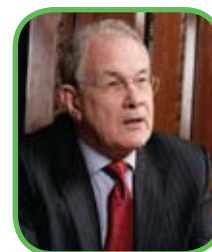




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The Law Society Excellence Awards 2008



Welcome to the Law Society Excellence Awards 2008

I'm absolutely delighted to welcome you to the Law Society Excellence Awards. England and Wales can quite rightly boast the most enterprising, dynamic and diverse legal profession in the world, and tonight is an opportunity to showcase and celebrate the very best of the best in style.

This year saw a record number of entries - from legal executive, barrister, junior lawyer or solicitor of the year to the team nominations in client services, equality and diversity, social responsibility, marketing and business development, practice standards, innovation and exporting legal service. The quality of every single one was outstanding. I know I can speak for all the judges when I say this posed a considerable challenge and I thank them for their excellent job.

On behalf of the whole Law Society I wish to give a special thanks to all our sponsors, who help make this such a special occasion. Finally, thank you all for joining us tonight, and I wish you an enjoyable evening.

Paul Marsh
President, The Law Society

The Law Society Excellence Awards 2008 will be presented by journalist and presenter Kirsty Wark.



The shortlist

Ashurst LLP

Ashurst's Quality of Service auditors provide ongoing assessment of how the business is performing in terms of client perceptions and needs. The team performs a role independent of traditional relationship management and this enables them to undertake searching assessments of what the firm is doing well and how it can develop further to enhance the client experience.

Fox Williams LLP

Fox Williams has identified and acted on ways to deliver enhanced client focused services as a result of feedback obtained from their Culture and Values Project. The firm involves all employees in the initiative. The firm have developed Quality Service Standards for all staff and has introduced its very own Outstanding Client Service Award as two tools to maintain internal focus on excellent client service.

Harkin Lloyd Solicitors

Harkin Lloyd has gone the extra mile to make themselves accessible to some of the most vulnerable members of society. The judges recognised that the firm has developed impressive services such as access to a British Sign Language trained employee and frequent home visit facilities for clients suffering from asbestos-related illnesses.

Jackson Barrett & Gass Solicitors

Jackson Barrett & Gass invested in new e-conveyancing technology that has driven down costs for clients while increasing accessibility to the firm's services. The judges noted that the firm has also invested in improvements for its traditional client base, such as upgraded office facilities for face to face client contact time. The firm seeks out and acts on client feedback to assess and continuously improve its own performance.

London Borough of Brent Legal Team

The team has worked imaginatively to develop an ambitious programme of client care initiatives that deliver benefits to the Council's external and internal clients. Online legislation trackers, legal bulletins and advice notes for councillors make the legal team accessible, whilst online billing information gives internal clients quick and easy access to costs information. These improvements have been made with no direct costs passed on to clients.

Lovells LLP

Lovells have developed an innovative client programme that brings together their knowledge management and legal training teams. This approach has enabled the firm to strengthen relationships with strategic clients as well as giving all clients access to specialist non-legal services. The judges recognised that this value added work is strengthening relationships between the firm and its core client base.

PJH Law Solicitors

PJH Law has a strong emphasis on innovative and value-added services, including a daily employment law "blog", client educational and training facilities, online educational tools and an employment law e-wizard. An annual retainer that allows clients to block-book time at a discounted rate and enables the firm to allocate resources responsively. The firm also conducts extensive client feedback surveys.

Clifford Chance LLP

Clifford Chance's commitment to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) issues encourages an inclusive and integrated culture within the firm and raises awareness nationally and around the world. In 2008 the firm has provided pro bono advice to the International Lesbian and Gay Association, launched an inaugural transatlantic pride art exhibition and promoted diversity issues to clients and the press through involvement with external LGBT organisations.

Eversheds LLP

Eversheds has demonstrated its commitment to the broad spectrum of diversity issues by establishing a multi-faith network group and an LGBT group, actively encouraging disabled students to consider a career in a major law firm, delivering diversity training to partners and managers and providing an e-learning programme on diversity for all staff. These activities are integrated throughout the organisation, with a staff member at each office dedicated to diversity work.

Interlaw Diversity Forum for LGBT Networks

Interlaw is an innovative project established by Daniel Winterfeldt, corporate partner with Simmons & Simmons. The forum is an inter-organisational platform for LGBT networks which involves more than 40 law firms and 30 financial institutions and encourages co-operation and the sharing of experience and best practice. It also provides guidance and support to employers on developing and implementing their diversity and inclusion strategies.

Lovells LLP

Lovells' Widening Access programme works with a variety of organisations to reach people from diverse backgrounds who may be at risk of exclusion from a career in law. This outreach work takes a number of forms including open days for Islamia Girls' School, work experience weeks for the Black Lawyers' Directory Legal Launch programme, open days for sixth form students, and workshops and careers guidance for students at inner city schools.

Pinsent Masons LLP

Pinsent Masons' commitment to equality and diversity has been demonstrated by the creation of dedicated firm-wide groups for women, LGBT and BME staff. The firm is also committed to promoting diversity in its supply chain and continually audits its own diversity data. In recognition of this work, Stonewall has listed the firm as a top employer in its Workplace Equality Index, the only law firm to ever achieve this accolade.

Simmons & Simmons

The London Diversity Committee at Simmons & Simmons works on a series of initiatives designed to encourage an inclusive environment within the firm. A key project for 2008 was the inaugural Diversity and Inclusion Week, where each diversity network within the firm had the opportunity to raise awareness by hosting an event. These events engaged both staff and clients and took the form of film screenings, exhibitions and addresses by guest speakers.

1 Pump Court Chambers

1 Pump Court has demonstrated its commitment to serving the poor and disadvantaged extends beyond its core business of acting for publicly funded individuals. Voluntary activities range from engaging clients in fundraising to provide pre-school facilities for a community in South Africa, to the provision of pro bono advice, to offering free legal training in specialist fields to solicitors, other advisers, campaigners and their client groups.

Addleshaw Goddard

Addleshaw Goddard is to be commended for the ambitious scale of its community investment activity engaging 40 per cent of the firm in a huge range of projects over a single week of the year. The use of a high-profile week to engage staff, linking volunteering with their bonus scheme and engaging clients on projects, demonstrates a genuine commitment to ensuring sustainable community investment is firmly integrated into their business.

Cripps Harries Hall

The judges recognised the development of Cripps Harries Hall's CSR policy as the product of thoughtful staff consultation and engagement resulting in a strong culture of volunteering and community investment activities. One of their initiatives - a literacy programme established at a local school - has yielded significant improvements in the confidence and attainment of over 50 per cent of the pupils during its short trial period.

Eversheds LLP

Eversheds have been selected for both the breadth and depth of their community investment activities, including pro bono, public legal education, non-legal volunteering, training, work placements, fundraising, and gifts in kind. This provides a huge range of opportunities to develop staff, enabling them to contribute to their local communities. It has also produced long term sustainable partnerships for projects which receive year round support.

Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP

As the first firm to produce an independently verified corporate responsibility report covering all their international offices, Freshfields has not only demonstrated a broad and successful range of CSR initiatives, it has also taken a bold step in identifying areas for improvement and setting targets. Their approach demonstrates clear leadership in reporting and transparency and shows that their activity is not cosmetic.



Hopkin Murray Beskine

Hopkin Murray Beskine have developed an innovative shared online diary system which links a network of advice and support providers, ensuring that a client seeking legal advice around domestic violence can also be efficiently referred for support on welfare benefits, immigration, housing and ancillary services. As well as providing for the fullest possible range of client needs, local agencies are supported by improved communications.

Linklaters LLP

Developed with the Citizenship Foundation, Lawyers in Schools provides multiple benefits to the children involved, from an increased understanding about their legal rights and responsibilities to improved reasoning and articulation skills. By making the model available to others within the profession, Linklaters has enabled its impact to extend broadly and secured impressive feedback from teachers, students and volunteers.

Clifford Chance

Clifford Chance's unique long term partnership with Law for All has proved to be highly successful in supporting the efficient delivery of publicly funded services while widening access to justice for those whose legal needs would otherwise be unmet. In addition to offering the expertise of its lawyers on a pro bono basis, other professionals from IT to accounting are also involved in the scheme.

Lovells LLP

Lovells' partnership with leading NGOs to provide pro bono support for victims of human trafficking has been recognised for its innovation and impact securing financial compensation. The judges were also impressed with the sensitive way in which information is obtained without requiring victims to relive their traumatic experiences unnecessarily. The firm is also using its expertise and knowledge to influence public policy and improve the system in the long term.

Queen Mary University

The judges were impressed by the vision of the undergraduates and law department in establishing a free legal advice clinic. A successful partnership developed with local firms has provided an invaluable and sustainable service for a community in an area of high social deprivation. The judges also recognised the innovation of the department's Law in Arts project, established as a direct response to local legal needs, which received impressive feedback from both students and users.

Mamie Richards - St Luke's Advice Service

Mamie has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to pro bono work. By representing those seeking to challenge the refusal of disability benefits at tribunal, she has ensured access to justice and financial support for some of the most vulnerable members of her local community. She also supervises a team of volunteer solicitors and law students to extend support to as many clients as possible.

Ridley & Hall

Ridley & Hall's commitment to pro bono work is evidenced at local, national and international levels. The firm supports regular advice sessions for the elderly at a community advice centre, provides pro bono representation in complex care cases and has been pivotal in establishing a twinning link between the Huddersfield and Ugandan law societies. The inspiration they have provided takes their impact beyond the individuals and families they have helped.

Watson, Farley & Williams

The Competition Law Pro Bono Scheme is a successful collaboration of 38 legal service providers offering free competition law advice for small businesses and individuals. By establishing this innovative national pro bono scheme, Watson Farley & Williams have created a sustainable service for clients and developed a model which is being considered for adoption across the EU.

Birkett Long

Birkett Long's commitment to maintaining and developing standards is highlighted in their dedication to investing in staff and the firm's culture. There is extensive involvement of staff throughout the firm, particularly within their planning processes. The firm's open culture supports the commitment to continual development all levels and has had a range of benefits especially in relation to effective risk management.

Corby Borough Council Legal Services

In 2005 the department identified the need for fundamental changes to develop more effective practices and within a two year period had implemented a range of solutions, including Lexcel. The team has demonstrated its positive and proactive commitment to adopting and developing best practice management for the benefit of their department and organisation.

Fiona Bruce & Co LLP

The Competition Law Pro Bono Scheme is a successful collaboration of 38 legal service providers offering free competition law advice for small businesses and individuals. By establishing this innovative national pro bono scheme, Watson Farley & Williams have created a sustainable service for clients and developed a model which is being considered for adoption across the EU.

Kinsey & Co

This sole practitioner showed a high level of commitment and dedication to best practice, particularly in client service, business continuity and personnel management. Kinsey & Co's implementation of the Lexcel standard supported the firm's business and strategic needs and demonstrates that small practices are in no way limited in either outlook or expectations.

Peters Langsford Davies

Following the merger of two culturally different firms and a Lexcel assessment which highlighted non-compliance, the firm identified a need to change its approach to quality systems. Through the ensuing work the firm has shown its commitment to achieving a high level of practice management standards. Peters Langsford Davies shows a dedication to achieving accreditation and making steps to go beyond what is required.

Staffordshire County Council

Staffordshire County Council has taken a practical approach and implemented best practices appropriate for supporting their unit. It is using Lexcel standards to guide and complement its objectives, making Lexcel highly relevant for the organisation. This results- and objectives-driven approach supports a commitment to provide relevant and effective services.

The Projects Partnership Ltd

This practice showed a commitment to maintaining and developing standards which was particularly evident from the adoption of Lexcel shortly after the firm's inception. The Projects Partnership is utilising Lexcel as a tool to support its business and its objectives with a positive focus, particularly in relation to personnel management.

Kent County Council

KCC Legal, the in-house legal team at Kent County Council, has demonstrated an entrepreneurial spirit by offering consultancy services to other local authority legal departments. This business development has gained 25 per cent of new business from external clients amounting to £1m of additional revenue.

Pannone LLP

Pannone's Connect2Law referrals and support network for law firms across the UK now has around 1,200 member firms providing legal and financial referrals through to their hub firm. As a result, Pannone has generated £3m additional income this year supported with marketing via e-shots, special interest groups meetings, and search engine optimisation work across member firms.

Phillips Solicitors

Phillips Solicitors developed a joint venture with television property developer Sarah Beeny entitled Completing chains. Launched within the tough conveyancing market, this innovative web-based has already received extensive media coverage and has been supported by webinars and collaborative working with estate agents and local suppliers throughout Hampshire, Surrey and London.

Taylor Wessing LLP

Taylor Wessing integrated marketing and business development through the launch of a Global Intellectual Property Index, a statistical comparison of intellectual property protection and enforcement across 22 economies. From initial research through to launch and execution the work is already being used to further develop new business.

Thomas Eggar LLP

To promote the launch its new offices in Southampton, Thomas Eggar developed a strategic campaign entitled Coming soon - ambitious in law, ambitious in life. The campaign featured creative, innovative artwork which took solicitors out from behind their desk to be the faces of the advertisements. The campaign was rolled out across advertising, billboards, direct mail and also across business development initiatives within the firm.

Walker Morris

Walker Morris was quick to recognise the impact of revised chemical manufacturing regulations by developing a niche Chemicals and Lifescience Group to offer clients high value-added services. Promoted via through-the-line marketing activity based on extensive research and strategic alliances with key industry associations, this initiative has created extensive business development with new clients gained across the UK and overseas.

Allen & Overy LLP

Allen & Overy has taken online knowledge sharing technology to a new level with CDS deliverability - a secure online product to help financial institution subscribers determine the likely deliverability of frequently traded obligations. Tailored to the needs of individual clients, the service allows institutions to conserve valuable resources previously directed to ad hoc deliverability analysis, reducing their external legal spend.

Brethertons LLP

In February 2008, Brethertons LLP launched the first online dispute resolution service for the property management industry. The site provides a secure and confidential area for mediation discussions to resolve claims or settle litigation. The website has proved to be very popular and the firm is proud to be using groundbreaking technology to enhance client service.

Eversheds LLP

Eversheds has delivered a single IT global contract management solution for its multi-jurisdictional clients. The Global Accounting Management System provides a single end-to-end service delivery system from matter inception through to billing. It is user-friendly and enables clients to track and manage activity and report to their management while receiving tangible evidence of performance and value-delivery from Eversheds.

Legal Hobbit

Katherine Evans is the sole principal of Legal Hobbit, a unique provider of short-term contract support to in-house legal teams. Formerly an in-house lawyer herself, Ms Evans saw a need for skilled temporary legal support with a commercial and regulatory understanding of international telecommunications, IT and outsourcing. Legal Hobbit offers a number of tailored fee packages for prospective clients and keeps operating costs down by running a virtual office.

Pinsent Masons LLP

HR Network TV is an innovative tool which allows HR professionals to keep pace with developments in employment law via specially produced video content that subscribers can download from a dedicated website which also offers programme summaries and transcripts, materials and a search engine. The team at Pinsent Masons has delivered a cutting-edge service that sets them apart and provides real value for busy clients.

The Law Shop

The Law Shop in Bristol has pioneered a drop-in service for legal information and preliminary advice. Clients who need assistance with simple legal problems and are unable to get prompt assistance from oversubscribed community advice services can take advantage of the flexible pay-as-you-go system, and the success of the venture is demonstrated by the considerable amount of repeat business and word-of-mouth recommendations.

Allen & Overy LLP

Allen & Overy has a sustained commitment to international practice implemented through a physical presence in 18 countries around the world and a turnover of over £1bn, more than half of which was generated outside the United Kingdom. In their last promotion round, more than 70 per cent of new partners came from outside London and over a quarter of these are located in emerging markets in Asia, Central and Eastern Europe and the Middle East.

Aughton Ainsworth

Founded in 2004, Aughton Ainsworth has demonstrated in a short period how a strategic approach to a difficult market like China can pay dividends. The approach the firm has taken to building up a wide range of relationships at home and abroad to support its strategy, together with its approach to staff recruitment which has reinforced key competencies within the firm, demonstrates that size is no barrier to significant growth through emerging markets

Cobbetts LLP

Cobbetts has demonstrated how a law firm's entire business can be impacted by focused effort in export markets. Cobbetts' strategic approach to the expansion of alternative investment market financing and focus on the mining sector has paid great dividends, not only for the firm but also for UK PLC. Underpinning this success has been an emphasis on building solid relationships outside the legal sector, which has in turn helped to market the firm's expertise alongside the wider UK offer.

Lovells LLP

The Sino-Global Legal Alliance is a groundbreaking alliance comprising Lovells and nine Chinese law firms based in key commercial centres in China. This alliance is playing an important role not only in providing a wider legal reach for UK clients in China and enhanced cross-border legal service delivery, but also in spreading the best standards of law firm practice from the UK.



Miller Rosenfalck LLP

Miller Rosenfalck's strategic approach to growing its international business involves seeking out specific market segments interested in geographical jurisdictions in which the firm has dual qualified lawyers. Its contribution to the UK legal sector has been evident in the growth of the firm's European business, the extent to which the firm has served inward investors into the UK market and the quantifiable impact on its turnover.

Trowers and Hamblins

Trowers and Hamblins took a strategic decision to develop a practice in Saudi Arabia and has made a long-term commitment to that decision. As a result, the firm can point to the impact of this decision on its own bottom line (profits from Saudi work have doubled in the last seven years), on British businesses wishing to invest in Saudi Arabia and on the contribution that the firm has made to developing the careers of local lawyers.

Walker Morris

Walker Morris has developed its business in China strategically over the last three years. As a result of its sustained and unwavering approach, the firm has been able to identify eight different ways in which it has benefited from its Chinese experience - many of which go way beyond any direct earnings impact, illustrating the potentially transformative power of taking a strategic approach to export markets.

Craig Budsworth - Glaisyers Solicitors LLP

A specialist in road traffic accidents, Craig is committed to community education in addition to his advice work. Since 2005 Craig has been a member of the training team of the Motor Accident Solicitors Society, a non-profit organisation helping to bring justice to the victims of road accidents.

Michael McGhie - Pannone LLP

Michael's career as a legal executive has spanned a range of work from criminal defence to regulatory matters. In addition to his day job, he has been a regular adviser at the award-winning Bury Law Centre since its inception two years ago. Committed to the highest standards of client service, he derives particular satisfaction from helping vulnerable members of the public obtain the advice and assistance they need.

Jill Read-Brown - Hartnell Chanot & Partners

Jill has dedicated her career to seeking justice for victims of domestic abuse and violence. Her commitment goes above and beyond the call of duty in this difficult area of work and extends beyond the provision of advice and support to tireless campaigning on behalf of abused women to raise public awareness, influence policy development and improve the provision of services for victims.

Peter Walker - Stephens & Son LLP

Peter has had a long and distinguished career as a personal injury practitioner. A linchpin of his organisation, he is well regarded by colleagues and clients alike for his warm nature and friendly, professional approach. His dedication to his clients is commendable and he has demonstrated a willingness to go the extra mile to help clients achieve the best possible outcome.

Donald Winton - Pearl & Co

Donald commenced his career in matrimonial work after his discharge from the RAF in April 1946. Still going strong at 84 years of age, he has worked for a number of distinguished firms throughout his career and is well-respected for his extensive knowledge and helpful attitude. Sincere testimonials from grateful clients demonstrate the impact he has had on their lives and the overall contribution he has made to the profession.



Parosha Chandran - 1 Pump Court Chambers

Parosha is a leading junior barrister in the fields of human rights and human trafficking. She has acted in precedent-setting trafficking-related criminal and immigration cases and works with a number of NGOs providing support to victims of sex trafficking, forced labour and torture as well as delivering lectures and providing training. Her personal commitment and dedication is highly regarded by both clients and the wider community.

Howard Elgot - Parklane Plowden

Howard heads the successful personal injury and clinical negligence team at Parklane Plowden, one of the largest practices in the north. He specialises in complex matters including brain and catastrophic injury claims, as well as industrial disease litigation and is renowned for his client-friendly demeanour and sympathetic attitude. His commitment to his clients goes beyond advocacy to the facilitation of treatment options and rehabilitation.

Richard Lissack QC - Outer Temple Chambers

Richard has had a distinguished career spanning many areas of law, appearing in benchmark cases in the last year ranging from an appeal for an inmate on death row in the US to two landmark cases on cartels and conspiracy. He has driven an ethos within Outer Temple Chambers which treats commercial success and social responsibility with equal seriousness.

Gavin Millar QC - Doughty Street Chambers

Joint head of Doughty Street Chambers and widely recognised as one of the country's leading silks, Gavin has a broad practice encompassing media, discrimination and election law. He has appeared in a number of high profile cases throughout the last year that have significantly developed the law, including matters relating to electoral fraud, race discrimination and media freedom.

Tim Ward - Monckton Chambers

Having acted in more than 30 cases before the European Court of Justice, Tim has developed an EC law practice dealing with cases of exceptional breadth ranging from a dispute over the pension rights of transsexual persons to cross-border corporate tax, competition law and international human rights. He is well-regarded by clients for his enthusiasm, client focus and strategic approach.

Lynne Bradey - Wrigleys Solicitors

Lynne has achieved a national profile as an expert in asset protection for vulnerable individuals after only a few short years of practice. A widely published author and conference speaker on subjects including personal injury trusts, care fees and asset preservation, Lynne is also active in a number of organisations promoting the interests of carers and the elderly and provides extensive pro bono advice for local charities.

Katherine Craig - Christian Khan Solicitors

A dedicated, talented lawyer with a record of developing trusting, productive relationships with clients, Katherine has made a valuable contribution to the actions against the police and public law departments at Christian Khan. In addition to her legal work, she is campaigns to raise awareness of human rights issues through her association with various committees and domestic and international NGOs, as well as acting as a mentor for other young lawyers

Adam Hundt - Pierce Glynn Solicitors

A talented and committed lawyer in the field of refugee rights, in 2008 Adam obtained an important judgment from the High Court relating to the denial of medical treatment to seriously ill former asylum seekers which has had a significant impact on thousands of individuals. His policy work and contribution to charities, training, advocacy and support has been widely recognised, as has his skill with clients in this complex and difficult area of law.

Udo Onwere - Thomas Eggar

Before joining Thomas Eggar LLP in March 2006, Udo Onwere had a twelve-year career as a professional footballer. He has made a significant impression as a trainee not only by introducing many high-profile sporting and media clients to the firm, but also through his confidence, ability to perform under pressure and natural willingness to work within a team environment. He regularly works with young footballers from diverse backgrounds promoting the benefits of education and career planning.

Gulley Shimeld - Lovells LLP

Despite a demanding commercial caseload, Gulley has made an outstanding contribution to the profession through his dedication as a legal adviser to ParalympicsGB. From commercial agreements to intellectual property issues and guidance for athletes, Gulley's contribution has gone above and beyond to include promotion, fundraising and the development of a groundbreaking web portal initiative for athletes with disabilities to encourage increased participation.



Saimo Chahal - Bindmans LLP

Head of the civil liberties and social welfare team at Bindmans, Saimo specialises in mental health and social care law, working on behalf of vulnerable and disadvantaged clients in difficult and often precedent-setting cases, some of which have made national headlines. Hard-working, tenacious and committed, Saimo is widely respected and recognised as a leader in her field.

Chris Fry - Wake Smith Solicitors

A specialist in occupational illnesses, Chris Fry has built a successful practice in only five short years - with four important Court of Appeal challenges this year alone. Working tirelessly both on behalf of his clients and in the interests of the community, he has overcome significant personal challenges and has clearly demonstrated his personal commitment, drive and willingness to make a difference.

Anne-Marie Hutchinson - Dawson Cornwell

Specialising in international family law, Anne-Marie has earned a distinguished reputation working in child abduction and forced marriage cases. In addition to her substantial practice she also advises a number of voluntary organisations on a pro bono basis and is a published academic author and respected lecturer. She was involved in the drafting the Forced Marriage (Civil Remedies) Act which comes into force this year.

Robert Kellock - Kellocks Solicitors

Robert is a criminal defence lawyer, managing a thriving and successful legal aid practice in difficult times. He has demonstrated his passionate commitment to protecting the rights of his vulnerable clients and goes the extra mile in many ways, most notably by keeping a set of dry clothes in the office for one of his homeless clients to use on rainy days.

Nigel Priestley - Ridley & Hall

Nigel Priestley's groundbreaking work in support of carers is widely recognised on a national level and has brought about significant improvements to payments for individual carers. His extensive pro bono commitments range from church advice centre work and charity fundraising to the establishment of a unique twinning scheme with Uganda Law Society, providing legal practice training and materials for solicitors in Uganda.

LCS Award for Excellence in Client Service	Professor Shamit Saggar Chair, Legal Complaints Service
Excellence in Equality & Diversity	Ben Summerskill Chief Executive, Stonewall
Excellence in Social Responsibility - Community Engagement	Stephen Howard Chief Executive, Business in the Community
Excellence in Social Responsibility - Pro Bono	Michael Napier CBE QC Senior Partner, Irwin Mitchell and the Attorney General's Pro Bono Envoy
Excellence in Marketing & Business Development	Alastair Moyes and David Monk Directors, Marketlaw
Lexcel Award for Excellence in Practice Standards	Chris Marston Head of Solicitors' Banking, Lloyds TSB Commercial
Excellence in Pioneering Legal Services	Alan Hodgart Founder and Principal, H4 Partners
Excellence in Exporting Legal Services	Andrew Cahn Chief Executive, UK Trade & Investment
Legal Executive of the Year	Mark Bishop F Inst L Ex President, Institute of Legal Executives
Barrister of the Year	Joshua Rozenberg Legal Editor, The Daily Telegraph
Junior Lawyer of the Year	Katherine Gibson Chair, Law Society Junior Lawyers Division
Solicitor of the Year	Frances Gibb Legal Editor, The Times



The Law Society

The Sponsors

excellence
awards



Mercedes-Benz

Mercedes Benz



BT

Sponsor of the Excellence in Equality & Diversity Award

Equality & Diversity is at the heart of everything we do at BT. Having a diverse workforce enables us to reflect the diversity of our customers, giving us insight to design and deliver the diverse range of communications products and services our customers need in today's global society.

However, having a diverse workforce is just one strand of our effortless inclusion programme. Like most organisations, enabling as many customers as possible to access our products and services is fundamental to business success. We are the first FTSE 100 company to add British Sign Language to our website.

Access to communications is critically important to everyone, as is access to high quality legal representation, which is why BT is delighted to sponsor this award which recognises excellence in this area.



City AM

Sponsor of the Excellence in Social Responsibility Awards

City A.M. is the first newspaper to serve London's affluent financial village. It provides senior business people and decision makers with the latest business news, markets information and analysis of the financial world.

Delivery of the most relevant and up-to-date business and finance news to the reader is core to City A.M., but it also offers daily lifestyle features and shows the lighter side of the City on The Capitalist page.

In less than three years City A.M. can boast a weekly readership of nearly half a million across London and the Home counties. Daily readership of City A.M. in the City and Canary Wharf is 32 per cent. With no other paper above 20 per cent, City A.M. has firmly established itself as the best read paper in London's financial community.



CLS

Sponsor of the LCS Award for Excellence in Client Service

CLS has established the standard in identifying and protecting against Chancel Repair Liability. ChancelCheck® is the only online search that identifies down to tithe district level whether a property lies in a 'risk parish' and includes results for enclosure awards. The simple online system allows conveyancers to comply with law society guidelines of conducting an initial search in conveyancing matters and then considering insurance where a risk has been identified.

ChancelSure® insurance is the market leading chancel repair indemnity product providing in perpetuity terms, with diminution in value cover and a 200% escalator clauses as standard. Successors in title cover also ensures that ChancelSure® is HIP compliant.

ChancelSure® is part of the ConveySure® suite of defective title and legal indemnity products offering market leading cover at best value prices. To purchase any of these products or simply obtain a quote please go to www.clsl.co.uk



DX

Sponsor of the Solicitor of the Year Award

After 30 years, DX is still an integral part of the legal community. Today, over 27,000 members trust the Document Exchange to deliver their important business mail, enjoying the benefits of a superior first class service for less than a second class price.

With post 5 pm collection and pre 9 am delivery as standard, DX delivers mail faster and extends the working day - driving fee earner productivity for law firms. Our 'best in class' ranking for service quality (Postcomm 2007 user survey) proves that DX still provides the same reliable and uninterrupted service as it always has. And with typical savings of 40% compared to Royal Mail, DX provides unbeatable value too.

As a company which places service excellence at the heart of its focus, DX is delighted to be associated with these Awards through its sponsorship of the Solicitor of the Year category.





The Gazette
Sponsor of the Excellence in Marketing
& Business Development Award



The *Law Society Gazette* is delighted to be sponsoring the Excellence in Marketing and Business Development award. As the leading legal weekly, the *Law Society Gazette* leads the way in the marketplace with cutting-edge news coverage, detailed analysis and commentary. For the first time in over a decade, the *Gazette* offers readers and advertisers alike a completely fresh new look, with the introduction of innovative and exciting content.

With expanded news, analysis and commentary, practitioners turn to the *Gazette* first for their legal information needs. From sole practitioners and the high street, to the big national firms and the city, the *Gazette* offers comprehensive coverage of the key issues affecting the entire profession.

Respected throughout the legal world, the *Gazette* offers you a unique opportunity to promote your products and services to solicitors throughout England and Wales.
www.lawgazette.co.uk

ILEX
Sponsor of the Legal Executive of the Year Award



The Institute of Legal Executives (ILEX) is the professional and regulatory body for 24,000 studying and qualified specialist lawyers across England and Wales. We offer a highly cost-effective and accessible route to becoming a lawyer. ILEX is the ideal route to obtain a law qualification for graduates, legal support staff, mature students, those changing career, as well as those with family commitments. Over 80,000 people have chosen ILEX for their qualification.

Our Legal Executive lawyer members are a main point of contact for clients, and run specialist departments in legal firms. They can act as Commissioners for Oaths. With extended rights of audience in civil, criminal and family proceedings, those qualifying as Legal Executive Advocates can represent their clients in the County Court, Family Proceedings Court, Magistrates' Court including the Youth Court, Coroners Court and in most Tribunals. They are able to advise on compromise agreements and are licensed to instruct barristers directly. ILEX is currently also developing a framework for a litigation rights scheme.

Lloyds TSB Commercial
Sponsor of the Lexcel Award for
Excellence in Practice Standards



Lloyds TSB Commercial offers specialist business banking services for solicitors.

A key part of our service is a designated Relationship Manager.

A number of our Relationship Managers have been accredited as Lexcel Consultants. These specialist managers have a real understanding of the legal profession, and practice and finance management. They and their support team have been trained in Solicitors' Accounts Rules.

Our specialists work closely with customers to identify products and services that are right for their business, whether it is helping you to select the best way to manage your finances or designing bespoke loans to match your financial needs and tax considerations.

For more information, please visit www.lloydstsb.com/solicitors or call **0800 587 2379**.

Lloyds TSB Commercial is a trading name of Lloyds TSB Bank plc and Lloyds TSB Scotland plc and serves customers with an annual turnover of up to £15m.

Authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority and signatories to the Banking Codes.

Calls may be monitored or recorded.

Logica
Sponsor of the Barrister of the Year Award



Logica has provided IT support services to the Law Society since 2003 and is proud to sponsor the Barrister of the Year Award at the Law Society Excellence Awards 2008.

Logica is a leading IT and business services company, employing 39,000 people across 36 countries. It provides business consulting, systems integration, and IT and business process outsourcing services. Logica works closely with its customers to release their potential - enabling change that increases their efficiency, accelerates growth and manages risk. It applies its deep industry knowledge, technical excellence and global delivery expertise to help its customers build leadership positions in their markets.

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TFB

Sponsor of the Excellence in Pioneering Legal Services Award

For the past 30 years, TFB have been developing and supplying leading and award winning software and services to the legal profession.



At the core of our product range is Partner for Windows, a comprehensive suite of software solutions which can take the hassle out of a range of case and practice management responsibilities. Developed to work seamlessly alongside Partner for Windows is a constantly evolving range of additional products which enable us to tailor your software to your specific needs.

With nearly 600 clients and 20,000 users across the UK, TFB recognise the importance of good customer relations management and focus a substantial proportion of our resources ensuring that clients receive the highest levels of service.

With recent accolades such as the ILCA Best Software Supplier 2007 and Number One for Ease of Use and Product Satisfaction in the Law Society's Software Solutions Guide 2008, TFB truly understand the needs of a modern legal practice.

UK Trade & Investment

Sponsor of the Excellence in Exporting Legal Services Award

UK Trade & Investment (UKTI) London Trade International Trade Team is delighted to sponsor the new Excellence in Exporting Legal Services category in the Law Society Excellence Awards 2008.



The Excellence in Exporting Legal Services award will go to a law firm that has broken new ground in the export of legal services and integrated this overseas activity into the firm's wider business development plans.

UK Trade & Investment is the Government organisation that helps UK-based companies succeed in international markets. The UKTI London International Trade Team assists businesses from across the capital, and we are delighted to have this opportunity to recognise the highest of achievers from the legal community.

Financial and legal services remain the UK's biggest exports, their net value increasing from £17 billion to £19 billion last year. For further information about UK Trade & Investment and the support available to London's legal firms, please visit www.uktradeinvest.gov.uk

Zurich

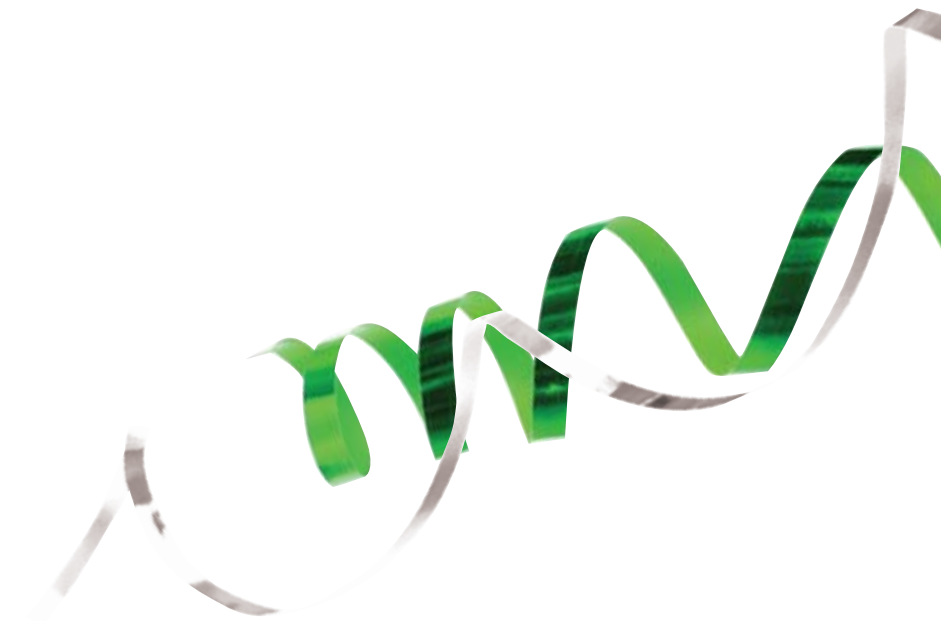
Sponsor of the Junior Lawyer of the Year Award

Zurich has been a leading professional indemnity insurer of solicitors in England and Wales since 2000. We offer professional solutions for law firms, incorporating tailored policies, a first-class claims handling service staffed by experienced professional indemnity solicitors and specialist risk management support.



We place a fundamental emphasis on establishing and maintaining a relationship with our clients based on collaboration and communication. This enables us to respond to the day-to-day challenges faced in running a law firm combined with an understanding of the long-term strategic challenges that are presented by plans for growth, sustainability or diversification.

Zurich was founded in 1872 and today is one of the world's leading insurers. We serve clients in more than 170 countries, insuring the majority of Fortune's Global 100 companies. We are the 3rd largest General Insurer in the UK.





Last year the Law Society began the task of building a modern and responsive representational professional body that offers activities and services which meet the needs of all parts of our membership, financed in a sustainable way.

- We are campaigning vigorously and robustly on behalf of solicitors, speaking for our members on both the national and international stage and leading the debate on often controversial subjects.
- Our new services have been enthusiastically received by solicitors and we continue to reshape and develop a comprehensive package of information, advice, marketing, training and networking support.
- By implementing efficiencies and exploiting new commercial sources of income we have cut the amount of the PC fee income taken by the representational Law Society in 2007/08 by almost 20 per cent over the previous year.

