

PRESS RELEASE

PLANNING SPECIALIST STRENGTHENS HARPER MACLEOD REAL ESTATE TEAM

Harper Macleod LLP, one of Scotland's leading commercial law firms, is pleased to announce the appointment of Lee Murphy, a Planning Associate based in the firm's Real Estate team in Glasgow.

Formerly a Legal Manager with South Lanarkshire Council, Lee brings a wealth of commercial and residential planning expertise to Harper Macleod.

Head of Real Estate, Graeme Nisbet said; "We are delighted to be welcoming Lee on board and we are confident that her considerable planning expertise will further strengthen our fast growing Real Estate team. Lee brings a breadth of knowledge and skill that will allow us to enhance our existing planning service for all kinds of property, planning and construction matters."

Harper Macleod's Real Estate practice is booming, achieving over 50% growth in turnover in the past 12 months. The team is now the largest Practice Group within the firm and contributed 25% of Harper Macleod's turnover during 2006 (and 25% of the firm's growth). At the recent Scottish Legal Awards 2007, Harper Macleod's Real Estate team was recognised for the significant impact that it has made on the fiercely competitive property legal market by receiving the award for Commercial Property Team of the Year.

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Established in 1988 by Professor Lorne Crerar and Rod McKenzie, Harper Macleod has evolved into a firm with 34 Partners, 1 Consultant, 108 Fee Earners and a complement of 203 staff. The firm is renowned for its expertise in Real Estate, Sports, Public Sector & Housing, Employment, Banking, Recoveries, Corporate and Litigation. Key Real Estate clients of the firm include The Scottish Executive, Whitbread, William Hill, BP, Airtricity, Optical Express, Tulloch Group Limited, CBRE Investors and Shell Pensions Trust Limited.

ENDS

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For further information or interview opportunities, please contact Gaynor Simpson, Harper Macleod LLP on 07790 104073 or at gaynor.simpson@harpermacleod.co.uk

Notes to Editors

- Harper Macleod LLP is one of Scotland's leading commercial law firms. It was the first firm in Scotland to adopt a practice group structure, with the main UK legal directories recommending the firm in 23 specialist areas – substantially more than any comparable firm of a similar size
- The firm converted to LLP status on 1 September 2004
- Harper Macleod achieved 17.3% growth in the last financial year, achieving turnover of £12.2million for the year ending 31 March 2007.
- Harper Macleod won Law Firm of the Year at both The Scottish Legal Awards 2006 and The Law Awards of Scotland 2006, making it one of only two firms to have ever been awarded the title by both of Scotland's major legal awarding bodies in the same year.
- The firm received two awards at The Scottish Legal Awards 2007, taking the titles of Commercial Property Team of the Year and Corporate Social Responsibility Initiative of the Year
- Harper Macleod opened its Inverness office at Cradlehall Business Park on 1 September 2004 after merging with Campbell & Co
- It is the only Scottish legal firm with two part time teaching professors as well as 7 lawyers teaching or tutoring at the Glasgow universities