

## WINNER

# Taylor Wessing

## Stuart Walters

### *Commercial IT perspective contributes directly to the bottom line*

IT is often referred to as one of a law firm's four essential costs, along with staff, premises and insurance. But Walters' team stands out for the increasing role IT is playing centrally in Taylor Wessing's business. It is client-facing – senior IT staff are trained in sales and relationship management and the IT team has reviewed and recommended software products for the firm's clients. This means the firm now considers the IT department as a true business partner rather than a back-office operation.

Currently the firm offers, as a value-added service, half a day's consultancy to advise clients on various legal IT systems including: document management, online providers, internal know-how, future strategy and direction for systems and e-mail archiving solutions.

Such is the contribution of Walters' team, that client Tony Deibe at Tamar Energy says: 'When our in-house legal department had some very specific IT requirements, it was extremely useful to be able to call on the IT consultancy service offered by Taylor Wessing. Being able to leverage the Taylor Wessing team's expertise in the legal IT field saved us considerable research time.'



The Taylor Wessing team with Robert Martin of Thomson Reuters

## HIGHLY COMMENDED

### BURGES SALMON

#### Steve Whitwham

Using his previous experience from working in the banking industry, Whitwham has succeeded in strengthening the relationship between IT and the business at Burges Salmon in just two years, achieving a complete overhaul of infrastructure using bespoke products and bringing accountability, transparency and innovation into the firm's IT offering.

### EVERSHEDS

#### Paul Caris

Eversheds is consistently at the cutting edge of IT and technology deployment in law. Innovative recent work includes voice recognition with automatic transcription and desktop dictation capability, as well as pioneering the use of big data analytics for sector and industry analysis.

### KEYSTONE LAW

#### James Knight

Keystone Law designed, developed and implemented its own custom-built and pioneering IT system, KeyedIn, aimed at addressing the requirement for the lawyers to be able to work remotely yet collaboratively. As a model IT infrastructure for alternative law firms, the firm has received many licence requests.

### WEIGHTMANS

#### Stuart Whittle

With Weightmans undergoing significant structural transformation in recent years in a highly competitive section of the market, it is essential the firm's IT offering understands the pressure its lawyers are under. As information systems and operations director Whittle was a fee-earner and is still a partner at the firm, he empathises better than most.

### WRAGGE & CO

#### Derek Southall

Partner Southall has led a wholesale review of Wragge & Co's knowledge management strategy over the last 12 months, creating huge efficiencies along the way and generating savings in excess of £2m. This overhaul of systems and processes should hold the firm in good stead ahead of its merger with Lawrence Graham in May.

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