

WINNER

Andrew Leatherland

DWF

Putting his firm firmly on the legal services map

The striking expansion of DWF over the last few years has largely been driven by one man. When Leatherland was appointed managing partner in 2006, DWF was a £34m-turnover firm, employing around 500 people based in two offices in the North West. By 2013 it was a top 25, £200m-turnover business employing 2,500 people across 12 offices.

Leatherland's vision has seen DWF complete four strategic mergers in just over a year (with specialist insurance law firms Crutes and Buller Jeffries, Scottish commercial law firm Biggart Baillie, and professional indemnity firm Fishburns) and acquired £42m turnover firm Cobbetts in a pre-pack administration deal, which happened within only four days of the Fishburns merger in February 2013.

Rivals as well as those close to him cite Leatherland's boundless energy and ability to communicate his vision effectively as the major galvanising forces behind the firm's success. He has built around him strong strategic and operational boards, eschewing the traditional law firm structure and instead adopting a corporate approach, enabling sharper decision making and clearer reporting lines.



(L-R) DWF's Andrew Leatherland with Alex Russell of Pro-Legal

HIGHLY COMMENDED

CHARLIE GEFFEN

Ashurst

Having become senior partner when the global economy was at its nadir, Geffen leaves his senior post in 2013 having established a lasting legacy after pushing through the merger between Ashurst and Blake Dawson that went live on 1 November 2013. His undoubtedly strong leadership helped modernise a real City institution.

DAVID KERR

Bird & Bird

Among the longest-serving management partners at major UK firms, Kerr was re-elected for another three-year term in March 2013, enabling him to continue his unbroken 17-year tenure as CEO. During that time, Bird & Bird has developed far beyond a TMT boutique in Fetter Lane to become a major City-based global international force.

‘Rivals as well as those close to him cite Leatherland’s boundless energy and ability to communicate his vision effectively.’

CHRISTOPHER MILLS

Schillings

Mills has played a central role in implementing a vision that has seen the firm evolve into a brand reputation business. This highly-successful defamation boutique was forced to review the long-term sustainability of its business model with the rise of social media and the reforms to defamation and privacy laws in the UK.

DAVID PESTER

TLT

Managing partner of TLT since 2002 and re-elected, unopposed, several times since, Pester's popularity is born of his long-term vision for the firm, through good times and bad. He has instinctively known when to put the foot on the gas as recent expansion into Scotland, Northern Ireland and latterly Manchester has shown.

PHILIP RODNEY

Burness Paull

The last few years have seen Burness chairman Rodney not only guide his firm to financial success, with revenue growth and profitability that put many larger rivals in the shade, but also successfully negotiate the December 2012 merger with Aberdeen's Paull & Williamson, which looks set to secure the firm's future as a key player in the Scottish market.

“How recruitment should be done”

*“the best recruitment agency
I have ever worked with”*



*“personable, informative
and diligent”*



“reassuring and professional”



*“I would recommend
them to anyone”*

“a truly fantastic job”



PRO-LEGAL
RECRUITMENT SPECIALISTS

*“personable, professional
and efficient”*



*“a recruitment company
that really listens”*

“dedicated and determined”

Don't take our word for it

www.pro-legal.co.uk/howitshouldbedone