

WINNER

# Taswell Papier

**SONNENBERG HOFFMANN GALOMBIK**

A Harvard scholar, former litigator and acting judge, Cape Law Society president, and now corporate partner at one of South Africa's most successful and progressive law firms, Sonnenbergs – Papier proves on an international platform that commercial acumen need not preclude a hands-on approach to improving access to justice.



Sonnenbergs' Taswell Papier (centre) collects award from Greg Abrahams, director of Abrahams Russell

The Mitchell's Plain township office that he ran in conjunction with a small Cape Town base was incorporated into Sonnenbergs in 2004, and rebranded as a dedicated pro bono headquarters, with the full support of the Sonnenbergs corporate HQ in Cape Town. It is located in the heart of the community that the whole firm now aims to serve – both Mitchell's Plain and Khayelitsha. As Papier puts it: 'We at SHG regard ourselves collectively as part and parcel of our society, and have elected not to sit in our ivory towers and pontificate about crime and poverty in the townships, but to do something practical about it, making ourselves accessible to those in need of legal services, but who cannot afford to pay.'

Constitutional Court judge and veteran ANC civil rights campaigner Justice Albie Sachs says of Taswell Papier's Mitchell's Plain township pro bono office: 'I'll very gladly praise this development – for the unpaid work that involves such time and energy.' Sachs adds: 'Firms can now only attract the very best talent if they're doing good work. Lawyers want to do more than simply make money.'

'We do find that it does not take much, from a lawyer's point of view, to impact dramatically on the lives of many who would otherwise have had no access to the law,' Papier says. 'If we can commit to rendering pro bono services, as an international legal profession, we as lawyers can make a difference to many of the challenges facing the world. The rendering of pro bono services is our professional and ethical duty. Regardless of our respective areas of expertise, we all have a valuable contribution to make toward building a new and better society. We want to do it with conviction, commitment, enthusiasm and pride.'

**HIGHLY COMMENDED**

**DAVID HARREL, OUTGOING SENIOR PARTNER  
SJ Berwin**

A classic *Legal Business* superstar, Harrel is one of the most popular and effective senior City players

and impressive state it has been in since its inception – in which he also played a key part. Great career, superb legacy.

**TIM HOUSE, LITIGATION PARTNER  
Allen & Overy**

House demonstrated heroic professional dedication to six non-executive directors being pursued by former employer, Equitable Life. Complete success was achieved, having risked millions in fees to achieve it. House persuaded his A&O partners to back these hounded men fully, in spite of the no-win fee arrangement, meaning that millions of pounds of

a busy department's fees were at stake. The partnership as a whole deserve their share of the plaudits for the full support shown. House didn't let them down. This was a wonderful example of good partnership, and great and loyal client service.

'We as lawyers can make a difference to many of the challenges facing the world.'

Taswell Papier, Sonnenberg Hoffmann Galombik



of the past two decades: one top client is the Sultan of Brunei. He leaves the management of the firm in better shape than ever, and can step out of the limelight leaving SJ Berwin in the most profitable





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When making a pivotal decision on your future, it pays to be aware of all the options open to you. A headhunter will only approach you with a specific opportunity. In contrast, Abrahams Russell can advise you on a range of partner level positions across many of the leading law firms.

And, because we provide the expert advice and detailed briefing information usually associated with search, you can knowledgeably assess the different alternatives. Putting you in far more control of your career and your next move.

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