience in commercial agreements. He recently advised on one of the first OFT Enterprise Act investigations.

'One of the best firms in the East Midlands', **Howes Percival LLP** has appointed Chris Houghton from Tollers LLP in Northampton, to assist on matters such as the acquisition of the fleet management business from the administrators of Camden Motor Group for Paragon Automotive Ltd. The 'hugely experienced' Gerald Couldrake gives 'superb advice, always understands the big picture, and never gets stuck on irrelevant detail'. In Leicester, Jit Singh has 'excellent knowledge and applies astute commercial acumen'.

Freeth Cartwright LLP reconfigured its corporate team in 2009: private equity specialist David West left the firm, while Jon Close was hired, albeit in Manchester.

Corporate tax

Browne Jacobson LLP Nottingham
Eversheds LLP Nottingham
Freeth Cartwright LLP Nottingham

1

Howes Percival LLP Leicester, Northampton

2

Firms are listed A-Z within tiers

Freeth Cartwright LLP's dedicated Nottingham team advises on transaction-related and standalone matters from reorganisations to SDLT planning, and employee benefit schemes.

Howes Percival LLP has a chartered tax adviser providing support to the corporate/commercial, property and employment departments.

Commercial litigation: Elsewhere in the East Midlands

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| Harvey Ingram LLP Leicester Hewitsons LLP Northampton | 1 |
| Freeth Cartwright LLP Leicester HBJ Gateley Wareing LLP Leicester Howes Percival LLP Leicester, Northampton Nelsons Solicitors Limited Leicester | 2 |
| Bridge McFarland Grimsby, Lincoln Chattertons Grantham, Horncastle, Newark, Sleaford Langleys Lincoln Spearing Waite Leicester Tollers LLP Corby, Kettering, Northampton | 3 |

Firms are listed A-Z within tiers

HBJ Gateley Wareing LLP handles a wide range of commercial disputes, including tax, banking, probate, professional negligence and personal insolvency cases, and is *'more practical and commercial than the local competition'*. Clients find Chris Greenwell *'knowledgeable, tenacious and realistic in his advice'*; *'appropriately aggressive, in a measured way'*; and *'prepared to commit to his advice and provide an opinion rather than fence-sitting'*.

Howes Percival LLP expanded its team in 2009, including hiring partner David Whiting. The firm acted for individuals and corporates such as Shanks Waste Management in contract, probate and judicial review matters, and HMRC is also a client.

Chris McKinney of Nelsons Solicitors Limited in Leicester has 15 years' experience in complex cases including mortgage fraud, insurance and professional negligence cases and shareholder disputes. He is an accredited mediator.

Banking and finance

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| Browne Jacobson LLP Nottingham Freeth Cartwright LLP Nottingham HBJ Gateley Wareing LLP Leicester, Nottingham | 1 |
| Eversheds LLP Nottingham Geldards LLP Derby, Nottingham | 2 |
| Nelsons Solicitors Limited Nottingham Shoosmiths Nottingham | 3 |
| Berryman Nottingham Flint Bishop LLP Derby | Harvey Ingram LLP Leicester Howes Percival LLP Leicester |
| <small>Firms are listed A-Z within tiers</small> | |

Harvey Ingram LLP's cross-disciplinary group features on the RBS panel, and has gained the Co-operative Bank as a new client.

'*Diligent and considerate*', **Howes Percival LLP**'s team is rated by banking clients for its '*fantastic technical knowledge*'. Keith Gilbert heads up the group, which assisted Alliance & Leicester in relation to security over title in 2009.

Insolvency and corporate recovery

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|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Actons Nottingham | 1 |
| Browne Jacobson LLP Nottingham | |
| Eversheds LLP Nottingham | |
| HBJ Gateley Wareing LLP Leicester, Nottingham | |
| Freeth Cartwright LLP Leicester, Nottingham | 2 |
| Geldards LLP Nottingham, Derby | |
| Harvey Ingram LLP Leicester | |
| Nelsons Solicitors Limited Leicester, Nottingham | |
| Berryman Nottingham | 3 |
| Hewitsons LLP Northampton | |
| Howes Percival LLP Northampton | |
| Spearing Waite Leicester | |
| Chattertons Boston | Roythornes LLP Nottingham, Spalding |
| Firms are listed A-Z within tiers | |

Hewitsons LLP advises on all aspects of corporate and business insolvency, and has also been called upon to act for administrators in acquisitions. Dominic Hopkins handles contentious insolvencies.

Howes Percival LLP's has creditor-side experience through its work for HMRC, complemented by strength in litigation against directors and in asset recovery.

Ashwin Mody at Spearing Waite is *'a superb insolvency lawyer who is not only technically excellent but has a very sensible commercial head as well'*. He has 20 years' experience in mainly contentious insolvency work, and in 2009 defended an IP against a £1m negligence claim.

Employment

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| Browne Jacobson LLP Nottingham Eversheds LLP Nottingham Freeth Cartwright LLP Derby, Leicester, Nottingham HBJ Gateley Wareing LLP Leicester, Nottingham Howes Percival LLP Leicester, Northampton Shoosmiths Northampton, Nottingham | 1 |
| Geldards LLP Derby, Nottingham Harvey Ingram LLP Leicester Hewitsons LLP Northampton | 2 |
| Andersons Nottingham Langleys Lincoln Nelsons Solicitors Limited Derby, Leicester, Nottingham Weightmans LLP Leicester | 3 |
| AMC Law Northampton Actons Nottingham Berryman Nottingham Flint Bishop LLP Derby Grange Wintringham Grimsby | PJH Law Stamford Smith Partnership Derby Spearing Waite Leicester Thompsons Nottingham Tollers LLP Corby, Kettering, Northampton |
| <small>Firms are listed A-Z within tiers</small> | |

HBJ Gateley Wareing LLP has two highly regarded employment partners, including national head Andrew MacMillan and Chris Finlay, who provides *'pragmatic, balanced advice with constructive solutions'*. Contentious matters are a strength; the group has a 100% success rate in tribunals on behalf of BT. A large-scale redundancy in 2009 is indicative of the group's strategic value.

A long list of clients looking for top-quality service at regional rates choose **Howes Percival LLP**. Noted for its *'human'* touch, the team includes Graham Irons, who is *'very responsive, has deep knowledge of UK employment law, and offers practical and creative advice'*; and practice head Paula Bailey, commended for her ability to *'find a commercial solution to problems'*.

Shoosmiths' team provides strategic and transactional advice and tribunal representation to a raft of high-profile clients in the retail, manufacturing, education and services sectors, including Volkswagen and BP, and is praised for its assistance on *'exceptionally difficult employment problems'*. In 2009 advice was given on union recognition in a dispute situation; policy reviews; and the application of TUPE.

Regional heavyweights

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|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| Browne Jacobson LLP Nottingham Freeth Cartwright LLP Derby, Leicester, Nottingham | 1 |
| Eversheds LLP Nottingham Geldards LLP Derby, Nottingham Shoosmiths Northampton, Nottingham | 2 |
| HBJ Gateley Wareing LLP Leicester, Nottingham Harvey Ingram LLP Leicester Howes Percival LLP Leicester, Northampton Nelsons Solicitors Limited Derby, Leicester, Nottingham | 3 |

Firms are listed A-Z within tiers

Although Harvey Ingram LLP's corporate/commercial and employment teams were on short time for a period, the firm is now firing its big guns in corporate and litigation again.

Howes Percival LLP restructured its management team and gained several partners and assistants over the year to boost its already busy corporate/commercial, outstanding employment and highly regarded litigation groups.

Nelsons Solicitors Limited restructured slightly earlier than most, and had a steady team in 2009 to take on instructions from SME and national operators.

Personal tax, trusts and probate

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| Browne Jacobson LLP Nottingham Freeth Cartwright LLP Leicester, Nottingham Harvey Ingram LLP Leicester Hewitsons LLP Northampton | 1 |
| Berryman Nottingham Geldards LLP Derby, Nottingham Nelsons Solicitors Limited Derby, Leicester, Nottingham Roythornes LLP Nottingham, Spalding Shoosmiths Northampton | 2 |
| Actons Nottingham Chattertons Boston, Grantham, Horncastle, Lincoln, Newark... Flint Bishop LLP Derby Howes Percival LLP Leicester, Northampton Langleys Lincoln Rothera Dowson Nottingham Shacklocks Mansfield Smith Partnership Derby, Leicester Tollers LLP Corby, Kettering, Northampton Wilkin Chapman Grimsby, Lincoln Wilson Browne Leicester, Northampton, Wellingborough | 3 |

Firms are listed A-Z within tiers

Flint Bishop LLP's team of nine fee-earners includes tax specialist Grace Steele. It continues to advise on several large estates and has a will base of 22,000 wills.

Howes Percival LLP acts for a range of accountants and commercial clients .

Andrew Fearn and David Wood are Langleys' key players for advice to landowners and high-net-worth individuals.

Commercial property: Elsewhere in the East Midlands

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| Freeth Cartwright LLP Leicester HBJ Gateley Wareing LLP Leicester Harvey Ingram LLP Leicester Hewitsons LLP Northampton Howes Percival LLP Leicester, Northampton | 1 |
| Grange Wintringham Grimsby Nelsons Solicitors Limited Leicester Roythornes LLP Spalding Spearing Waite Leicester | 2 |
| Chattertons Horncastle Langleys Lincoln Marrons Leicester Wilkin Chapman Grimsby, Lincoln | 3 |

Firms are listed A-Z within tiers

Hewitsons LLP has four partners advising on property investment, and commercial and residential development and leases.

Howes Percival LLP has environment, planning and construction lawyers assisting a range of developer clients, with recent examples including John Herd's advice to Hampton Brook on its joint venture for the development of a warehouse in Lincolnshire. Retail work is the 'bread and butter' of Mark Oldershaw's dedicated team. Nick James joined as a partner from Fishers, with private investment experience.

Grange Wintringham advised on over 410 property transactions in 2009. Ruth Brewin provides 'an unequalled service for commercial property', to 'a top-City-firm standard but with personal attention to detail'. The firm's merger with Wilkin Chapman, set for August 2010, will make the team one of Lincolnshire's largest.

Construction

Freeth Cartwright LLP Nottingham

1

Browne Jacobson LLP Nottingham

Geldards LLP Derby

Harvey Ingram LLP Leicester

Nelsons Solicitors Limited Derby

2

Berryman Nottingham

Eversheds LLP Nottingham

Flint Bishop LLP Derby

Howes Percival LLP Leicester

3

Firms are listed A-Z within tiers

At Flint Bishop LLP, Thomas Jacobs has been involved in several significant transactions since his arrival in 2008, including the £46m acquisition of nine sites by Clowes Developments from Wilson Bowden Developments, and the team is also noted for contentious matters. Repeat instructions arrive from Bowmer & Kirkland, various piling sub-contractors, and other commercial developers in and around the East Midlands.

Construction specialist Pam Allardice at **Howes Percival LLP** has considerable experience in relation to construction documentation, and has recently been active in disputes over final account payments and developer/contractor insolvencies.

Property litigation

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|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| Browne Jacobson LLP Nottingham Howes Percival LLP Leicester Shoosmiths Nottingham | 1 |
| Berryman Nottingham Flint Bishop LLP Derby Freeth Cartwright LLP Nottingham Geldards LLP Nottingham Harvey Ingram LLP Leicester Nelsons Solicitors Limited Derby | 2 |
| Hewitsons LLP Northampton Roythornes LLP Spalding Spearing Waite Leicester | 3 |

Firms are listed A-Z within tiers

Browne Jacobson LLP's caseload increased in 2009, particularly on business lease renewals and dilapidations settlements, and from developers seeking to withdraw from substantial pre credit crunch contracts.

Howes Percival LLP acts for numerous retail clients, with recent work including negotiations for a landlord relating to a high-value West End store with the tenant in administration, resulting in the securing of all sums due. Geraint Davies is recommended, and senior assistant Jane Bloomer also attracts praise for her expertise.

Guy Willetts heads the team at Shoosmiths, which recently assisted HMV and WHSmith on forfeiture proceedings as tenants of retail properties, and secured a 50% decrease in rent for the latter client in respect of one London tenancy. Craig Downhill joined from Freeth Cartwright LLP.

Intellectual property and information technology

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| Browne Jacobson LLP Nottingham Eversheds LLP Nottingham | 1 |
| Berryman Nottingham Howes Percival LLP Leicester Nelsons Solicitors Limited Nottingham Shoosmiths Nottingham | 2 |
| Freeth Cartwright LLP Nottingham Geldards LLP Nottingham HBJ Gateley Wareing LLP Nottingham Harvey Ingram LLP Leicester Hewitsons LLP Northampton | 3 |

Firms are listed A-Z within tiers

Berryman is noted for its 'a particularly useful healthcare technology specialisation in Nottingham', with Scott Farnsworth cited for his 'good specialist knowledge'. Ed Wright is a specialist in ICT-related matters. The substantial team has experience of proceedings in EU jurisdictions. In the words of one client: 'You get what you pay for, and this matters, especially in the field of IT.'

Howes Percival LLP is particularly strong in contentious IP. Matthew Talbot (notable for his experience in the field of products of Protected Geographical Indication) leads the team on high-profile and, increasingly, international actions, recently acting in an IT dispute and a trade mark infringement case against major brands in electronics and retail. The practice also advises on commercial documents relating to IT transactions.

Nelsons Solicitors Limited is instructed by an international client-base on a wide range of complex contentious and non-contentious IP/IT matters, including a recent matter for US/Israeli company Waves Audio; the firm advised on a 'sting' operation and the enforcement of and litigation over the use of the client's plug-in software by 98 recording studios. Data protection specialist Karen Harrison has joined from Shoosmiths.