

# Reed Smith

**Sakil Suleman**

Becoming a champion for employees with disabilities

This firm has worked particularly hard in recent years to establish itself as the law firm of choice for disabled candidates. In 2014 the firm formed a partnership with My Plus Consulting, which specialises in helping organisations to understand and address the issues around disability. The firm has also formed fruitful partnerships with EmployAbility, a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to assisting students and graduates with all disabilities to enter employment, and the Lawyers with Disabilities division of the Law Society.

The effort put in by Reed Smith's Disability Task Force has borne fruit. At the end of August 2014, the firm had received 65 applications from disabled candidates for its summer vacation scheme and 60 applications for training contracts. In 2014 the firm interviewed 13 disabled candidates for its summer vacation scheme and training contracts, offering five places on its summer vacation scheme and making five training contract offers to disabled candidates, all of which were accepted.

## HIGHLY COMMENDED

### ALLEN & OVERY

**David Morley**

Allen & Overy concluded a two-year partnership with AfriKids, a child rights organisation working to improve life for Ghana's most disadvantaged children. The partnership contributed a total of £1.37m (in fundraising, pro bono and in-kind support), and £832,000 in funds.

### BAKER & MCKENZIE

**Sarah Gregory; Justine Thompson**

In 2014 the firm was recognised by the government as a Social Mobility Business Compact Champion. It is one of only 12 employers in the UK to have achieved this status, and one of only two law firms. The firm's trainee intake is currently 32% BAME and just 37% of the current trainees attended a fee-paying school.

### CLYDE & CO

**Louise Zekaria**

The firm has been running an innovative Skype pro bono clinic recently to help Brent Citizens Advice Bureau – for which the firm has run a clinic for 14 years – to deal with the increasing number of queries following the cuts to civil legal aid in employment and immigration law.



(L-R) Rahul Batra of Hudson McKenzie with the Reed Smith CSR team

### DENTONS

**Matthew Harvey**

A team of Dentons lawyers helped Fair Finance launch a new banking product as a result of which it will now be making loans to individuals trying to start up or grow small businesses in deprived areas of London who cannot get funding from more traditional lenders.

### PAUL HASTINGS

**Arun Birla**

At a firm where 92% of fee-earners do pro bono work, two initiatives stand out: firstly the firm helped set up Global Feedback, which works to change large food companies' wastage policies to reduce hunger. Secondly, it worked with Reporters Without Borders to produce a 200-page document that examines the international laws that protect freedom of expression and freedom of information.

### WHITE & CASE

**Ian Forrester QC**

Since 2013, the firm has devoted more than 7,500 hours on its rule-of-law project with institutional pro bono client Child Rights International Network, creating a database profiling the legal framework for children's rights in every country in the world.



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ON WINNING THE  
CSR PROGRAMME OF THE YEAR.**