

Private Client Team of the Year

WINNER

BERWIN LEIGHTON PAISNER

Jonathan Kropman

Global expansion and shrewd lateral hires

Berwin Leighton Paisner's large private client practice has continued to go from strength to strength, fast becoming one of this City firm's signature practice areas. The team has expanded by 30% in the last five years, tripling its associate base in the last two. Such is the calibre of the team, the firm has attracted the two of the biggest lateral hires within the private client in recent times: Murray North in 2009 from Clifford Chance and Rupert Ticehurst from Herbert Smith in 2011.

The team is genuinely international: in addition to established capability in the Middle East and Russia, the recent recruitment of Simon Michaels from Baker & McKenzie means BLP has become the first UK law firm to offer private client capability in Singapore.

The firm's long-established reputation in this area, combined with an eye on the future, means the firm has won many plaudits from clients such as Barclays Wealth. A director at UBS in Switzerland points out that the firm is 'way ahead of other leading London firms on investment experience and advice'.

HIGHLY COMMENDED

APPLEBY

John Rimmer

In a successful melding of private client and commercial expertise, this offshore giant's trust lawyers worked with the corporate team to complete Credit Suisse's acquisition of Fortis' Cayman Prime Funds Solutions business. The firm co-ordinated the Cayman and Isle of Man aspects of this major project alongside major global law firms.

LG

Anthony Thompson

Another strong year for the firm's international private capital practice, including setting up a joint venture with the Family Business Advisory Group (FBG) in Dubai. FBG advises ultra-high-net-worth clients in the Middle East on family and corporate governance issues. LG handled the major restructuring of a multi-billionaire family's corporate structure with various underlying existing trust structures involving 122 companies.

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(L-R) Coutts' Mike Anderson with Berwin Leighton Paisner's Jonathan Kropman and Murray North

MILLS & REEVE

Nick Stone

Mills & Reeve took positive steps to ensure the future of its family practice ahead of competition from non-legal players in 2012 by launching a fixed-price service for financial and court procedures (the first UK law firm to do so). The firm has also developed the Family Investment Company legal structure for families with overlapping personal and business interests.

MISHCON DE REYA

James Libson

Private client work has been a cornerstone of Mishcons' recent commercial success, particularly on the back of the launch of Mishcon Private in 2010. Notable public wins in 2011 include successfully representing Victoria Jones, wife of oil technology millionaire Gareth Jones.

SPEECHLY BIRCHAM

John Ward

The firm's commitment to private client work was underlined in 2011 with the opening of offices in Luxembourg and Zurich, while major instructions include helping a Russian billionaire to establish a family office. The firm also advised the UK head of one of the world's largest hedge funds on moving from the UK to Switzerland.

EXCELLENCE PAYS DIVIDENDS.

Congratulations to Berwin Leighton Paisner,
winner of the Private Client Team of the Year Award.
Exceptional effort, well rewarded.

