



The Carlyle Group's legal team with Nick Robbins of Contax

## IN-HOUSE TEAM OF THE YEAR

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### THE CARLYLE GROUP HEATHER MITCHELL

#### A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO THE WIDER BUSINESS

The London-based legal team of The Carlyle Group – a global alternative asset manager with \$195bn of assets under management and one of the largest private equity firms in the world – is comprised of three senior lawyers who work with Carlyle's global GC for investments and managing director, Heather Mitchell.

The London team works alongside colleagues in the US and Asia on Carlyle's various funds across the globe, meaning it is involved in investments that cover the full spectrum of geographies, sectors and deal structures – from primary deals in Africa to high-profile and market-leading auction processes. With each lawyer running

around five deals at any one time, the volume of work handled is highly unusual.

Such an approach has won plaudits from the c-suite. Christopher Finn, managing director and global head of operations in corporate private equity, highlights 'the innovative approach taken by the in-house legal team in London in working closely with and counselling our investment teams, and ultimately our investment committees', something he says has made 'a significant contribution to helping Carlyle find value through investments others have shied from and facilitated the turnaround of underperforming investments.'

#### COMMENDED

##### BT

##### SABINE CHALMERS

BT's legal team has had an exceptionally busy 12 months. A change in leadership came against the backdrop of high-profile projects, including the separation of its network division Openreach into a distinct business and a deal with Sky to sell their channels on each other's platforms. Not to mention the 18,500 claims the litigation team in Sheffield has dealt with over the past year – earning revenue for BT from third parties.

##### DYSON

##### MARTIN BOWEN

Bowen is known to expect his legal team to embrace the same pioneering, innovation-driven Dyson approach to legal

issues that is manifest in the company itself. This can be clearly seen from its work successfully appealing to discuss changes to the EU's proposed legislation on testing and labelling vacuum cleaners' energy performance after spotting a problem in the proposed methodology.

##### MARKERSTUDY GROUP

##### CHRIS PAYNE

An efficiency drive to improve profitability across the business at the end of 2016 led to a 40% reduction of the legal department's budget. To deliver the cost savings, Payne had to oversee a successful overhaul of the legal function through dedicated and consistent implementation of innovative processes, using technology, more effective resource management and efficient work prioritisation. The result was increased

satisfaction of both internal and external stakeholders.

##### RBS EMPLOYMENT

##### ANDY McCONNELL

The 10-strong, Edinburgh-based RBS employment law team faced significant challenges over 2017, where it worked on managing the litigation worldwide as the bank exited many countries and – in a once-in-a-lifetime project – working on one of the biggest TUPE transfers ever within the financial sector as approximately 55,000 employees within RBS will be moved between employing entities in May to comply with ring-fencing legislation.



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