

WINNER

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom

BRUCE BUCK

Head of Europe

The London office of Skadden Arps has long been recognised for its deal prowess, and 2003 was the year it came of age. The practice is now 75 lawyers strong, and has moved into new offices in Canary Wharf with space for many more. The deals of 2003 put the team firmly on the map, proving that two years of intensive English recruiting have paid off.

On the M&A side, Skadden Arps topped the European M&A league tables for the year – believed to be the first time a US firm has done such a thing. Highlights included work for Sibneft on its ultimately aborted merger with Yukos and advising Roman Abramovich on his purchase of Chelsea FC. Already this year the team is advising the Barclay Brothers on the high-profile bid for Hollinger.

A senior banker at Morgan Stanley said: ‘They have got a very good group of people across the board, and they have been very responsive, very organised and very supportive. They are definitely up there among our strongly preferred list of firms.’

There were countless other successes: advising on the largest

The London office of Skadden Arps came of age in 2003.

equity placing of the year for Enel; on the multi-billion leveraged financing for Seat; and working with Doughty Hanson on its first French acquisition.

STAR PERFORMERS

BINGHAM McCUTCHEM

James Roome and Barry Russell

From being nowhere four years ago, Bingham McCutchen has established a respected English law practice with an incredible market share in its chosen area. English partner James Roome teams up with US-qualified Barry Russell to dominate debt restructurings in Europe, with only Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft as competition.



On behalf of Bruce Buck, partners John Adebijoyi (clutching Jack Dee) and Michael Hatchard (centre right) of Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom collect the award for Best US Law Firm in London from Andrew Caulfield of Caulfield Search

Last year, the London office worked on the restructurings of Vantico, Cordiant and Marconi, and the insolvencies of Energis, Railtrack and TXU Europe.

FRIED, FRANK, HARRIS, SHRIVER & JACOBSON

Robert Mollen

The four-partner London office of Fried Frank completed an incredible run of deals in 2003, made even more impressive by the fact that they were done while the firm was distracted by its bid to merge with Ashurst and create the first merger of equals. The all-American London partnership worked on some of the year’s biggest deals, for clients such as NTL and Goldman Sachs.

HALE AND DORR

Joe Pillman

In 2002, the then Brobeck Hale and Dorr stood by as one of its parent firms disappeared overnight. Lesser firms might have crumbled. Instead the rebranding of the European offices as Hale and Dorr, and a renewed commitment from its Boston single parent, saw the UK practice flourish. There were two senior IP hires that played to Hale and Dorr’s strengths: Mark Haftke from KLegal; and Allen & Overy’s head of IP litigation, Robert Barry. In corporate, the firm advised on the largest main list technology IPO

for three years, the £79.5m listing of Wolfson Microelectronics.

MILBANK, TWEED, HADLEY & McCLOY

Phillip Fletcher

Though 2003 was not the easiest year for a new English M&A team to make an impact, Milbank Tweed burst onto the scene following its January hire of Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer’s Tim Emmerson. Rivals immediately reported the firm’s increased profile in bid situations, most notably for top client Goldman Sachs. Meanwhile, the project finance group worked on the massive Umm Al Nar projec and an IP litigation practice was launched with partner David Perkins, who joined from Clifford Chance.

WILMER CUTLER PICKERING

James Greig

Wilmer Cutler decided that 2003 was the year to take advantage of a down market and really start investing in Europe. It launched an English financial services practice, hired a communications team and finally put in place a UK competition partner. Add that to a remarkable debut in the *Legal Business City 50*, where the firm ranked tenth in London by revenue per partner largely due to Gary Born’s phenomenal arbitration practice, and the office has had one of its best years.

CAULFIELD SEARCH

*The Sponsors, Caulfield Search would like to congratulate
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom
on winning Best US Law Firm in London at the
Legal Business Awards 2004*

Caulfield Search were delighted to sponsor the Best US Firm in London Award, as we act for many of the leading US firms, along with top UK and international firms, in London. We are a specialist headhunting/recruitment business, focusing exclusively on moving lawyers – between law firms, and into banks and corporates.

Andrew Caulfield is a former City lawyer with 15 years' experience gained in practice and then subsequently as a recruiter/headhunter in London. As well as acting for leading US and City firms, our experience over the years encompasses international and UK-national angles as well. Andrew is now joined by additional experienced colleagues as he expands the business, after a successful launch in late 2003.

Caulfield Search is ideally placed to secure the services of top quality lawyers for any type of business, and also to assist lawyers in their individual career planning and job moves.

Please contact Andrew Caulfield in strictest confidence to discuss how we can help:



107-111 Fleet Street,
London EC4A 2AB.

Telephone - 0207 936 9083
Mobile - 07973 285423

andrew@caulfieldsearch.com
www.caulfieldsearch.com