

The Legal 500 UK Awards 2014

Welcome to the second annual *Legal 500 UK Awards*, where we recognise the best in-house counsel, law firms and sets. Each year we carry out in-depth research across the whole of the UK legal sector; this gives us a unique perspective on the legal market.

The 2014 shortlists and winners are based on merit alone; we do not invite applications for the awards. Moreover, the awards do not recognise only the largest firms or sets, or those in the top tier. Every researcher working on the UK guide was asked a simple question: which in-house lawyers, law firms and sets stood out for you this year, and why?

For the in-house awards, we also took into account the research carried out for both our *Corporate Counsel 100* series and our new magazine for in-house lawyers, *GC* – available in early December.

We hope that you enjoy the evening, and congratulations on your award.



JOHN READ
EDITOR: SOLICITORS
THE LEGAL 500 UK



HAYLEY EUSTACE
EDITOR: THE BAR
THE LEGAL 500 UK



IN-HOUSE WINNERS

BANKING

INDIVIDUAL OF THE YEAR

Richard Givens, HSBC

Richard Given has been deputy general counsel at the global bank, HSBC, since September 2011. He oversees the worldwide legal and contract management teams responsible for key supplier relationships. Richard is interested in the way that legal teams can deliver value for their businesses and as a result of this has radically restructured his department at HSBC to work across disciplines. A number of in-house lawyers have praised the way that Richard has reconfigured the legal department and his commitment to the use of technology to deliver legal services more efficiently.

TEAM OF THE YEAR

Virgin Money, led by Andrew Emuss

As one of the challengers shaking up the UK's banking landscape Virgin Money has a similarly innovative approach with its legal department. The legal department was instrumental in the merger with troubled lender Northern Rock, taking it out of state subsidy. Since then the legal team of 20 lawyers has been working on a wide array of projects culminating in its flotation on the stock market earlier this month. However, it's not just deals and finance for the team as part of the bank's overall strategy is to overhaul how banks do business and are seen by the public.

EMPLOYMENT

INDIVIDUAL OF THE YEAR

David Mercer, Balfour Beatty

Balfour Beatty has been under close scrutiny over the past 12 months, with offers for a takeover coming from Carillion due to the weaker market position the company has found itself in. Peers

have been quick to point out that David Mercer's (now part of the company's executive leadership team) handling of the internal employment and restructuring issues have been 'impeccable' under pressure from internal and external market forces.

TEAM OF THE YEAR

Diageo, led by Siobhan Moriaty

It's no secret that Diageo has had to undergo a major restructuring, and the employment aspects of that were potentially damaging. Feedback from the market was full of praise for the way the legal team at Diageo has handled these issues, with the minimum of problems and bad publicity. In just over a year at the helm, Siobhan has also undergone a major panel review to ensure the external firm roster is lean and cost-efficient.

ENERGY

INDIVIDUAL OF THE YEAR

Grant Dawson, Centrica

Grant has received many accolades in the years since Centrica demerged from British Gas, but the simple truth behind this award is that he continues to lead the way on how successfully he works in tandem with the board and management committees. The past year has seen Grant at the forefront with two billion pound acquisitions, plus his stepping down from the successful leadership of the GC100 group.

TEAM OF THE YEAR

EDF, led by Eric Thomas

Managing external counsel is key to the success of landmark projects of the magnitude of Hinkley Point C. The EDF team has tackled the numerous regulatory, environmental and planning hurdles one would expect from the development of a facility targeted to provide up to 13% of the UK's electricity, utilising a veritable roll call of the best energy teams in the UK. Longstanding legal partner Herbert Smith Freehills and Clifford Chance are just two of the firms that have relied on cohesive, concise instruction from one of the largest in-house energy teams in the world.

ENVIRONMENT

INDIVIDUAL OF THE YEAR

Celia Gough, Veolia

Celia Gough is chief legal officer and company secretary at Veolia, where she oversees all legal and compliance issues for the company. Celia won praise from in-house peers for her focused and diligent leadership of the legal team at a time of change for the water industry in the light of regulatory challenges in the UK as well as global issues such as climate change and water scarcity. Celia is also a strong advocate of diversity in the legal profession and has been active in Inspiring Women the charity which seeks to give girls in education more information about the range of career options open to them.

TEAM OF THE YEAR

Bristol City Council, led by Shahzia Daya

Bristol City Council is at the vanguard of environmental work, and has been for several years – even before it was awarded ‘European Green Capital’, a mantle it will assume in 2015. The legal team was widely commended during our research for its leading edge work in support of council projects in areas such as wind turbine, tidal energy and transport.

FINANCE

INDIVIDUAL OF THE YEAR

Tim Hailes, JPMorgan

In the past 12 months, Tim has been responsible for global regulatory reform, following a period of increasing fines, for the financial services giant. The increased pressure on the company since the GFC has raised Tim’s profile to be one of the key drivers of risk reputation in the banking world. Tim has also been a strong advocate for LGBT both within the bank and through the wider legal community, and for seven years was Chairman of the London chapter of PRIDE.

TEAM OF THE YEAR

Credit Suisse, led by Maria Leistner

During the course of our research, Maria Leistner’s team has been widely praised by peers

and private practice lawyers for its ability to deal with all issues in a calm and effective manner, especially at a time when the legal resources of the institution have been under greater pressure and scrutiny. Workplace diversity advocates have also highlighted Maria’s ability to balance work and home life, and the positivity this brings to the entire organisation is seen as a key driver to a better working environment.

HEALTHCARE

INDIVIDUAL OF THE YEAR

Paul Newton, BUPA

Paul has been at BUPA for 17 years, and is widely respected not just for his own capabilities, but also for his management of the wider BUPA legal department (in 2013, *The Legal 500* recognised this, naming BUPA as the winner of the Healthcare team award). With a hefty legal spend, Paul is also adept with cross-border work, with lawyers in 11 locations overseas. He keeps a keen eye on cost, according to external counsel, but is smart enough to look at what value is added, rather than the price, ensuring the best legal service from the premium firms he instructs.

TEAM OF THE YEAR

The Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust, led by Mike O’Connell

There has been a steady increase in healthcare claims in the UK, and this has put the legal departments under increased scrutiny and cost pressures. Our researchers were repeatedly told of the efficiency of this legal service, upheld as a capable and productive manager of claims. Both in-house and private practice peers also heaped plaudits on the team for its sensitive handling of medico-legal matters.

INSURANCE

INDIVIDUAL OF THE YEAR

Robert Robinson, Amlin PLC

After a successful career as trial lawyer in the US and then opening and running Lord Bissell & Brook London office, Robert Robinson



took a change of direction when he stepped into his first in-house role at Liberty Syndicate Management. In 2007 he took on the general counsel role at FTSE 250 insurer Amlin. During the last few years Robinson has overseen a raft of mergers for the insurer and navigated the increased regulatory landscape for financial institutions. Over the past year Robinson has radically reorganized his legal department as a centralized function to drive greater efficiency and cohesion.

TEAM OF THE YEAR

RSA, led by Derek Walsh

With a team of 100 under his management, Derek's role at RSA is a varied and challenging one. He has been at the forefront of reputational issues, an area that many GCs are beginning to have to learn about, and the speed with which modern legal departments have to move at. A successful rights issue in early 2014 has drawn hugely favourable comments from inside the business and from peers in-house. His record on diversity, with 66% of his leadership team female, is to be applauded and 'is something I feel very passionately about'.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

INDIVIDUAL OF THE YEAR

Galit Gonen, Teva

In the past couple of years, Teva has been under increased pressure from rising litigation cases and costs, including the complex issues resulting from the purchase of Cephalon in 2011. Although the company has taken some hits in recent times, peers are unanimous in congratulating the skillful way that Galit has led the European team through the litigation. She has been working in-house for Teva since 2007 and has been general counsel since 2013, and gained a doctorate on the subject of secondary patents in the pharmaceutical industry in 2009.

TEAM OF THE YEAR

BskyB, led by James Conyers

The BskyB legal team has faced a range of issues in the last few years – some driven by the various acquisitions it has undertaken. On the IP front it has been at the front line of IP developments. In 2013

it won a case against Microsoft over trademark infringement relating to Microsoft's SkyDrive. The six-year legal battle the company faced against pub landlady Karen Murphy over the use of a Greek decoder to show premier league matches was a headline grabber and one that pushed the boundaries of how courts think about IP issues.

LITIGATION

INDIVIDUAL OF THE YEAR

Will Luker, RBS

As head of litigation at RBS, Luker has seen an increase in litigation, due to an increased appetite from the US regulatory authorities and investors to take on the banks in the wake of the GFC. During our research, the bank's efforts to use alternative dispute resolution has been noted by private practice as a smarter option in a period of increasing litigation costs. He has been at RBS for eleven years, and is a member of the legal executive management team.

TEAM OF THE YEAR

ICAP, led by Duncan Wales

UK-based ICAP, the world's largest interdealer broker, attracted much attention when it was charged by the European Commission (EC) with facilitating breaches of European Union (EU) competition law by a cartel, which fixed yen interest rate derivatives. Standing out from a crowd of international banks and brokers that included UBS, Deutsche Bank, RBS, JPMorgan, Citigroup and RP Martin, which admitted wrongdoing in exchange for reduced fines, ICAP boldly rejected the EC's accusations. It continues to argue that it has not breached any applicable EU competition law and is determined to defend itself against these allegations vigorously. Moreover, ICAP is taking the fight to the European Ombudsman; it has complained about EU regulatory prejudice during 2013's financial benchmark rigging probe, the antitrust case that it refused to settle with the EC via an EU Libor accord.

PRIVATE EQUITY

INDIVIDUAL OF THE YEAR

Simon Cresswell, Apax

Simon Cresswell joined European private equity behemoth, Apax in 2010 as its first ever general

counsel. He moved in-house at probably the time of biggest change and consolidation for the private equity industry which was feeling the effects of the global financial crisis which slowed both fund raising and deal making down. His appointment also coincided with most concerted raft of global legislation aimed at the industry post Lehman. Cresswell has won praise from other lawyers in the field for his well thought leadership of the fund manager's legal function. Apax is one of the largest European private equity houses with funds of over £30bn in combined value.

TEAM OF THE YEAR

Actis, led by Paul Owers

Actis emerged from what was the Commonwealth Development Commission (CDC) in 2004. Its remit is to invest responsibly in emerging markets and its portfolio companies span Asia, Africa and Latin America. The legal function in Actis is one of the most established in the community under the leadership of Paul Owers who joined the CDC in 1994. Over the years Paul has gathered together a legal team that sources described to us as one of the 'most solid in the industry'. While contending with the increased raft of legislation that has been a feature of the industry in recent years, the legal team is also a key part of the balancing act that keeps Actis investing profitably but also investing responsibly.

PUBLIC SECTOR

INDIVIDUAL OF THE YEAR

Mark Hynes, Lambeth Council

Our research confirms that Mark Hynes is a towering figure in local government, having worked in the public sector for over 20 years, since leaving Eversheds in 1990. He's been director of governance and democracy at Lambeth Council since 2005, and has overseen great changes in the team – flexible working and IT advances, a reduction in external spend and growth in numbers in-house. But budgetary pressures necessitate a business brain, especially for the beleaguered public sector, and Mark is no stranger to strategic thinking, having attained an MBA and a post-graduate diploma in business excellence. He is also the immediate past president of Lawyers in Local Government; further

evidence of his commitment to sharing best practice among local government legal teams.

TEAM OF THE YEAR

Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council, led by Jill Coule
Jill Coule's team is recognised by commentators for the leadership role it assumed in the formation of the North West Legal Consortium a few years ago, and its ongoing status as lead authority. Under the guiding hand of the council's legal team, the consortium has entered into an innovative, pan-regional procurement framework to meet the external legal needs for a range of public bodies, and plans further collaborative working.

REAL ESTATE

INDIVIDUAL OF THE YEAR

Vivienne King, Crown Estates

With a property portfolio worth around £9bn, the legal work from the estate is highly sought after. Earlier in 2014, the law firm roster was reduced to just two key firms in an attempt to make significant cost savings. Vivienne oversaw a successful pitch process, which came with some specific demands regarding seniority. She has also overseen a shift in the portfolio with the investment into renewable energy projects, including a £350m joint venture with Oxford Properties.

TEAM OF THE YEAR

Tesco, led by Adrian Morris

The decision to give the award to Adrian's team came before the recent revelation from a whistleblower about the quarter of a billion profit overstatement, adding more pressure to the legal department. Our research had previously highlighted the restructuring and strategy of the company's property assets, that the team has been involved in following a difficult few years, especially with the ever-changing nature of retail property.

TAX

INDIVIDUAL OF THE YEAR

Ken Hardman, British American Tobacco

This award is in recognition of Ken Hardman's 20 years as head of tax at BAT. Hardman has been at the forefront of much of the litigation against



HMRC, this year winning at both the Court of Appeal and the CJEU. Ken has been an innovator and leader in the industry - the first to pay an FID (foreign income dividend) and first to reconstruct for EUFT (eligible unrelieved foreign tax). Widely respected by his peers, his retirement will be a loss to the company and the industry.

TEAM OF THE YEAR

Amazon

In the face of increased pressure on corporates to change their tax structure on the basis of media hype, rather than facts or business reasons, Amazon has stood firm. At the forefront of criticism, it has refused to bow down, and is clear on what constitutes avoidance and what constitutes evasion. Amazon's tax team have streamlined and maximised the company's business case.

TECHNOLOGY

INDIVIDUAL OF THE YEAR

Jonathan Pearl, Sony Europe

Jonathan has been singled out by in-house counsel and private practice alike during the course of our research as one of a small number of GCs who truly have a healthy interaction with the board, and is able to talk to just about the legal risks, but also the wider business implications. His team management skills have attracted praise for demanding his lawyers 'spend time on the shopfloor' to get a wider experience of the business (and life), rather than focusing just on the legal issues.

TEAM OF THE YEAR

Yahoo! UK, led by Simon Citron

Yahoo! has been front and centre at ensuring that diversity means more than simple gender or race, but over the past few years has actively pushed the agenda for social mobility, and promoting the options that are available at an in-house level. In an era where private practice has traditionally been seen as the primary starter to a career in law, the in-house team at Yahoo! has been bucking the trend, and also encouraging the notion that legal should be a greater part of the business.

TELECOMS

INDIVIDUAL OF THE YEAR

Edward Smith, O2

Having been in-house for 13 years, Ed is a widely regarded and popular figure within the UK legal community, and he and his team have received numerous accolades over the years. What makes Ed stand apart is his continual demand to move the agenda forward and to empower his team to take on more personal responsibility. His drive for more cost-effective legal solutions while working in partnership with external law firms is widely praised by the firms he works with – in our experience this is extremely rare.

TEAM OF THE YEAR

Liberty Global, led by Jeremy Evans

Liberty Global's legal team has been kept incredibly busy with recent acquisitions of Ziggo and Virgin Media to create the largest international cable operator, and the accompanying regulatory and competition issues that follow it. With a recent £481m investment into ITV, much of the smooth success of the integrations has been laid at the feet of Evans' team, both internally and through its adept management of its law firm roster.

TRANSPORT

INDIVIDUAL OF THE YEAR

Robert Webb, Rolls Royce

Robert has worked for two of Britain's most iconic brands; before joining Rolls-Royce, he was GC at British Airways. During the course of our research, Robert's handling of recent legal cases has attracted universal praise, with instructed firms talking of 'a calm and assured approach to a myriad of complex issues'. Due to our commitment to confidentiality, we can't list them here, but Robert's leadership on this work has made him a worthy winner of this award.

TEAM OF THE YEAR

Network Rail, led by Suzanne Wise

The pressures facing any company operating in the rail transport sector are manifold – upholding health and safety standards, coping with the

vagaries of the season, which can range from leaves on the track to acts of God. Not to mention supporting integration with high profile projects such as HS2. Our research states that Network Rail's legal team has performed admirably in a tough sector, notably restructuring its service to mirror the organisation's own devolution into ten geographical 'Routes'.

BAR AWARD WINNERS

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION

SET OF THE YEAR

4 Stone Buildings

This Chancery set is going from strength to strength in the commercial context, and has been involved in some of the biggest cases of the past few years, including *JSC BTA Bank v Ablyazov*, *Deutsche Bank AG & ors v Unitech Global Ltd*, and *Constantin Medien v Ecclestone & ors*.

SILK OF THE YEAR

Sonia Tolaney QC – 3 Verulam Buildings

Tolaney climbed the commercial litigation rankings in *The Legal 500 UK 2014* edition and also maintains a strong reputation in banking and finance and civil fraud. She successfully defended in *Deutsche Bank v Sebastian Holdings*, one of the largest claims in Commercial Court history.

CRIME

SET OF THE YEAR

25 Bedford Row

Defence specialist 25 Bedford Row has had an exceptional year in terms of the cases members have been involved in, and it also moved up to tier one in *The Legal 500 UK 2014* criminal fraud set rankings. This modern, progressive chambers has some heavyweight silks defending in the most serious and complex of cases and a strong junior arm too.

SILK OF THE YEAR

David Perry QC – 6KBW College Hill

Perry consistently receives outstanding feedback, with many saying he is the best criminal advocate at the Bar. He has been particularly active in Hong Kong recently, and is currently prosecuting Rafael Hui, the former Chief Secretary of Hong Kong, and two of the most prominent land developers in the territory over high-profile bribery allegations.

EMPLOYMENT

SET OF THE YEAR

Littleton Chambers

Long seen as one of the leading employment sets, Littleton Chambers remains very much in the spotlight. It has acquired two highly regarded barristers from Devereux in recent years (Suzanne McKie QC and Mohinderpal Sethi), and the set is also handling a good range of commercial employment work.

SILK OF THE YEAR

Thomas Linden QC – Matrix Chambers

Linden receives positive market feedback year after year. However, 2014 has been a standout year for this top-tier employment silk, thanks in part to the fact he won a three-year battle in the Supreme Court determining that members of LLPs do have the protection of whistleblowing legislation.

EU AND COMPETITION

SET OF THE YEAR

Brick Court Chambers

Members of this Magic Circle set have had a fantastic year, and have been involved in the major cases of recent times including *Sainsbury's v MasterCard and Visa*, and *BMI Healthcare v Competition Commission*. In the EU context, the set continues to handle headline cases relating to high-profile, politically charged international events (Iranian sanctions and the Spanish authorities' hostility to Gibraltar being but two).

SILK OF THE YEAR

Jon Turner QC – Monckton Chambers

In 2014, Jon Turner QC received outstanding market feedback. He was also involved in



one of the most of the high-profile cartel cases of 2013 and in one of the leading competition damages claims in the Competition Appeal Tribunal.

FAMILY AND CHILDREN

SET OF THE YEAR

4 Paper Buildings

This set has been regarded as the leading children set in London for some time, but it never rests on its laurels and has had a great year in both family finance and children law. Multiple members of chambers represented parties involved in the three major children law decisions in the Supreme Court, including the first appeal to the Supreme Court in a Hague Convention case.

SILK OF THE YEAR

Lucy Stone QC – Queen Elizabeth Building (QEB)

Stone maintains a strong international family finance practice, and continues to act in disputes of the utmost complexity. Her 2013 workload included a case in the Hong Kong Court of Appeal.

INSOLVENCY

SET OF THE YEAR

South Square

This insolvency behemoth includes a huge array of talent both at a silk and junior level and is the first port of call for instructing solicitors on the headline cases in the market; as was evidenced by its involvement in four major restructuring and insolvency disputes in the Supreme Court in 2013 (including *Eurosail*).

SILK OF THE YEAR

Richard Snowden QC – Erskine Chambers

Snowden is a fixture in many of the highest-profile cases and since his market-leading work in issues surrounding the Lehman Brothers collapse, he has handled a raft of matters in relation to MF Global – another of the City's largest and most highly publicised insolvencies.

INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION

SET OF THE YEAR

Thirty Nine Essex Street

Building an increasingly strong presence in this area, Thirty Nine Essex Street's offering was bolstered by the high-profile recruitment of Peter Rees QC (the former legal director of Royal Dutch Shell). The set's links with Asia also garner strong praise and its recently opened offices in Singapore and Kuala Lumpur have further strengthened this chambers' commitment to international arbitration.

SILK OF THE YEAR

Duncan Matthews QC – 20 Essex Street

Combining a top-notch litigation practice with a superb and highly versatile arbitration practice, Duncan Matthews QC has recently been involved in several major arbitrations across a range of sectors and regions.

IP, IT AND MEDIA

SET OF THE YEAR

Blackstone Chambers

This set has a long-established leading media and sport practice, but is also strong in telecoms regulatory cases and in recent years the IP practice has also been gaining momentum. It is best known for soft IP work, and its presence in this area was boosted by the recent arrival of Michael Bloch QC from Wilberforce Chambers.

SILK OF THE YEAR

Desmond Browne QC – 5RB

A leader in defamation and privacy related work, Desmond Browne QC recently represented Peter Cruddas in his case against The Times, and obtained a damages award of £180,000 against an offshore website for a Saudi businessman, which was the highest award of libel damages since 2002.

PERSONAL INJURY AND

CLINICAL NEGLIGENCE

SET OF THE YEAR

Crown Office Chambers

This set receives exceptional feedback from solicitors for the personal injury and industrial

disease cases members undertake, and is often a first port of call for this type of work. In addition, chambers' clinical negligence practice has also had a very strong year and its presence in the market here continues to grow.

SILK OF THE YEAR

Andrew Ritchie QC – 9 Gough Square

Ritchie has recently become head of chambers at 9 Gough Square, which has been received extremely positively by solicitors who say his appointment has 'energised' chambers. This, combined with his impressive caseload, was reflected in a promotion to tier one in personal injury in *The Legal 500 UK 2014* edition.

PRIVATE CLIENT: TRUSTS AND PROBATE

SET OF THE YEAR

Serle Court

With increasing strength both at silk and junior level, it is not surprising to find Serle Court active on truly major work such as Alan Boyle QC's continued advice on matters relating to the Madoff fraud.

SILK OF THE YEAR

Francis Barlow QC – Ten Old Square

Head of chambers Francis Barlow QC has built a supreme reputation for handling matters of great complexity and is regularly to be found acting for high-net-worth families both off and onshore. He has recently been particularly active advising families on chattels settlements and intricate variations.

PROJECTS AND ENERGY

SET OF THE YEAR

Keating Chambers

The market-leading construction practice at Keating Chambers is the set's core area, however the energy practice also continues to go from strength to strength, evidenced by an elevation in *The Legal 500 UK 2014* energy set rankings. The set recently gained CEO and director of clerking Declan Redmond from Wilberforce Chambers.

SILK OF THE YEAR

Lionel Persey QC – Quadrant Chambers

Persey is particularly strong in energy sector litigation, and was elevated to tier one in *The Legal 500 UK 2014* energy rankings following another year of truly exceptional solicitor and peer feedback.

PUBLIC LAW

SET OF THE YEAR

Landmark Chambers

Strong at both the silk and junior end, Landmark Chambers' members continue to handle high-profile cases both for claimants and the government. The set's immigration practice is also gaining momentum, evidenced by a promotion in *The Legal 500 UK 2014* immigration set rankings.

SILK OF THE YEAR

Nathalie Lieven QC – Landmark Chambers

With a strong and varied public law practice, Nathalie Lieven QC's recent workload includes a number of Supreme Court cases, such as the challenge brought by local authorities to the decision to proceed with HS2.

REAL ESTATE, ENVIRONMENT

AND PLANNING

SET OF THE YEAR

FTB

Although FTB is lesser known on the real estate side, the set's environment and planning practices have had an exceptional year, benefiting from a number of recent recruits including Simon Bird QC and Morag Ellis QC from Cornerstone Barristers.

SILK OF THE YEAR

Nicholas Dowding QC – Falcon Chambers

Dowding has established himself as the leading property litigator in the country, and is quite literally in a league of his own. Not only did he maintain his tier one property litigation ranking in *The Legal 500 UK 2014* edition, but he now appears in this tier alone.



TAX

SET OF THE YEAR

Temple Tax Chambers

Members of this specialist tax set continue to handle high-profile cases in the corporate tax and VAT context, and the clerking team also reaps outstanding feedback. The set was bolstered at senior level when David Southern QC was promoted to silk in 2014.

SILK OF THE YEAR

Kevin Prosser QC – Pump Court Tax Chambers

Often a first port of call for complex tax cases, Prosser recently represented Bristol & West in the FTT, securing an important win for the taxpayer against HMRC. He also successfully represented HMRC in its case against Vaccine Research concerning an alleged tax avoidance scheme involving LLP structures, a particularly relevant subject matter in the current climate.

REGIONAL/SCOTTISH

SET OF THE YEAR

No5 Chambers

As winner of the regional set award for the second year running, No5 Chambers has continued to grow and develop its reputation as one of the leading national chambers. It has also led the way in public access work through setting up NoVate Direct Legal Solutions, a not-for-profit standalone company that sources instructions. The set's offices outside its roots in Birmingham (Bristol, Leicester and London) are also going from strength to strength.

SILK OF THE YEAR

Pete Weatherby QC – Garden Court North Chambers

Winning plaudits for his expertise in public law, Pete Weatherby QC is recognised for his involvement in headline matters such as the Hillsborough inquest and the *Vinter & ors v UK* case, where the European Court of Human Rights Grand Chamber considered the legality of whole-life sentences without review.

CLERKING/PRACTICE

MANAGEMENT – UK WIDE

TEAM OF THE YEAR

9 Gough Square

Receiving consistently outstanding feedback for the service it provides, 9 Gough Square is noted by many for its modern approach and some say it has 'the best clerking team in the business'. Director of business development Michael Goodridge reaps particular praise, but also singled out are chief executive Fiona Robb, senior family clerk Gary Farrow and criminal clerk David Landa.

SENIOR CLERK/CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR

John White – Henderson Chambers

Chief clerk John White has been at Henderson Chambers for 40 years this year, and garners exceptional feedback from solicitors who describe him as 'unfailingly helpful and courteous'. He successfully runs a 'very approachable, friendly and flexible' clerks' room, which is continually singled out as being among the most down to earth and pleasant to deal with in London.

LAW FIRM WINNERS

CORPORATE AND COMMERCIAL

FIRM OF THE YEAR

Slaughter and May

Slaughter and May's reputation precedes it in the corporate and commercial arena, with a panoply of FTSE 100 and FTSE 250 clients. 2013 saw the M&A team advising Vodafone on the disposal of its 45% interest in Verizon Wireless, while the competition department's lead role in the multi-jurisdictional merger control processes for Thermo Fisher's acquisition of Life Technologies demonstrated the strength of its international 'best friends' network.



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FIRM (SPECIALISM) OF THE YEAR

Weil, Gotshal & Manges (Private equity: transactions)

Weil, Gotshal & Manges is a perennial fixture on large-scale buyouts, where it acts for an intimidating roster of sponsors and pension funds. In addition to its deal-execution capabilities, the London office brings market-leading strength in finance, fund formation and restructuring, and also links up with its global network, making it a natural choice for high-value, complex cross-border work covering the full fund lifecycle. Of particular note, it advised Advent International and Bain Capital on their acquisition of RBS's remaining interest in WorldPay.

FIRM (REGIONAL) OF THE YEAR

Birketts LLP (East Anglia)

Birketts LLP has firmly established itself a lynchpin of the East Anglian market. Six years ago it made the bold move of opening an office in the highly competitive Cambridge market, and the continued growth of that office and the ongoing recruitment of talented partners are a testament to the success of its regional strategy. Already a go-to brand for some of the biggest regional deals, it is steadily moving into more cross-border transactions such as the acquisition of sports car brand TVR from its former German owners.

CRIME, FRAUD AND LICENSING

FIRM OF THE YEAR

Kingsley Napley LLP

Stephen Parkinson's team hasn't been short of involvement in blockbuster crime cases in the last 12 months. In perhaps the most publicised of those – the politically charged phone-hacking trial at the Old Bailey – the team successfully defended both Rebekah and Charlie Brooks. The team also pulled off the coup of hiring Jo Rickards from DLA Piper.

FIRM (SPECIALISM) OF THE YEAR

Pinsent Masons LLP (Gaming and betting)

Pinsent Masons' gambling and betting team has an impressively diversity of clients throughout the sector, advising some of the most significant names in online and bricks and mortar gambling,

including Rank Group, Aspers and Ladbrokes. The practice is also at the forefront of developments in gambling legislation, playing an active part in forming the regulatory framework in which its clients operate. As one of William Hill's panel law firms, the team has a longstanding record of advising the group on projects and issues arising across all of its business channels.

FIRM (REGIONAL) OF THE YEAR

Bond Dickinson LLP (South West)

Bond Dickinson LLP is a leading firm in the licensing space, where it is renowned for providing high-level advice to a wide range of high-profile multi-site operators across the UK. Demonstrating its national credibility, it handles all of the licensing requirements for Marks and Spencer across Scotland, England and Wales. Other clients include Coral Racing, Ambassador Theatre Group and Association of British Bookmakers.

DISPUTE RESOLUTION

FIRM OF THE YEAR

Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP

Consistently advising on the largest, most complex and high-stakes litigation in the UK market, Freshfields' powerhouse dispute resolution practice draws unanimous praise from clients and peers. Clients instruct the firm when they have issues – frequently with multi-jurisdictional features – that impact significantly on their business and are critical to the future of their industry sectors.

FIRM (SPECIALISM) OF THE YEAR

Simmons & Simmons (Commercial litigation)

Simmons & Simmons's commercial litigation team impressed during our research with its vast resources and scope of specialist sector expertise. Demonstrating the group's ability to handle business-critical commercial disputes that lead to critical judgments, the team acted for Patrick Dear and Reade Griffith in the key Court of Appeal decision, *Dear v Jackson*, which overturned a High Court decision on implied terms.

FIRM (REGIONAL) OF THE YEAR

Stewarts Law LLP (Yorkshire and the Humber)

Stewarts Law is investing in its disputes practice, with new team leader Mo Bhaskaran leading the way to secure new clients in the retail and communications spaces. The firm also leverages its contentious competition strength to conduct impressive high-end cartel actions: Jonathan Sinclair recently represented a slew of FTSE 100 and 250 companies in action against Mastercard regarding interchange fees on payment card transactions.

FINANCE

FIRM OF THE YEAR

Latham & Watkins

Traditionally a heavyweight on the high-yield side, Latham & Watkins has successfully bolstered its banking credentials and is now seen as a leading player on both the bank and bond components of financing deals. Leveraging off a premier practice in the US, as well as being assisted by a number of US-qualified lawyers based in the London office, the firm has benefitted from the recent willingness of borrowers to access the US bond market to provide the shortfall in funding on the bank side. The firm's representation of Goldman Sachs on the private high-yield term loan in connection with BC Partners' acquisition of Springer Science is emblematic of its ability to handle highly complex and bespoke deals.

FIRM (SPECIALISM) OF THE YEAR

Kirkland & Ellis International LLP (High yield)

While familiar names have traditionally dominated the high-yield space, it is widely and openly acknowledged by clients and peers that Kirkland & Ellis has succeeded in building a market-leading presence, particularly as issuer counsel. The team regularly advises on major transactions such as the Trionista's €875m combined notes issue for CVC Capital.

FIRM (REGIONAL) OF THE YEAR

Ward Hadaway (North)

Ward Hadaway's team has a well-established presence in *The Legal 500* and continues to be

at the forefront of the leading deals in the market. It acts for both borrowers and lenders and has advised financial services clients on facilities agreements. The insolvency team has a varied practice representing administrators and trustees in bankruptcy. Barclays Bank and Santander are among the list of prestigious names on its client portfolio.

HUMAN RESOURCES

FIRM OF THE YEAR

CMS

CMS impresses for the breadth of its practice across employment, pensions and share schemes, and further strengthened its practice as a result of its merger with Dundas & Wilson. During the research period, the firm took a leading role on the employment aspects of Royal Mail's IPO; and assisted on setting up an employee share scheme for 150,000 employees, which included advice on employment compliance issues for listed companies and TUPE issues. The firm is well-regarded for its cross-border expertise and works closely with its international network on global mandates.

FIRM (SPECIALISM) OF THE YEAR

Laura Devine Solicitors (Immigration)

Laura Devine Solicitors has an impressively diverse client list, and is able to work seamlessly with its New York office to assist its business clients. The firm has an exceptional array of media clients and is well-regarded for its investor and entrepreneur capability. The boutique firm is at the very top for its human rights, appeals and overstay practice, and recent mandates include advising on indefinite leave to remain and Article 8 cases.

FIRM (REGIONAL) OF THE YEAR

Gordons LLP (Yorkshire and the Humber)

Gordons' pensions team was established only in June 2013 with the move of Terry Saeedi from Eversheds, but is already carrying significant charge. As well as pulling in new clients such as Wm Morrison Supermarkets plc, the team continues to service the sizeable number of existing clients that followed from Eversheds.



INSURANCE

FIRM OF THE YEAR

DLA Piper

It has been a landmark year for DLA Piper, demonstrating the potential of successful lateral hiring. Last year's acquisition of the leading international insurance team at now-defunct Dewey & LeBoeuf is paying enviable dividends, due to well-managed integration into the wider DLA insurance practice. The firm won its first strategic M&A and regulatory instructions for market-leading insurers such as Allianz and Zurich, handling one of the largest UK run-off deals of the year for Zurich. The team also earned panel appointments to the Financial Conduct Authority and Prudential Regulation Authority. On the contentious front, the firm gained impressive new panel memberships, and continues its work as court appointed lead solicitors representing PwC as scheme administrators of BAI and Independent Insurance regarding asbestos-related liability issues in the Supreme Court.

FIRM (SPECIALISM) OF THE YEAR

Baker & McKenzie LLP (Product liability: defendant)

Baker & McKenzie has excelled in product defence work for some time, but came to the fore this year for its global product safety and recall capability. In an increasingly regulated world, big-name multinationals including Sony, Mattel and Hewlett-Packard are turning to the firm to coordinate safety worldwide, where supply chains are more complex than ever. But the firm also competes with the best in product litigation: it is defending CR Bard and Stryker in headline class actions relating to medical devices, currently the hot topic of product litigation in the UK.

FIRM (REGIONAL) OF THE YEAR

Flint Bishop LLP (East Midlands)

A strong year for Ken Dixon's team at Flint Bishop LLP saw it move up to the top tier for professional negligence. The firm stands out among its ranked peers by acting mainly for claimants, as opposed to defendants and insurers. In 2013 the practice

pursued claims on behalf of accountants, business owners and property developers.

PRIVATE CLIENT

FIRM OF THE YEAR

Macfarlanes LLP

Macfarlanes is a byword for quality in the private client sphere, boasting arguably the country's top advisory practice for complex tax issues, headed by Jonathan Condor, as well as Charles Lloyd's truly high-end contentious tax offering. The firm also has an excellent agriculture and estates practice, headed by Tristan Ward.

FIRM (SPECIALISM) OF THE YEAR

Wragge Lawrence Graham & Co LLP (Contentious trusts and probate)

Time and again, Catharine Bell's team at Wragge Lawrence Graham & Co LLP is found on the major international matters. For example, the firm is advising professional trustees in respect of claims relating to the Kingate Funds, which together invested some \$1.7bn into the Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities LLC Ponzi scheme. The firm also has a wide international reach, and recently acted for the Federal Republic of Brazil and the Municipality of São Paulo in complex cross-border trusts litigation.

FIRM (REGIONAL) OF THE YEAR

Charles Russell LLP (South West)

Charles Russell LLP stands out for the breadth and sophistication of its practice, advising on all aspects of UK tax, trust, estate and succession planning, often with an international dimension and usually a large amount of tax at stake. It also has a leading charities practice, handling the full range of matters for charities clients, across property, employment, corporate and commercial, disputes and tax.

PROJECTS, ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

FIRM OF THE YEAR

Norton Rose Fulbright

With top-tier practices across nearly every subcategory, Norton Rose Fulbright's dedication to

the projects and energy sectors, which has seen it merge with major players in the US, Canada and Europe in recent years, is well-known. Standout infrastructure mandates included advising the lenders on the restructuring of one of the largest European PPPs, while in natural resources the firm advised a raft of lender and sponsor-side clients on a range of project financings, M&A transactions and front-end procurement issues. Prominent in both established and emerging markets, the firm also has leading renewable energy and domestic PFI practices, the latter of which has seen it act on the closing of nearly all of the few remaining UK waste-to-energy projects.

FIRM (SPECIALISM) OF THE YEAR

Bracewell & Giuliani (UK) LLP (Oil and gas)

The firm announced its intentions in 2013 with the high-profile lateral hires of two of the most prominent energy lawyers in the market, and has continued this trend since with raids on the oil and gas departments of the both the Magic Circle and the London offices of US firms. Covering all the traditional financing and M&A bases one would expect, the team also has leading practices in reserve-based lending and is playing a prominent role in the nascent UK shale gas industry. With further high-profile hires strengthening the front-end construction and EPC side, the firm has made itself a fully fledged competitor to the main London players in an astonishingly short period of time.

FIRM (REGIONAL) OF THE YEAR

Freeths (West Midlands)

Freeths' full service projects team has seen dramatic year-on-year growth since 2011. Practice head Catherine Burke is particularly experienced in alternative energy, with clients including EGN Projects and Sun Credit, and the practice has handled funding of large scale solar projects.

PUBLIC SECTOR

FIRM OF THE YEAR

Fieldfisher

Fieldfisher is a first-rate name for public law and continues to be instructed on high profile

cases. It enjoys a superlative reputation for its inquest work; it was appointed as solicitors to the Hillsborough Inquest and is assisting the coroner into the inquest of Russian exile Alexander Litvinenko. The firm is instructed in cutting-edge matters for the Human Tissue Authority, and this year advised on living donor transplants. New client wins include the Legal Services Board and The Macur Review.

FIRM (SPECIALISM) OF THE YEAR

Clifford Chance (Public affairs)

Clifford Chances public affairs offering draws on the significant expertise of lawyers both in London and across the firm's European offices. With recent clients including Bank of Scotland and Shell, the firm regularly advises the top end of the market on their most important matters.

FIRM (REGIONAL) OF THE YEAR

Mills & Reeve LLP (East Anglia)

Mills & Reeve LLP is among the market leaders across all aspects of public sector work across East Anglia, acting for universities on education matters, government departments on health matters and London boroughs and district councils on local government issues. Whether it is advising the Department of Health on its review of procurement procedures or local authorities on major construction projects, the strength of the multi-disciplinary team is recognised throughout and beyond the region.

REAL ESTATE

FIRM OF THE YEAR

Nabarro LLP

Nabarro puts real estate firmly at the heart of its practice. In recent years some City competitors have downsized, but Nabarro has grown its capacity to a team of over 30 partners. Recent transactions include acting for an institutional investor on the £1.7bn purchase of the More London estate, one of the UK's largest-ever real estate deals, and advising AXA Real Estate Investment Managers on the £472m acquisition of Ropemaker Place.



FIRM (SPECIALISM) OF THE YEAR **Mishcon de Reya (Commercial property)**

Mishcon de Reya has pursued an ambitious growth strategy in recent years, and is reaping the rewards with an enviable client base which spans institutional investors and entrepreneurs. The team has worked on a number of London's most exciting and high-profile projects, from Capco's £8bn regeneration of Earls Court, including the £117m acquisition of a 50% stake in the Empress State building, to Qatari Diar and Delancey's £557m investment into East Village, the former Olympic village. Investment, retail and hotels are all areas of strength.

FIRM (REGIONAL) OF THE YEAR **Eversheds LLP (West Midlands)**

Eversheds LLPs' highly regarded Birmingham team has made its name through strategic developments in the city, including the Bull Ring, Mailbox and Rotunda. In 2014, it acted on flagship developments of New Street station and the Pallasades shopping centre. It has also been active in preparations for HS2 and the relocation of Coventry City Council's headquarters. The full service team has diverse specialist expertise and includes sector head Gurjit Atwal and department head David Jones, both highly regarded in the market.

TMT

FIRM OF THE YEAR **Bristows LLP**

Bristows stands out for its excellence across a number of practice areas within the TMT sector, advising industry leading clients such as Google, Spotify and British American Tobacco. With high profile hires of digital media and copyright specialist Theo Savvides and IT outsourcing expert Chris Holder, the firm is unbeaten for the level of commitment it has shown to maintaining the strength of its practice.

FIRM (SPECIALISM) OF THE YEAR **Covington & Burling LLP (Data protection)**

Covington & Burling LLP enjoys a strong following from a number of the largest, most well-known international companies that are deeply invested

in personal information, including Microsoft, Facebook and GSK. The practice's core strength lies in the ability to advise clients on relevant privacy and data security rules worldwide, and to help them structure globally valid compliance programs.

FIRM (REGIONAL) OF THE YEAR **Michelmores LLP (South West)**

Michelmores LLP's TMT practice has been going from strength to strength, acting for a range of high-profile clients. Key examples include assisting NHS IQ on a cross-border IP rights commercialisation project and advising British Transport Police in respect of non-performance by Northgate Information Solutions in respect of case and custody software solutions.

TRANSPORT

FIRM OF THE YEAR **Stephenson Harwood**

During the past year, Stephenson Harwood has demonstrated its strong transport practice across rail, shipping and aviation work. Attracting key clients such as Hitachi Rail Europe, Abellio Greater Anglia, National Express, the strong international shipping practice spans a range of matters from high-profile shipbuilding work to major disputes. With key lateral hires, the transport practice is going from strength to strength.

FIRM (SPECIALISM) OF THE YEAR **Ince & Co (Shipping)**

With true in-depth expertise, Ince & Co's shipping department is praised for its international outlook as well as domestic prowess. Its vast experience across disputes, casualties, shipbuilding, finance and regulatory matters attracts headline clients such as Gard, Norwegian Hull Club, Hoegh, Japan P&I Club and MSC.

FIRM (REGIONAL) OF THE YEAR **Shoosmiths LLP (South East)**

Another excellent year for Shoosmiths LLP's transport practice saw Chris McClure's team maintain its tier one aviation ranking in *The Legal 500 UK*. Illustrating the firm's increasing international focus,



IN-HOUSE WINNERS

BANKING

INDIVIDUAL OF THE YEAR

Richard Givens, HSBC

Richard Given has been deputy general counsel at the global bank, HSBC, since September 2011. He oversees the worldwide legal and contract management teams responsible for key supplier relationships. Richard is interested in the way that legal teams can deliver value for their businesses and as a result of this has radically restructured his department at HSBC to work across disciplines. A number of in-house lawyers have praised the way that Richard has reconfigured the legal department and his commitment to the use of technology to deliver legal services more efficiently.

TEAM OF THE YEAR

Virgin Money, led by Andrew Emuss

As one of the challengers shaking up the UK's banking landscape Virgin Money has a similarly innovative approach with its legal department. The legal department was instrumental in the merger with troubled lender Northern Rock, taking it out of state subsidy. Since then the legal team of 20 lawyers has been working on a wide array of projects culminating in its flotation on the stock market earlier this month. However, it's not just deals and finance for the team as part of the bank's overall strategy is to overhaul how banks do business and are seen by the public.

EMPLOYMENT

INDIVIDUAL OF THE YEAR

David Mercer, Balfour Beatty

Balfour Beatty has been under close scrutiny over the past 12 months, with offers for a takeover coming from Carillion due to the weaker market position the company has found itself in. Peers

have been quick to point out that David Mercer's (now part of the company's executive leadership team) handling of the internal employment and restructuring issues have been 'impeccable' under pressure from internal and external market forces.

TEAM OF THE YEAR

Diageo, led by Siobhan Moriaty

It's no secret that Diageo has had to undergo a major restructuring, and the employment aspects of that were potentially damaging. Feedback from the market was full of praise for the way the legal team at Diageo has handled these issues, with the minimum of problems and bad publicity. In just over a year at the helm, Siobhan has also undergone a major panel review to ensure the external firm roster is lean and cost-efficient.

ENERGY

INDIVIDUAL OF THE YEAR

Grant Dawson, Centrica

Grant has received many accolades in the years since Centrica demerged from British Gas, but the simple truth behind this award is that he continues to lead the way on how successfully he works in tandem with the board and management committees. The past year has seen Grant at the forefront with two billion pound acquisitions, plus his stepping down from the successful leadership of the GC100 group.

TEAM OF THE YEAR

EDF, led by Eric Thomas

Managing external counsel is key to the success of landmark projects of the magnitude of Hinkley Point C. The EDF team has tackled the numerous regulatory, environmental and planning hurdles one would expect from the development of a facility targeted to provide up to 13% of the UK's electricity, utilising a veritable roll call of the best energy teams in the UK. Longstanding legal partner Herbert Smith Freehills and Clifford Chance are just two of the firms that have relied on cohesive, concise instruction from one of the largest in-house energy teams in the world.

ENVIRONMENT

INDIVIDUAL OF THE YEAR

Celia Gough, Veolia

Celia Gough is chief legal officer and company secretary at Veolia, where she oversees all legal and compliance issues for the company. Celia won praise from in-house peers for her focused and diligent leadership of the legal team at a time of change for the water industry in the light of regulatory challenges in the UK as well as global issues such as climate change and water scarcity. Celia is also a strong advocate of diversity in the legal profession and has been active in Inspiring Women the charity which seeks to give girls in education more information about the range of career options open to them.

TEAM OF THE YEAR

Bristol City Council, led by Shahzia Daya

Bristol City Council is at the vanguard of environmental work, and has been for several years – even before it was awarded ‘European Green Capital’, a mantle it will assume in 2015. The legal team was widely commended during our research for its leading edge work in support of council projects in areas such as wind turbine, tidal energy and transport.

FINANCE

INDIVIDUAL OF THE YEAR

Tim Hailes, JPMorgan

In the past 12 months, Tim has been responsible for global regulatory reform, following a period of increasing fines, for the financial services giant. The increased pressure on the company since the GFC has raised Tim’s profile to be one of the key drivers of risk reputation in the banking world. Tim has also been a strong advocate for LGBT both within the bank and through the wider legal community, and for seven years was Chairman of the London chapter of PRIDE.

TEAM OF THE YEAR

Credit Suisse, led by Maria Leistner

During the course of our research, Maria Leistner’s team has been widely praised by peers

and private practice lawyers for its ability to deal with all issues in a calm and effective manner, especially at a time when the legal resources of the institution have been under greater pressure and scrutiny. Workplace diversity advocates have also highlighted Maria’s ability to balance work and home life, and the positivity this brings to the entire organisation is seen as a key driver to a better working environment.

HEALTHCARE

INDIVIDUAL OF THE YEAR

Paul Newton, BUPA

Paul has been at BUPA for 17 years, and is widely respected not just for his own capabilities, but also for his management of the wider BUPA legal department (in 2013, *The Legal 500* recognised this, naming BUPA as the winner of the Healthcare team award). With a hefty legal spend, Paul is also adept with cross-border work, with lawyers in 11 locations overseas. He keeps a keen eye on cost, according to external counsel, but is smart enough to look at what value is added, rather than the price, ensuring the best legal service from the premium firms he instructs.

TEAM OF THE YEAR

The Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust, led by Mike O’Connell

There has been a steady increase in healthcare claims in the UK, and this has put the legal departments under increased scrutiny and cost pressures. Our researchers were repeatedly told of the efficiency of this legal service, upheld as a capable and productive manager of claims. Both in-house and private practice peers also heaped plaudits on the team for its sensitive handling of medico-legal matters.

INSURANCE

INDIVIDUAL OF THE YEAR

Robert Robinson, Amlin PLC

After a successful career as trial lawyer in the US and then opening and running Lord Bissell & Brook London office, Robert Robinson



took a change of direction when he stepped into his first in-house role at Liberty Syndicate Management. In 2007 he took on the general counsel role at FTSE 250 insurer Amlin. During the last few years Robinson has overseen a raft of mergers for the insurer and navigated the increased regulatory landscape for financial institutions. Over the past year Robinson has radically reorganized his legal department as a centralized function to drive greater efficiency and cohesion.

TEAM OF THE YEAR

RSA, led by Derek Walsh

With a team of 100 under his management, Derek's role at RSA is a varied and challenging one. He has been at the forefront of reputational issues, an area that many GCs are beginning to have to learn about, and the speed with which modern legal departments have to move at. A successful rights issue in early 2014 has drawn hugely favourable comments from inside the business and from peers in-house. His record on diversity, with 66% of his leadership team female, is to be applauded and 'is something I feel very passionately about'.

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

INDIVIDUAL OF THE YEAR

Galit Gonen, Teva

In the past couple of years, Teva has been under increased pressure from rising litigation cases and costs, including the complex issues resulting from the purchase of Cephalon in 2011. Although the company has taken some hits in recent times, peers are unanimous in congratulating the skillful way that Galit has led the European team through the litigation. She has been working in-house for Teva since 2007 and has been general counsel since 2013, and gained a doctorate on the subject of secondary patents in the pharmaceutical industry in 2009.

TEAM OF THE YEAR

BskyB, led by James Conyers

The BskyB legal team has faced a range of issues in the last few years – some driven by the various acquisitions it has undertaken. On the IP front it has been at the front line of IP developments. In 2013

it won a case against Microsoft over trademark infringement relating to Microsoft's SkyDrive. The six-year legal battle the company faced against pub landlady Karen Murphy over the use of a Greek decoder to show premier league matches was a headline grabber and one that pushed the boundaries of how courts think about IP issues.

LITIGATION

INDIVIDUAL OF THE YEAR

Will Luker, RBS

As head of litigation at RBS, Luker has seen an increase in litigation, due to an increased appetite from the US regulatory authorities and investors to take on the banks in the wake of the GFC. During our research, the bank's efforts to use alternative dispute resolution has been noted by private practice as a smarter option in a period of increasing litigation costs. He has been at RBS for eleven years, and is a member of the legal executive management team.

TEAM OF THE YEAR

ICAP, led by Duncan Wales

UK-based ICAP, the world's largest interdealer broker, attracted much attention when it was charged by the European Commission (EC) with facilitating breaches of European Union (EU) competition law by a cartel, which fixed yen interest rate derivatives. Standing out from a crowd of international banks and brokers that included UBS, Deutsche Bank, RBS, JPMorgan, Citigroup and RP Martin, which admitted wrongdoing in exchange for reduced fines, ICAP boldly rejected the EC's accusations. It continues to argue that it has not breached any applicable EU competition law and is determined to defend itself against these allegations vigorously. Moreover, ICAP is taking the fight to the European Ombudsman; it has complained about EU regulatory prejudice during 2013's financial benchmark rigging probe, the antitrust case that it refused to settle with the EC via an EU Libor accord.

PRIVATE EQUITY

INDIVIDUAL OF THE YEAR

Simon Cresswell, Apax

Simon Cresswell joined European private equity behemoth, Apax in 2010 as its first ever general

counsel. He moved in-house at probably the time of biggest change and consolidation for the private equity industry which was feeling the effects of the global financial crisis which slowed both fund raising and deal making down. His appointment also coincided with most concerted raft of global legislation aimed at the industry post Lehman. Cresswell has won praise from other lawyers in the field for his well thought leadership of the fund manager's legal function. Apax is one of the largest European private equity houses with funds of over £30bn in combined value.

TEAM OF THE YEAR

Actis, led by Paul Owers

Actis emerged from what was the Commonwealth Development Commission (CDC) in 2004. Its remit is to invest responsibly in emerging markets and its portfolio companies span Asia, Africa and Latin America. The legal function in Actis is one of the most established in the community under the leadership of Paul Owers who joined the CDC in 1994. Over the years Paul has gathered together a legal team that sources described to us as one of the 'most solid in the industry'. While contending with the increased raft of legislation that has been a feature of the industry in recent years, the legal team is also a key part of the balancing act that keeps Actis investing profitably but also investing responsibly.

PUBLIC SECTOR

INDIVIDUAL OF THE YEAR

Mark Hynes, Lambeth Council

Our research confirms that Mark Hynes is a towering figure in local government, having worked in the public sector for over 20 years, since leaving Eversheds in 1990. He's been director of governance and democracy at Lambeth Council since 2005, and has overseen great changes in the team – flexible working and IT advances, a reduction in external spend and growth in numbers in-house. But budgetary pressures necessitate a business brain, especially for the beleaguered public sector, and Mark is no stranger to strategic thinking, having attained an MBA and a post-graduate diploma in business excellence. He is also the immediate past president of Lawyers in Local Government; further

evidence of his commitment to sharing best practice among local government legal teams.

TEAM OF THE YEAR

Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council, led by Jill Coule
Jill Coule's team is recognised by commentators for the leadership role it assumed in the formation of the North West Legal Consortium a few years ago, and its ongoing status as lead authority. Under the guiding hand of the council's legal team, the consortium has entered into an innovative, pan-regional procurement framework to meet the external legal needs for a range of public bodies, and plans further collaborative working.

REAL ESTATE

INDIVIDUAL OF THE YEAR

Vivienne King, Crown Estates

With a property portfolio worth around £9bn, the legal work from the estate is highly sought after. Earlier in 2014, the law firm roster was reduced to just two key firms in an attempt to make significant cost savings. Vivienne oversaw a successful pitch process, which came with some specific demands regarding seniority. She has also overseen a shift in the portfolio with the investment into renewable energy projects, including a £350m joint venture with Oxford Properties.

TEAM OF THE YEAR

Tesco, led by Adrian Morris

The decision to give the award to Adrian's team came before the recent revelation from a whistleblower about the quarter of a billion profit overstatement, adding more pressure to the legal department. Our research had previously highlighted the restructuring and strategy of the company's property assets, that the team has been involved in following a difficult few years, especially with the ever-changing nature of retail property.

TAX

INDIVIDUAL OF THE YEAR

Ken Hardman, British American Tobacco

This award is in recognition of Ken Hardman's 20 years as head of tax at BAT. Hardman has been at the forefront of much of the litigation against



HMRC, this year winning at both the Court of Appeal and the CJEU. Ken has been an innovator and leader in the industry - the first to pay an FID (foreign income dividend) and first to reconstruct for EUFT (eligible unrelieved foreign tax). Widely respected by his peers, his retirement will be a loss to the company and the industry.

TEAM OF THE YEAR

Amazon

In the face of increased pressure on corporates to change their tax structure on the basis of media hype, rather than facts or business reasons, Amazon has stood firm. At the forefront of criticism, it has refused to bow down, and is clear on what constitutes avoidance and what constitutes evasion. Amazon's tax team have streamlined and maximised the company's business case.

TECHNOLOGY

INDIVIDUAL OF THE YEAR

Jonathan Pearl, Sony Europe

Jonathan has been singled out by in-house counsel and private practice alike during the course of our research as one of a small number of GCs who truly have a healthy interaction with the board, and is able to talk to just about the legal risks, but also the wider business implications. His team management skills have attracted praise for demanding his lawyers 'spend time on the shopfloor' to get a wider experience of the business (and life), rather than focusing just on the legal issues.

TEAM OF THE YEAR

Yahoo! UK, led by Simon Citron

Yahoo! has been front and centre at ensuring that diversity means more than simple gender or race, but over the past few years has actively pushed the agenda for social mobility, and promoting the options that are available at an in-house level. In an era where private practice has traditionally been seen as the primary starter to a career in law, the in-house team at Yahoo! has been bucking the trend, and also encouraging the notion that legal should be a greater part of the business.

TELECOMS

INDIVIDUAL OF THE YEAR

Edward Smith, O2

Having been in-house for 13 years, Ed is a widely regarded and popular figure within the UK legal community, and he and his team have received numerous accolades over the years. What makes Ed stand apart is his continual demand to move the agenda forward and to empower his team to take on more personal responsibility. His drive for more cost-effective legal solutions while working in partnership with external law firms is widely praised by the firms he works with – in our experience this is extremely rare.

TEAM OF THE YEAR

Liberty Global, led by Jeremy Evans

Liberty Global's legal team has been kept incredibly busy with recent acquisitions of Ziggo and Virgin Media to create the largest international cable operator, and the accompanying regulatory and competition issues that follow it. With a recent £481m investment into ITV, much of the smooth success of the integrations has been laid at the feet of Evans' team, both internally and through its adept management of its law firm roster.

TRANSPORT

INDIVIDUAL OF THE YEAR

Robert Webb, Rolls Royce

Robert has worked for two of Britain's most iconic brands; before joining Rolls-Royce, he was GC at British Airways. During the course of our research, Robert's handling of recent legal cases has attracted universal praise, with instructed firms talking of 'a calm and assured approach to a myriad of complex issues'. Due to our commitment to confidentiality, we can't list them here, but Robert's leadership on this work has made him a worthy winner of this award.

TEAM OF THE YEAR

Network Rail, led by Suzanne Wise

The pressures facing any company operating in the rail transport sector are manifold – upholding health and safety standards, coping with the

vagaries of the season, which can range from leaves on the track to acts of God. Not to mention supporting integration with high profile projects such as HS2. Our research states that Network Rail's legal team has performed admirably in a tough sector, notably restructuring its service to mirror the organisation's own devolution into ten geographical 'Routes'.

BAR AWARD WINNERS

COMMERCIAL LITIGATION

SET OF THE YEAR

4 Stone Buildings

This Chancery set is going from strength to strength in the commercial context, and has been involved in some of the biggest cases of the past few years, including *JSC BTA Bank v Ablyazov*, *Deutsche Bank AG & ors v Unitech Global Ltd*, and *Constantin Medien v Ecclestone & ors*.

SILK OF THE YEAR

Sonia Tolaney QC – 3 Verulam Buildings

Tolaney climbed the commercial litigation rankings in *The Legal 500 UK 2014* edition and also maintains a strong reputation in banking and finance and civil fraud. She successfully defended in *Deutsche Bank v Sebastian Holdings*, one of the largest claims in Commercial Court history.

CRIME

SET OF THE YEAR

25 Bedford Row

Defence specialist 25 Bedford Row has had an exceptional year in terms of the cases members have been involved in, and it also moved up to tier one in *The Legal 500 UK 2014* criminal fraud set rankings. This modern, progressive chambers has some heavyweight silks defending in the most serious and complex of cases and a strong junior arm too.

SILK OF THE YEAR

David Perry QC – 6KBW College Hill

Perry consistently receives outstanding feedback, with many saying he is the best criminal advocate at the Bar. He has been particularly active in Hong Kong recently, and is currently prosecuting Rafael Hui, the former Chief Secretary of Hong Kong, and two of the most prominent land developers in the territory over high-profile bribery allegations.

EMPLOYMENT

SET OF THE YEAR

Littleton Chambers

Long seen as one of the leading employment sets, Littleton Chambers remains very much in the spotlight. It has acquired two highly regarded barristers from Devereux in recent years (Suzanne McKie QC and Mohinderpal Sethi), and the set is also handling a good range of commercial employment work.

SILK OF THE YEAR

Thomas Linden QC – Matrix Chambers

Linden receives positive market feedback year after year. However, 2014 has been a standout year for this top-tier employment silk, thanks in part to the fact he won a three-year battle in the Supreme Court determining that members of LLPs do have the protection of whistleblowing legislation.

EU AND COMPETITION

SET OF THE YEAR

Brick Court Chambers

Members of this Magic Circle set have had a fantastic year, and have been involved in the major cases of recent times including *Sainsbury's v MasterCard and Visa*, and *BMI Healthcare v Competition Commission*. In the EU context, the set continues to handle headline cases relating to high-profile, politically charged international events (Iranian sanctions and the Spanish authorities' hostility to Gibraltar being but two).

SILK OF THE YEAR

Jon Turner QC – Monckton Chambers

In 2014, Jon Turner QC received outstanding market feedback. He was also involved in



one of the most of the high-profile cartel cases of 2013 and in one of the leading competition damages claims in the Competition Appeal Tribunal.

FAMILY AND CHILDREN

SET OF THE YEAR

4 Paper Buildings

This set has been regarded as the leading children set in London for some time, but it never rests on its laurels and has had a great year in both family finance and children law. Multiple members of chambers represented parties involved in the three major children law decisions in the Supreme Court, including the first appeal to the Supreme Court in a Hague Convention case.

SILK OF THE YEAR

Lucy Stone QC – Queen Elizabeth Building (QEB)

Stone maintains a strong international family finance practice, and continues to act in disputes of the utmost complexity. Her 2013 workload included a case in the Hong Kong Court of Appeal.

INSOLVENCY

SET OF THE YEAR

South Square

This insolvency behemoth includes a huge array of talent both at a silk and junior level and is the first port of call for instructing solicitors on the headline cases in the market; as was evidenced by its involvement in four major restructuring and insolvency disputes in the Supreme Court in 2013 (including *Eurosail*).

SILK OF THE YEAR

Richard Snowden QC – Erskine Chambers

Snowden is a fixture in many of the highest-profile cases and since his market-leading work in issues surrounding the Lehman Brothers collapse, he has handled a raft of matters in relation to MF Global – another of the City's largest and most highly publicised insolvencies.

INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION

SET OF THE YEAR

Thirty Nine Essex Street

Building an increasingly strong presence in this area, Thirty Nine Essex Street's offering was bolstered by the high-profile recruitment of Peter Rees QC (the former legal director of Royal Dutch Shell). The set's links with Asia also garner strong praise and its recently opened offices in Singapore and Kuala Lumpur have further strengthened this chambers' commitment to international arbitration.

SILK OF THE YEAR

Duncan Matthews QC – 20 Essex Street

Combining a top-notch litigation practice with a superb and highly versatile arbitration practice, Duncan Matthews QC has recently been involved in several major arbitrations across a range of sectors and regions.

IP, IT AND MEDIA

SET OF THE YEAR

Blackstone Chambers

This set has a long-established leading media and sport practice, but is also strong in telecoms regulatory cases and in recent years the IP practice has also been gaining momentum. It is best known for soft IP work, and its presence in this area was boosted by the recent arrival of Michael Bloch QC from Wilberforce Chambers.

SILK OF THE YEAR

Desmond Browne QC – 5RB

A leader in defamation and privacy related work, Desmond Browne QC recently represented Peter Cruddas in his case against The Times, and obtained a damages award of £180,000 against an offshore website for a Saudi businessman, which was the highest award of libel damages since 2002.

PERSONAL INJURY AND

CLINICAL NEGLIGENCE

SET OF THE YEAR

Crown Office Chambers

This set receives exceptional feedback from solicitors for the personal injury and industrial

disease cases members undertake, and is often a first port of call for this type of work. In addition, chambers' clinical negligence practice has also had a very strong year and its presence in the market here continues to grow.

SILK OF THE YEAR

Andrew Ritchie QC – 9 Gough Square

Ritchie has recently become head of chambers at 9 Gough Square, which has been received extremely positively by solicitors who say his appointment has 'energised' chambers. This, combined with his impressive caseload, was reflected in a promotion to tier one in personal injury in *The Legal 500 UK 2014* edition.

PRIVATE CLIENT: TRUSTS AND PROBATE

SET OF THE YEAR

Serle Court

With increasing strength both at silk and junior level, it is not surprising to find Serle Court active on truly major work such as Alan Boyle QC's continued advice on matters relating to the Madoff fraud.

SILK OF THE YEAR

Francis Barlow QC – Ten Old Square

Head of chambers Francis Barlow QC has built a supreme reputation for handling matters of great complexity and is regularly to be found acting for high-net-worth families both off and onshore. He has recently been particularly active advising families on chattels settlements and intricate variations.

PROJECTS AND ENERGY

SET OF THE YEAR

Keating Chambers

The market-leading construction practice at Keating Chambers is the set's core area, however the energy practice also continues to go from strength to strength, evidenced by an elevation in *The Legal 500 UK 2014* energy set rankings. The set recently gained CEO and director of clerking Declan Redmond from Wilberforce Chambers.

SILK OF THE YEAR

Lionel Persey QC – Quadrant Chambers

Persey is particularly strong in energy sector litigation, and was elevated to tier one in *The Legal 500 UK 2014* energy rankings following another year of truly exceptional solicitor and peer feedback.

PUBLIC LAW

SET OF THE YEAR

Landmark Chambers

Strong at both the silk and junior end, Landmark Chambers' members continue to handle high-profile cases both for claimants and the government. The set's immigration practice is also gaining momentum, evidenced by a promotion in *The Legal 500 UK 2014* immigration set rankings.

SILK OF THE YEAR

Nathalie Lieven QC – Landmark Chambers

With a strong and varied public law practice, Nathalie Lieven QC's recent workload includes a number of Supreme Court cases, such as the challenge brought by local authorities to the decision to proceed with HS2.

REAL ESTATE, ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING

SET OF THE YEAR

FTB

Although FTB is lesser known on the real estate side, the set's environment and planning practices have had an exceptional year, benefiting from a number of recent recruits including Simon Bird QC and Morag Ellis QC from Cornerstone Barristers.

SILK OF THE YEAR

Nicholas Dowding QC – Falcon Chambers

Dowding has established himself as the leading property litigator in the country, and is quite literally in a league of his own. Not only did he maintain his tier one property litigation ranking in *The Legal 500 UK 2014* edition, but he now appears in this tier alone.



TAX

SET OF THE YEAR

Temple Tax Chambers

Members of this specialist tax set continue to handle high-profile cases in the corporate tax and VAT context, and the clerking team also reaps outstanding feedback. The set was bolstered at senior level when David Southern QC was promoted to silk in 2014.

SILK OF THE YEAR

Kevin Prosser QC – Pump Court Tax Chambers

Often a first port of call for complex tax cases, Prosser recently represented Bristol & West in the FTT, securing an important win for the taxpayer against HMRC. He also successfully represented HMRC in its case against Vaccine Research concerning an alleged tax avoidance scheme involving LLP structures, a particularly relevant subject matter in the current climate.

REGIONAL/SCOTTISH

SET OF THE YEAR

No5 Chambers

As winner of the regional set award for the second year running, No5 Chambers has continued to grow and develop its reputation as one of the leading national chambers. It has also led the way in public access work through setting up NoVate Direct Legal Solutions, a not-for-profit standalone company that sources instructions. The set's offices outside its roots in Birmingham (Bristol, Leicester and London) are also going from strength to strength.

SILK OF THE YEAR

Pete Weatherby QC – Garden Court North Chambers

Winning plaudits for his expertise in public law, Pete Weatherby QC is recognised for his involvement in headline matters such as the Hillsborough inquest and the *Vinter & ors v UK* case, where the European Court of Human Rights Grand Chamber considered the legality of whole-life sentences without review.

CLERKING/PRACTICE

MANAGEMENT – UK WIDE

TEAM OF THE YEAR

9 Gough Square

Receiving consistently outstanding feedback for the service it provides, 9 Gough Square is noted by many for its modern approach and some say it has 'the best clerking team in the business'. Director of business development Michael Goodridge reaps particular praise, but also singled out are chief executive Fiona Robb, senior family clerk Gary Farrow and criminal clerk David Landa.

SENIOR CLERK/CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF THE YEAR

John White – Henderson Chambers

Chief clerk John White has been at Henderson Chambers for 40 years this year, and garners exceptional feedback from solicitors who describe him as 'unfailingly helpful and courteous'. He successfully runs a 'very approachable, friendly and flexible' clerks' room, which is continually singled out as being among the most down to earth and pleasant to deal with in London.

LAW FIRM WINNERS

CORPORATE AND COMMERCIAL

FIRM OF THE YEAR

Slaughter and May

Slaughter and May's reputation precedes it in the corporate and commercial arena, with a panoply of FTSE 100 and FTSE 250 clients. 2013 saw the M&A team advising Vodafone on the disposal of its 45% interest in Verizon Wireless, while the competition department's lead role in the multi-jurisdictional merger control processes for Thermo Fisher's acquisition of Life Technologies demonstrated the strength of its international 'best friends' network.



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FIRM (SPECIALISM) OF THE YEAR

Weil, Gotshal & Manges (Private equity: transactions)

Weil, Gotshal & Manges is a perennial fixture on large-scale buyouts, where it acts for an intimidating roster of sponsors and pension funds. In addition to its deal-execution capabilities, the London office brings market-leading strength in finance, fund formation and restructuring, and also links up with its global network, making it a natural choice for high-value, complex cross-border work covering the full fund lifecycle. Of particular note, it advised Advent International and Bain Capital on their acquisition of RBS's remaining interest in WorldPay.

FIRM (REGIONAL) OF THE YEAR

Birketts LLP (East Anglia)

Birketts LLP has firmly established itself a lynchpin of the East Anglian market. Six years ago it made the bold move of opening an office in the highly competitive Cambridge market, and the continued growth of that office and the ongoing recruitment of talented partners are a testament to the success of its regional strategy. Already a go-to brand for some of the biggest regional deals, it is steadily moving into more cross-border transactions such as the acquisition of sports car brand TVR from its former German owners.

CRIME, FRAUD AND LICENSING

FIRM OF THE YEAR

Kingsley Napley LLP

Stephen Parkinson's team hasn't been short of involvement in blockbuster crime cases in the last 12 months. In perhaps the most publicised of those – the politically charged phone-hacking trial at the Old Bailey – the team successfully defended both Rebekah and Charlie Brooks. The team also pulled off the coup of hiring Jo Rickards from DLA Piper.

FIRM (SPECIALISM) OF THE YEAR

Pinsent Masons LLP (Gaming and betting)

Pinsent Masons' gambling and betting team has an impressively diversity of clients throughout the sector, advising some of the most significant names in online and bricks and mortar gambling,

including Rank Group, Aspers and Ladbrokes. The practice is also at the forefront of developments in gambling legislation, playing an active part in forming the regulatory framework in which its clients operate. As one of William Hill's panel law firms, the team has a longstanding record of advising the group on projects and issues arising across all of its business channels.

FIRM (REGIONAL) OF THE YEAR

Bond Dickinson LLP (South West)

Bond Dickinson LLP is a leading firm in the licensing space, where it is renowned for providing high-level advice to a wide range of high-profile multi-site operators across the UK. Demonstrating its national credibility, it handles all of the licensing requirements for Marks and Spencer across Scotland, England and Wales. Other clients include Coral Racing, Ambassador Theatre Group and Association of British Bookmakers.

DISPUTE RESOLUTION

FIRM OF THE YEAR

Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP

Consistently advising on the largest, most complex and high-stakes litigation in the UK market, Freshfields' powerhouse dispute resolution practice draws unanimous praise from clients and peers. Clients instruct the firm when they have issues – frequently with multi-jurisdictional features – that impact significantly on their business and are critical to the future of their industry sectors.

FIRM (SPECIALISM) OF THE YEAR

Simmons & Simmons (Commercial litigation)

Simmons & Simmons's commercial litigation team impressed during our research with its vast resources and scope of specialist sector expertise. Demonstrating the group's ability to handle business-critical commercial disputes that lead to critical judgments, the team acted for Patrick Dear and Reade Griffith in the key Court of Appeal decision, *Dear v Jackson*, which overturned a High Court decision on implied terms.

FIRM (REGIONAL) OF THE YEAR

Stewarts Law LLP (Yorkshire and the Humber)

Stewarts Law is investing in its disputes practice, with new team leader Mo Bhaskaran leading the way to secure new clients in the retail and communications spaces. The firm also leverages its contentious competition strength to conduct impressive high-end cartel actions: Jonathan Sinclair recently represented a slew of FTSE 100 and 250 companies in action against Mastercard regarding interchange fees on payment card transactions.

FINANCE

FIRM OF THE YEAR

Latham & Watkins

Traditionally a heavyweight on the high-yield side, Latham & Watkins has successfully bolstered its banking credentials and is now seen as a leading player on both the bank and bond components of financing deals. Leveraging off a premier practice in the US, as well as being assisted by a number of US-qualified lawyers based in the London office, the firm has benefitted from the recent willingness of borrowers to access the US bond market to provide the shortfall in funding on the bank side. The firm's representation of Goldman Sachs on the private high-yield term loan in connection with BC Partners' acquisition of Springer Science is emblematic of its ability to handle highly complex and bespoke deals.

FIRM (SPECIALISM) OF THE YEAR

Kirkland & Ellis International LLP (High yield)

While familiar names have traditionally dominated the high-yield space, it is widely and openly acknowledged by clients and peers that Kirkland & Ellis has succeeded in building a market-leading presence, particularly as issuer counsel. The team regularly advises on major transactions such as the Trionista's €875m combined notes issue for CVC Capital.

FIRM (REGIONAL) OF THE YEAR

Ward Hadaway (North)

Ward Hadaway's team has a well-established presence in *The Legal 500* and continues to be

at the forefront of the leading deals in the market. It acts for both borrowers and lenders and has advised financial services clients on facilities agreements. The insolvency team has a varied practice representing administrators and trustees in bankruptcy. Barclays Bank and Santander are among the list of prestigious names on its client portfolio.

HUMAN RESOURCES

FIRM OF THE YEAR

CMS

CMS impresses for the breadth of its practice across employment, pensions and share schemes, and further strengthened its practice as a result of its merger with Dundas & Wilson. During the research period, the firm took a leading role on the employment aspects of Royal Mail's IPO; and assisted on setting up an employee share scheme for 150,000 employees, which included advice on employment compliance issues for listed companies and TUPE issues. The firm is well-regarded for its cross-border expertise and works closely with its international network on global mandates.

FIRM (SPECIALISM) OF THE YEAR

Laura Devine Solicitors (Immigration)

Laura Devine Solicitors has an impressively diverse client list, and is able to work seamlessly with its New York office to assist its business clients. The firm has an exceptional array of media clients and is well-regarded for its investor and entrepreneur capability. The boutique firm is at the very top for its human rights, appeals and overstay practice, and recent mandates include advising on indefinite leave to remain and Article 8 cases.

FIRM (REGIONAL) OF THE YEAR

Gordons LLP (Yorkshire and the Humber)

Gordons' pensions team was established only in June 2013 with the move of Terry Saeedi from Eversheds, but is already carrying significant charge. As well as pulling in new clients such as Wm Morrison Supermarkets plc, the team continues to service the sizeable number of existing clients that followed from Eversheds.



INSURANCE

FIRM OF THE YEAR

DLA Piper

It has been a landmark year for DLA Piper, demonstrating the potential of successful lateral hiring. Last year's acquisition of the leading international insurance team at now-defunct Dewey & LeBoeuf is paying enviable dividends, due to well-managed integration into the wider DLA insurance practice. The firm won its first strategic M&A and regulatory instructions for market-leading insurers such as Allianz and Zurich, handling one of the largest UK run-off deals of the year for Zurich. The team also earned panel appointments to the Financial Conduct Authority and Prudential Regulation Authority. On the contentious front, the firm gained impressive new panel memberships, and continues its work as court appointed lead solicitors representing PwC as scheme administrators of BAI and Independent Insurance regarding asbestos-related liability issues in the Supreme Court.

FIRM (SPECIALISM) OF THE YEAR

Baker & McKenzie LLP (Product liability: defendant)

Baker & McKenzie has excelled in product defence work for some time, but came to the fore this year for its global product safety and recall capability. In an increasingly regulated world, big-name multinationals including Sony, Mattel and Hewlett-Packard are turning to the firm to coordinate safety worldwide, where supply chains are more complex than ever. But the firm also competes with the best in product litigation: it is defending CR Bard and Stryker in headline class actions relating to medical devices, currently the hot topic of product litigation in the UK.

FIRM (REGIONAL) OF THE YEAR

Flint Bishop LLP (East Midlands)

A strong year for Ken Dixon's team at Flint Bishop LLP saw it move up to the top tier for professional negligence. The firm stands out among its ranked peers by acting mainly for claimants, as opposed to defendants and insurers. In 2013 the practice

pursued claims on behalf of accountants, business owners and property developers.

PRIVATE CLIENT

FIRM OF THE YEAR

Macfarlanes LLP

Macfarlanes is a byword for quality in the private client sphere, boasting arguably the country's top advisory practice for complex tax issues, headed by Jonathan Condor, as well as Charles Lloyd's truly high-end contentious tax offering. The firm also has an excellent agriculture and estates practice, headed by Tristan Ward.

FIRM (SPECIALISM) OF THE YEAR

Wragge Lawrence Graham & Co LLP (Contentious trusts and probate)

Time and again, Catharine Bell's team at Wragge Lawrence Graham & Co LLP is found on the major international matters. For example, the firm is advising professional trustees in respect of claims relating to the Kingate Funds, which together invested some \$1.7bn into the Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities LLC Ponzi scheme. The firm also has a wide international reach, and recently acted for the Federal Republic of Brazil and the Municipality of São Paulo in complex cross-border trusts litigation.

FIRM (REGIONAL) OF THE YEAR

Charles Russell LLP (South West)

Charles Russell LLP stands out for the breadth and sophistication of its practice, advising on all aspects of UK tax, trust, estate and succession planning, often with an international dimension and usually a large amount of tax at stake. It also has a leading charities practice, handling the full range of matters for charities clients, across property, employment, corporate and commercial, disputes and tax.

PROJECTS, ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

FIRM OF THE YEAR

Norton Rose Fulbright

With top-tier practices across nearly every subcategory, Norton Rose Fulbright's dedication to

the projects and energy sectors, which has seen it merge with major players in the US, Canada and Europe in recent years, is well-known. Standout infrastructure mandates included advising the lenders on the restructuring of one of the largest European PPPs, while in natural resources the firm advised a raft of lender and sponsor-side clients on a range of project financings, M&A transactions and front-end procurement issues. Prominent in both established and emerging markets, the firm also has leading renewable energy and domestic PFI practices, the latter of which has seen it act on the closing of nearly all of the few remaining UK waste-to-energy projects.

FIRM (SPECIALISM) OF THE YEAR

Bracewell & Giuliani (UK) LLP (Oil and gas)

The firm announced its intentions in 2013 with the high-profile lateral hires of two of the most prominent energy lawyers in the market, and has continued this trend since with raids on the oil and gas departments of the both the Magic Circle and the London offices of US firms. Covering all the traditional financing and M&A bases one would expect, the team also has leading practices in reserve-based lending and is playing a prominent role in the nascent UK shale gas industry. With further high-profile hires strengthening the front-end construction and EPC side, the firm has made itself a fully fledged competitor to the main London players in an astonishingly short period of time.

FIRM (REGIONAL) OF THE YEAR

Freeths (West Midlands)

Freeths' full service projects team has seen dramatic year-on-year growth since 2011. Practice head Catherine Burke is particularly experienced in alternative energy, with clients including EGN Projects and Sun Credit, and the practice has handled funding of large scale solar projects.

PUBLIC SECTOR

FIRM OF THE YEAR

Fieldfisher

Fieldfisher is a first-rate name for public law and continues to be instructed on high profile

cases. It enjoys a superlative reputation for its inquest work; it was appointed as solicitors to the Hillsborough Inquest and is assisting the coroner into the inquest of Russian exile Alexander Litvinenko. The firm is instructed in cutting-edge matters for the Human Tissue Authority, and this year advised on living donor transplants. New client wins include the Legal Services Board and The Macur Review.

FIRM (SPECIALISM) OF THE YEAR

Clifford Chance (Public affairs)

Clifford Chances public affairs offering draws on the significant expertise of lawyers both in London and across the firm's European offices. With recent clients including Bank of Scotland and Shell, the firm regularly advises the top end of the market on their most important matters.

FIRM (REGIONAL) OF THE YEAR

Mills & Reeve LLP (East Anglia)

Mills & Reeve LLP is among the market leaders across all aspects of public sector work across East Anglia, acting for universities on education matters, government departments on health matters and London boroughs and district councils on local government issues. Whether it is advising the Department of Health on its review of procurement procedures or local authorities on major construction projects, the strength of the multi-disciplinary team is recognised throughout and beyond the region.

REAL ESTATE

FIRM OF THE YEAR

Nabarro LLP

Nabarro puts real estate firmly at the heart of its practice. In recent years some City competitors have downsized, but Nabarro has grown its capacity to a team of over 30 partners. Recent transactions include acting for an institutional investor on the £1.7bn purchase of the More London estate, one of the UK's largest-ever real estate deals, and advising AXA Real Estate Investment Managers on the £472m acquisition of Ropemaker Place.



FIRM (SPECIALISM) OF THE YEAR **Mishcon de Reya (Commercial property)**

Mishcon de Reya has pursued an ambitious growth strategy in recent years, and is reaping the rewards with an enviable client base which spans institutional investors and entrepreneurs. The team has worked on a number of London's most exciting and high-profile projects, from Capco's £8bn regeneration of Earls Court, including the £117m acquisition of a 50% stake in the Empress State building, to Qatari Diar and Delancey's £557m investment into East Village, the former Olympic village. Investment, retail and hotels are all areas of strength.

FIRM (REGIONAL) OF THE YEAR **Eversheds LLP (West Midlands)**

Eversheds LLPs' highly regarded Birmingham team has made its name through strategic developments in the city, including the Bull Ring, Mailbox and Rotunda. In 2014, it acted on flagship developments of New Street station and the Pallasades shopping centre. It has also been active in preparations for HS2 and the relocation of Coventry City Council's headquarters. The full service team has diverse specialist expertise and includes sector head Gurjit Atwal and department head David Jones, both highly regarded in the market.

TMT

FIRM OF THE YEAR **Bristows LLP**

Bristows stands out for its excellence across a number of practice areas within the TMT sector, advising industry leading clients such as Google, Spotify and British American Tobacco. With high profile hires of digital media and copyright specialist Theo Savvides and IT outsourcing expert Chris Holder, the firm is unbeaten for the level of commitment it has shown to maintaining the strength of its practice.

FIRM (SPECIALISM) OF THE YEAR **Covington & Burling LLP (Data protection)**

Covington & Burling LLP enjoys a strong following from a number of the largest, most well-known international companies that are deeply invested

in personal information, including Microsoft, Facebook and GSK. The practice's core strength lies in the ability to advise clients on relevant privacy and data security rules worldwide, and to help them structure globally valid compliance programs.

FIRM (REGIONAL) OF THE YEAR **Michelmores LLP (South West)**

Michelmores LLP's TMT practice has been going from strength to strength, acting for a range of high-profile clients. Key examples include assisting NHS IQ on a cross-border IP rights commercialisation project and advising British Transport Police in respect of non-performance by Northgate Information Solutions in respect of case and custody software solutions.

TRANSPORT

FIRM OF THE YEAR **Stephenson Harwood**

During the past year, Stephenson Harwood has demonstrated its strong transport practice across rail, shipping and aviation work. Attracting key clients such as Hitachi Rail Europe, Abellio Greater Anglia, National Express, the strong international shipping practice spans a range of matters from high-profile shipbuilding work to major disputes. With key lateral hires, the transport practice is going from strength to strength.

FIRM (SPECIALISM) OF THE YEAR **Ince & Co (Shipping)**

With true in-depth expertise, Ince & Co's shipping department is praised for its international outlook as well as domestic prowess. Its vast experience across disputes, casualties, shipbuilding, finance and regulatory matters attracts headline clients such as Gard, Norwegian Hull Club, Hoegh, Japan P&I Club and MSC.

FIRM (REGIONAL) OF THE YEAR **Shoosmiths LLP (South East)**

Another excellent year for Shoosmiths LLP's transport practice saw Chris McClure's team maintain its tier one aviation ranking in *The Legal 500 UK*. Illustrating the firm's increasing international focus,

the team advised Swiss International Air Lines on the lease of two Airbus aircrafts, a cross-jurisdictional matter that extended beyond the UK to Switzerland, France, Ireland and Canada. On the rail side, the practice acted for Hitachi Rail Europe on the recently completed £2.7bn contract for new trains on the East Coast Main Line.

SCOTLAND **FIRM OF THE YEAR**

Brodies LLP

Brodies has had a stellar year, bolstering its offering across a range of practice areas with high-profile hires and building on its already enviable client roster. The firm's dispute resolution and real estate teams attracted particularly high praise, complementing what is a truly full-service offering.

WALES **FIRM OF THE YEAR**

Blake Morgan's dominance in the health sector continued in 2013, enhanced by the 2014 merger of Morgan Cole and Blake Laphorn. The firm has achieved an enviable balance of public/private sector work in a country where the private sector economy remains sluggish; it benefits from a client base of dynamic Welsh and English businesses.

Strength in depth is its stand out quality; the partners know how business is done in Wales.

NORTHERN IRELAND **FIRM OF THE YEAR**

Carson McDowell

2013 was a headline year for Carson McDowell, which welcomed three highly respected partners from Pinsent Masons Belfast LLP. The firm's national reputation is going from strength to strength, and in an example of the blue-chip work it is winning, it recently acted for Bord Gáis Éireann on the sale of its Irish energy business.

OFFSHORE **FIRM OF THE YEAR**

Carey Olsen

In a strong and competitive market, Carey Olsen maintains a leading position in both Jersey and Guernsey, where it saw further expansion throughout 2013. Sizeable departments allow its partners space to specialise, which sets it apart from smaller players in the Channel Islands. Utilising its established brand reputation, the firm established additional offices in the Cayman Islands and BVI in 2012 and 2013 respectively, cementing its place among the top law firms operating across the offshore world.