

Private client team of the year

WINNER

LG

Andrew Young

Opening of Dubai office to serve ultra-high-net-worth clientele



(L-R) Caroline Garnham, Anthony Thompson and Glenn Hurstfield of LG accept the award from Julia Whittle of Punter Southall Group

As well as having one of the largest private client teams in London, LG also has an impressively global reach, which is largely focused on the Middle East and Asia, while maintaining its UK capability. Andrew Young's team typically targets ultra-high-net-worth clients, hailed as 'The Billionaire Club', which provided the impetus for opening the new Dubai office in November 2007. From a permanent base in the region, the team is more effectively able to service a client base that features some of the world's wealthiest families, as well as the banks and offshore trustees involved. By applying a 'City firm' working model to private client work across the globe, LG fields a team that is commercially focused but also capable of servicing clients at a personal level.

The firm acts for over 30 international billionaire families, and is particularly capable when it comes to advising on establishing global holding structures. With Dubai increasingly cementing its reputation as a private client hub, LG's new office acts as a platform for the international private client group to handle the international estate, trust, tax and wealth planning requirements of some of the highest-net-worth individuals around.

Unlike much Western wealth, which tends to be held in major companies, Middle Eastern equity is frequently privately held by individuals and families. LG boasts the capability to offer a combined service advising on corporate as well as private wealth issues in some of the most important private client hubs across the globe.

HIGHLY COMMENDED

BERWIN LEIGHTON PAISNER

Martin Paisner; Michael Wistow

With recognised strength in tax and asset structuring, the BLP team was extremely well placed to advise on the fiscal implications of the collapse of Farepak, the now defunct Christmas hamper savings company. The firm acted for Park Group in establishing the Park Prepayments Protection Trust, which represented the interests of the long-suffering Farepak customers. The Trust, which had to be structured to meet approval

high-net-worth individuals from the UK and internationally, the group's forte is landed estates issues. It is experienced in wealth management issues for clients across the globe, and, as well as acting for some of the wealthiest Indian families, ably advises on newly created wealth-related matters.

MANCHES

Jane Craig; Jane Simpson; James Stewart

Manches is well known for its matrimonial experience, having acted on some of the most high-profile big-money divorce cases around. The team, including Jane Simpson, Jane Craig and James Stewart, played an instrumental role in launching the Central London Collaborative Law Forum over the past year. This group, which has attracted praise from divorce practitioners and judicial bodies alike, aims to encourage a collaborative law approach.

WITHERS

Richard Cassell; Alison Paines; John Riches

Charity work has long been a focus for Withers, and its experience providing advice on issues such as tax-efficient giving and the establishment of foundations to not-for-profit organisations deserves particular recognition. The team is also recognised for providing first-class advice on venture philanthropy and socially responsible investment. Having acted for many of the UK's leading charities, including the British Red Cross, Macmillan Cancer Support and the NSPCC, the firm was ideally placed to advise the British Olympic Foundation and the British Olympic Association on the charitable structuring aspects of London's successful 2012 Olympic Games bid.

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from the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, aims to provide protection for customer payments in a tax-efficient manner.

MACFARLANES

John Hornby; Andrew Jackson

Macfarlanes' property department boasts impressive technical know-how, which dovetails nicely with the work handled by the firm's private client group. With an historically strong client base featuring



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