

Legal league leaders

■ STRONG SHOWING BY LAW FIRMS DESPITE SIGNS RECESSION IS HAVING IMPACT

The top spot in this year's Legal 500 regional heavyweights table is shared by Freeth Cartwright, with offices in Leicester, Nottingham and Derby, along with Nottingham firms Browne Jacobson and Eversheds.

The annual guide described

the firm as "another regional success story" which is recognised beyond the East Midlands, although its property and development could be a stumbling block in the current climate.

Meanwhile, the third tier is shared by Leicester firm Harvey Ingram along with Howes Percival, with offices in Leicester and Northampton, and Nelsons, with offices in Derby, Leicester and Nottingham.

In a stark sign of the economic

times we live in, this year's heavyweights table differs from previous years as it lacks detail on the number of fee earners.

A spokesman for the authors of the guide said the economic climate meant some firms had "not been as forthcoming" about offering up figures on the number of people they employ.

Because the deadline for information was six months ago, the authors believed the threat of job cuts during the recession meant figures might be out of date by time of publication.

Commercial litigation

HIGHLIGHTS for Chris Saul's team at Harvey Ingram include acting for a major defence and aerospace industry client and a £4m dispute over liability for a defective sprinkler system. Peter Jennings adds intellectual property experience.

Geraint Davies at Howes Percival demonstrated the team's credentials last year with instructions from HM Revenue and Customs to recover £10m.

Commercial dispute specialist Mukesh Patel moved from HBJ Gateley Wareing to Freeth Cartwright in 2008, where he adds "incisive intellect and a determined approach", while former Nelsons partner Chris Greenwell has taken his litigation experience to HBJ Gateley Wareing.

Spearing Waite's Jonathan Wheeler settled a £1m partnership drawings dispute in a national law firm, while Ashwin Mody is noted for his "technical expertise and professionalism".



CREDENTIALS: Geraint Davies, of Howes Percival



MOVE: Chris Greenwell

Crime, fraud and licensing

CARTWRIGHT KING is rated "very highly" by peers and partners are seen as "first-rate and buzzing with ideas".

Mark Wilson and Lynn Bleakley handled fraud cases totalling £2bn in 2008, while the crime team, led by Richard Boucher, defends murder, firearms and drugs supply cases.

Also praised are Andrew Brammer, Sundeep Soor and Simon Gelsthorpe.

Experience offered by Stephen Chittenden's team at Smith Partnership ranges from corporate defence on health and safety to local authority, motor and murder defences.

Freeth Cartwright's "dedicated" licensing team, headed by Malcolm Radcliffe processes ap-



CASES: Mark Wilson

plications for clients including Aldi.

Long recognised in the Leicester licensed trade, Frank Whale at Harvey Ingram saw to the licensing of Leicester's Curve theatre in 2008.

Employment

DAVID Potter at Freeth Cartwright has a "first-class" approach, while Harvey Ingram defended a sex discrimination case involving a damages claim of more than £250,000.

HBJ Gateley Wareing's Andrew Macmillan is praised, along with Howes Percival's Paula Bailey and Graham Irons. Nelsons' team has tested "groundbreaking" points in tribunals.

Smith Partnership advised three contractors on an outsourcing deal, while Weightmans advises Leicester County Council and two police forces.

Intellectual property/information technology

THE team at Howes Percival had success in passing off and trade mark infringement actions.

Most of its instructions are on contentious matters, but the team is also active for retail, healthcare and manufacturing clients such as EasyCar.

Simon Bates heads Harvey Ingram's commerce and technology team, which advises clients on IT purchase, licence and software agreements.

Commercial property

SPEARING WAITE dealt with £440m-plus of transactions in 2008.

Freeth Cartwright specialists include Simon Abbott, Richard Osborn and Sophie Philippon-Thomas.

Michael Park's property funding and development practice at HBJ Gateley Wareing is well-respected by fellow lawyers. A major client is ProLogis.

Howes Percival's work ranges from acquisitions for high street retail brands to investment site acquisitions.

James Coningsby leads Nelsons' team, where recent instructions included advice on investment property for pension trustees and charities.

Marrons has been involved in the sale and purchase of land for residential and retail purposes.

TURN TO MORE LEGAL 500 FINDINGS - PAGE 6

A variety of legal services ...

...for all sorts of individual needs.

Wilson Browne LLP has a proven track record of delivering a quality service built around achieving successful outcomes. This is because we treat each of you and your needs as individual. Our Leicester office can offer legal advice on:

- **Conveyancing** - property purchases or sales & HIPs.
- **Private Client** - Wills, inheritance tax, administration of estates, trusts & charities.
- **Family** - divorce, finances, children, adoption & care.
- **Litigation** - commercial and individual clients.
- **Commercial** - a complete service to businesses whatever their size.

Contact us today on 0116 251 7181 or email us at wb.leicester@wilsonbrowne.co.uk.
6 Peacock Lane, Leicester, LE1 5PS
www.wilsonbrowne.co.uk

We are delighted to be recognised by the Legal 500 for our work in personal injury, clinical negligence, family law and in the housing sector. This is a testament to the legal expertise and client service we deliver.

CartwrightKing
SOLICITORS

www.cartwrightking.co.uk

Niche specialists in...
business defence

- FRAUD
- HMRC
- BIS
- OFT
- HEALTH & SAFETY
- ENVIRONMENT AGENCY
- TRADING STANDARDS
- LOCAL AUTHORITIES & PLANNING
- MOTORING LAW
- PROFESSIONAL DISCIPLINE

Leicester (24hrs)
0116 253 9222
advice@cartwrightking.co.uk

Offices in Leicester, Nottingham, Birmingham, Derby & Sheffield

Spearing | Waite
professional personable passionate solicitors

What more could you ask for?

41 Friar Lane, Leicester, LE1 5RB
Tel: 0116 2624 225 | Fax: 0116 2512 009
www.spearingwaite.co.uk | info@spearingwaite.co.uk



Firms leading the way

REVEALED – PEOPLE AND BUSINESSES SETTING THE PACE IN THE LEGAL SECTOR

Personal tax, trusts and probate

HEAD of the private team at **Freeth Cartwright**, Nigel Cullen is overseeing the administration of more than 100 estates and 200 charitable, family and personal injury trusts.

Mark Keeley recently settled a contentious probate case involving an estate of £50m.

Three partners and six associates form **Harvey Ingram's** department in Leicester, handling inheritance tax planning and wealth protection among others.

Richard Grosberg leads **Nelsons'** practice, drafting more than 1,000 wills and dealing with several £1m-plus estates.

Wilson Browne's experienced team offers advice on matters including administration of large estates.

Family

HARVEY INGRAM joins the top tier thanks to the value of its matrimonial work and reputation of Jane Cowley. The firm frequently deals with cases involving offshore assets and agricultural settlements.

Nelsons lost three key players in 2008, including Hilary Freeman, but the firm continues to undertake complex childcare cases nationally and focuses on publicly-funded work.

Smith Partnership's Ruth Jones and Muctar Johal are singled out, as are Jonathan Foster and Swati Somaiya at **Spearing Waite**.

Wilson Browne's seven partners have a childcare focus.

Planning

MARRONS consolidated its position as the leading planning firm in the region and clients include National Grid Property and Barratt Strategic.

Harvey Ingram's Paul Hunt

Banking and finance



PICTURE: 196311

AIM: Managing partner Simon Astill, Stephen Woolfe and deputy managing partner Robert Rose

HBJ GATELEY WAREING becomes one of the three firms offering premium banking advice.

Partners Gareth John and Mark Rutherford specialise in corporate and acquisition finance with

Andy Matthews in property finance.

Managing partner of Harvey Ingram, **Simon Astill**, and partner **Jit Patel** have seen the firm become the only East Midlands firm on the HSBC property fin-

ance panel in the past year, complementing their roles for RBS and Lloyds TSB.

Howes Percival is described as "a regional firm that is comparable to larger London firms for quality of service".

conducted judicial review challenges around the Midlands last year.

Debt recovery

MOVING to the top tier, **Nelsons** has the ability to collect national and international business-to-business debt for more than 450 clients including Credit Suisse.

Clients report a "very high level of service".

Winning five new clients last year, including VW Finance, the team at **HBJ Gateley Wareing** specialises in asset finance and banking litigation, fraud cases

and consumer credit disputes, while **Smith Partnership** has carried out high-volume debt recovery for clients such as Nestor Healthcare.

Insolvency and corporate recovery

CHRIS Radford's team at **HBJ Gateley Wareing** has worked on sales of insolvent businesses from banks and insolvency practitioners such as HSBC and PricewaterhouseCoopers.

Simon Baigent at **Freeth Cartwright** took on the administration of a high-turnover company from BDO London.

Harvey Ingram's Sean Moran recently appointed English administrators over a French company.

At **Nelsons**, Melanie Oswin specialises in property issues, while Ashwin Mody at **Spearing Waite** is "excellent".

Construction

NELSONS advised Leicester Theatre Trust on the funding and construction of Curve.

The firm also acted for developer Westleigh on a £16m housing development.

Personal injury and clinical negligence: Claimant

THE clinical negligence team at **Freeth Cartwright** is headed by Mike Bird.

Corporate and commercial

THE Leicester office of **Freeth Cartwright** was the hub for one of the firm's most complex transactions of 2008, led by Robert Rowley.

David West advised Catapult Venture Managers on two regional investments.

Roy Botterill's team at **Harvey Ingram** continued to assist Vision Express in its expansion through acquisition.

Simon Bates provides advice

to the likes of Caterpillar Inc. The **Howes Percival** team in Leicester, headed by Jit Singh, completed 25 deals in 2008, including acquisitions for long-standing clients Benson Box.

HBJ Gateley Wareing, entering the table this year, saw Gareth John advise new client Dunelm on its £5m acquisition of the Dorma brand.

Spearing Waite appointed Kate Blank as department head.



SUCCESSFUL: Roy Botterill, a partner at Harvey Ingram

The firm is experienced in areas including spinal injury and industrial disease.

An 18-strong personal injury team at **Harvey Ingram** focuses on high-value claims for accidents involving damages in excess of £1m.

Leading individuals are Kathryn Hart, Steven Baylis and Robert Rose.

Wilson Browne has a team of experienced clinical negligence practitioners.

Corporate tax

SPECIALIST tax advice is available at **Howes Percival** from Mike Hollis, following the departure of James Morris.

Health and safety

CARTWRIGHT KING'S "dynam-

ic" partners have secured successes in cases in the construction, care and landlord sectors, among others, and clients note the skills of Andrew Brammer, Lynn Bleakley and Mark Wilson.

Environment

EMMA Tattersdill is an environmental specialist at **Marrons** and assists developers and others on issues such as contaminated land, emissions and nature conservation.

Public sector

WEIGHTMANS acts for several local and police authorities in the East Midlands.

The team's "added-value delivery and strength in depth has proved an asset".

Personal injury and clinical negligence: Defendant

WEIGHTMANS has 11 partners involved in defending claims against employers, the majority of which are volume matters for insurers, large corporates and local authorities.

Gloria Ginvert and Mike Simpson are singled out for expertise. The firm is noted as "a leader in its field" in disease claims.

Freeth Cartwright has "notable success rates" in defence of public liability, industrial disease and fatal accident cases, often for insurers.

Property litigation

HOWES PERCIVAL added new clients such as Wickes and Travis Perkins.

A highlight was succeeding in the Court of Appeal on a city centre development case.

Charities

NEW entry **Freeth Cartwright's** charities group, under Robert Nieri, focuses on mid-sized charities throughout the East Midlands and gained The Woodland Trust as a new



EXPERTISE: Gloria Ginvert

Harvey Ingram's team supports the firm's property and retail groups, acting for several high street names, while **Spearing Waite** acted for landlords, tenants and developers.

client in 2008. **Nelsons** won Home-start UK as a new national client in 2008, which has added to its other clients including the National Space Centre.

Don't just take our word for it...

“... prices are competitive; they provide a professional yet friendly service and are a pleasure to deal with”

The Legal 500, 2009

The Legal 500 has confirmed what we've known all along. In addition to our expert technical knowledge, it is recognised that the partnerships we form with our clients keep them coming back to us.



SMITH PARTNERSHIP
Solicitors

To find out how we can form a great partnership with you, contact Alison Neate on 0116 247 2001 or email alison.neate@smithpartnership.co.uk.

www.smithpartnership.co.uk
14 York Road, Leicester, LE1 5TS
0116 247 2000

theBUSINESS
LEGAL
500

Harvey Ingram LLP
solicitors

Always part
of the solution

T: +44 (0)116 254 5454
www.harveyingram.com

HOWES PERCIVAL LEICESTER. A PERFECT FIT FOR BUSINESS.

CORPORATE AND COMMERCIAL

"Leading individual" Corporate and Commercial partner, Jit Singh, is praised by "appreciative clients who will entrust sensitive and complex matters to him".



Howes Percival is ranked as a number one law firm for corporate and commercial law in Leicestershire.
Contact Jit Singh on 0116 247 3501

Attracting a steady stream of corporate finance transactions, Howes Percival LLP's team in Leicester completed 25 deals in 2008, including acquisitions for longstanding clients Benson Box and Nampak.

DISPUTE RESOLUTION

"Leading individual" Geraint Davies is "recommended" by clients. Davies "demonstrated his team's general commercial litigation credentials last year with substantial instructions from HMRC, and from various public companies on contractual and licence agreements".



Howes Percival is ranked as a number one law firm for dispute resolution in Leicestershire.
Contact Geraint Davies on 0116 247 3506

New clients Wickes and Travis Perkins join the likes of Christian Salvesen Plc and Goldsmiths Group plc.

BANKING AND FINANCE

Banking partner, Keith Gilbert, has "snared a number of banking instructions from London firms and provided a steady stream of advice on refinancing, property financing and revolving credit facilities in a difficult year".



Howes Percival is ranked as a leading law firm for banking and finance legal advice in Leicestershire.
Contact Keith Gilbert on 0116 247 3505

A regional firm that is comparable to larger London firms for quality of service.

EMPLOYMENT

"Talented and knowledgeable" Employment Partner, Paula Bailey, and her team of ten "continue to identify what clients really need and deliver it consistently".



Howes Percival is ranked as a number one law firm for employment law in Leicestershire.
Contact Paula Bailey on 0116 247 3518

The team "provides a prompt and responsive service to a raft of employers. A highlight (last year) was a reported case in which the firm successfully defended a complex disability discrimination matter".

INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY

"Down to earth" IP partner Matt Talbot is praised for his "attentiveness to client needs and commercial awareness".



Howes Percival is ranked as a leading law firm for Intellectual Property law in Leicestershire.
Contact Matthew Talbot on 0116 247 3514

Highly active on contentious matters, the team also undertakes a considerable amount of trade mark application work in the UK, Europe and Worldwide and now handles a very substantial trademark portfolio on behalf of clients locally and indeed worldwide.

REAL ESTATE

Partner John Herd leads the property team at Howes Percival LLP. The team, regarded for its development, construction and retail work, "handled £100m of development and site acquisitions in 2008".



Howes Percival is ranked as a leading law firm for property law in Leicestershire.
Contact John Herd on 0116 247 3521

The team's mandates range from acquisitions, disposals and portfolio management for high street retail brands.