

TMT TEAM OF THE YEAR  
SPONSORED BY MACRAE ROXBURGH APPLEBY

# Simmons & Simmons

Christian Taylor

Pioneering a new way of working in mobile telecoms

Simmons advised MTN, Africa's largest mobile telecoms operator, on its strategic partnerships with IHS Africa in Rwanda and Zambia, requiring seamless service across time zones, languages and legal systems in what was a comprehensively managed process for the client.

These deals stand out from vanilla transactions in the sector for two reasons. Firstly, they were structured using two parallel auction processes to select the winning bidders in both countries, allowing MTN to make the most of the benefits of a competitive process, alongside the potential for bidders to offer a 'bulk-buy' discount in an attempt to win the process in both countries. Secondly, before these deals took place, transactions of this structure were extremely rare. The team pooled experience in related fields and market knowledge to create a suite of transaction documents, which was no small task in light of the business-critical nature of these bespoke transactions. These documents have now been used in other deals in Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Rwanda and Zambia.

## HIGHLY COMMENDED

### BRISTOWS

**Adrian Sim**

A Bristows team led by Sim has been lead adviser to the Department of Health-backed Genomics England on the groundbreaking Genomes Project since 2013 - a £300m landmark project aimed to sequence 100,000 human genomes by the end of 2017. In 2014, the firm drafted and supported Genomics England in negotiating a bespoke and first-of-its-kind contract for the supply of sequencing services by the preferred bidder, Illumina.

### COVINGTON & BURLING

**Daniel Pavin**

Advised Illumina, as preferred bidder, on its novel collaboration with Genomics England to conduct pioneering new research to decode 100,000 human genomes - a patient's personal DNA code, aiming to make the UK the world leader in genetic research into cancer and rare diseases.

### HARBOTTLE & LEWIS

**Dalton Odendaal**

As principal legal adviser to the inaugural Invictus Games, Harbottle & Lewis used the experience of partner Odendaal, who previously spent six years working at the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games prior to taking on the role of general counsel to the company organising this highly successful sporting competition.



(L-R) The winning Simmons & Simmons team with Gill Appleby of Macrae Roxburgh Appleby

### ROYAL MAIL

**Sarah Draper**

This impressive in-house team, led by its director of legal technology, Draper, executed one of the largest IT services transformation programmes in Europe, involving over 50 agreements with eight key suppliers across a number of jurisdictions.

### RPC

**Mark Crichard**

Crichard's team advised three separate NHS organisations - the Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust, University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust - on one of the biggest UK-only outsourcing deals in recent years - a transformational and multi-faceted technology-enabled outsourcing deal.

### TAYLOR WESSING

**Nigel Stoate**

The well-established IP practice at this firm showed its credentials again with success in the significant patent case *Hospira UK v Novartis*, where it helped Hospira revoke two Novartis patents for its zoledronic acid product, used to treat osteoporosis, while persuading the Court of Appeal to refuse Novartis leave to appeal to the Supreme Court.

# MRA

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