

WINNER

TLT Solicitors

ROBERT BOURNS AND DAVID PESTER

Post-merger success

Almost four years since the merger of Trumps and Lawrence Tucketts, Bristol's TLT has established itself as one of the leading firms in the South West. Improved financial performance, client wins and key lateral hires have helped the firm challenge the traditional hegemony of Osborne Clarke and Burges Salmon. Robert Bourns and David Pester, senior and managing partner respectively, have driven the firm from strength to strength, and 2003 was no exception.

In the financial year to April 2003 the firm reported a 14% increase in turnover to £15.8m, with a downturn-mocking 39% increase in partner profits to £188,000. In addition, TLT was re-appointed to the panels of National Grid Transco, Barclays and First Choice, and picked up new instructions from the likes of Ladbrokes and S&N Retail (part of brewer Scottish & Newcastle). The partnership grew by eight, with five internal promotions and three lateral hires in tax, pensions and social housing.

A keen sector approach since the merger has led TLT to develop considerable expertise in retail and leisure, financial services, construction and TMT. The firm's approach clearly impresses clients.

Peter Fairbairn, company secretary at Avon Rubber, said: 'I find TLT a friendly and proactive firm who are very responsive and keen to provide client support. They're my first port of call for external advice.'

STAR PERFORMERS

DICKINSON DEES

Graham Wright and Neil Braithwaite

It is the progress that Newcastle's Dickinson Dees has made at the national level that impresses. The firm has long been regarded as the leading commercial practice in the North East, but the deal-winning skills of the

progress for this Midlands practice. Despite a corporate bias, acting predominantly for owner-managed businesses, Gateley Wareing has continued to grow turnover – passing £14m at the end of the last financial year.

The firm has also moved into new offices in Birmingham and hired a new team that is focused on PLC work. Gateley Wareing dealmakers remain some of the most talked about in the Midlands and the firm is now established as the alternative to the national practices in the region.

'TLT is a friendly and proactive firm that is very responsive.'

Peter Fairbairn, Avon Rubber

Dickinson Dees partners have not been regionally constrained. PFI is an obvious example of an area where the firm's national profile continues to grow. And as its profile grows so does the quality of the firm's client list – new additions include pharmaceutical giant ICI, Huntsman, developer AWG and The National Trust.

GATELEY WAREING

Michael Ward

It has been a year of significant

M AND A SOLICITORS

Allan Whiteley and Stephen Berry

Since opening in 1999, Cardiff's M and A Solicitors has become one of the leading corporate practices in South Wales. Under Whiteley and Berry, senior and managing partners respectively, the firm has grown around a corporate finance core with key support in such areas as commercial property, employment and public law. The firm's impressive roster of clients includes IQE, Capita Group and Biotrace International. Few practices have come so far in such a short time.

PANNONE & PARTNERS

Joy Kingsley

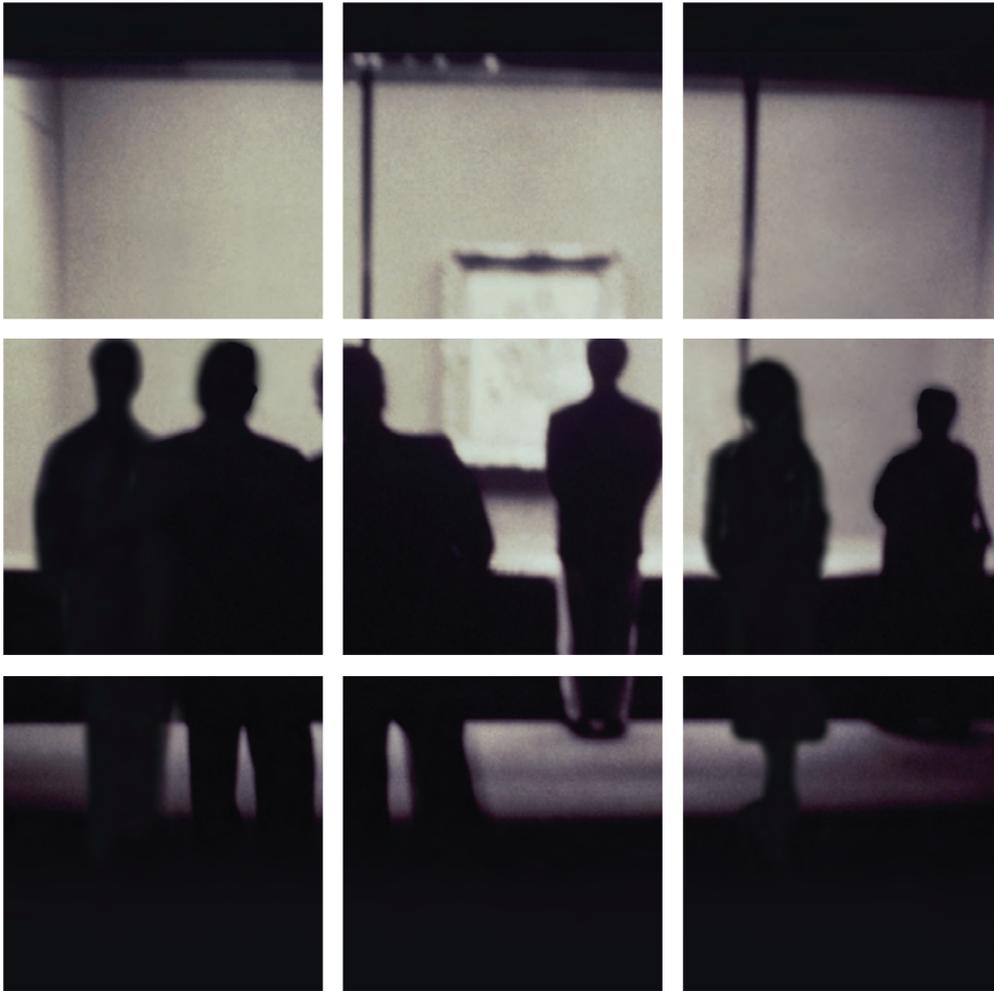
Pannone & Partners has maintained its position at the summit of Manchester's single-site firms with another glorious year.

The firm's strengths have traditionally been in personal injury and clinical negligence. But the consistently improving corporate practice will soon be worrying Pannones' national rivals.

Add the firm's canny recruitment policy, impressive financial growth and managing partner Joy Kingsley's streetwise management style, and it becomes clear that Pannones is a firm to be reckoned with.



Tim Bates (centre right) of Macildowie Bates presents the award for Regional Law Firm of the Year to Robert Bourns (centre left) and David Pester of TLT Solicitors



Be inspired.

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Macildowie Bates would like to congratulate all shortlisted firms and also the overall [winner](#) in this category, [TLT](#).

Dickinson Dees
Gateley Wareing
M and A Solicitors
Pannone & Partners
TLT Solicitors

Newcastle
Birmingham
Cardiff
Manchester
Bristol

Macildowie  Bates
