

The
LEGAL
500
JOHN PRITCHARD

The Legal 500 recommends

Forbes

2009 edition

This PDF is an extract of the full recommendations for the firm in the 2009 edition of The UK Legal 500.

The attached pages contain all the recommendations for the firm. This document relates to your firm only, to see how your firm has performed against your peers and our full editorial analysis please go to www.legal500.com or refer to the printed book.

North West**Corporate and commercial**

Corporate and commercial - Elsewhere in the North West

Crime, fraud and licensing

Crime

Dispute resolution

Commercial litigation - Elsewhere in the North West

Human resources

Employment

Insurance

Personal injury - defendant

Private client

Family | Personal tax, trusts and probate

Real estate

Commercial property - Elsewhere in the North West | Property litigation | Social housing

Corporate and commercial - Elsewhere in the North West

Aaron & Partners LLP Chester DWF LLP Preston Forbes Blackburn Gorvins Stockport Kippax Beaumont Lewis Bolton Stephensons Solicitors LLP Wigan	1
Brabners Chaffe Street LLP Preston Corporate Blue Bolton Hill Dickinson LLP Chester Neil Myerson Solicitors Altrincham	2
Lees & Co Naphthens LLP Blackburn Slater Heelis Collier Littler Sale Taylors Blackburn	3

Firms are listed A-Z within tiers

Keith Melling at DWF LLP's Preston office recently acted for Leyland Exports on the acquisition of the share capital of Leyland Bus Parts.

Daniel Milnes heads **Forbes'** broad corporate and commercial practice, which recently advised on the principal sponsorship deal for Blackburn Rovers FC. The team has also assisted with a number of acquisitions and disposals over the past year.

Gorvins regularly assists on corporate sales, purchases and reconstructions. Recent highlights include acting for the shareholders in the £12.5m sale of KDC Contractors Limited to management. The team is led by Paul Lupton and Andrew Curwen, who is *'technically strong'* and *'a good negotiator, with good communication skills'*.

Crime	
BURTON COPELAND LLP Manchester DLA PIPER UK LLP Liverpool, Manchester PANNONE LLP Manchester STEPHENSONS SOLICITORS LLP Manchester, Wigan TUCKERS SOLICITORS Manchester	1
Brian Koffman & Co Manchester Forbes Preston Keoghs LLP Bolton Hill Dickinson LLP Manchester Irwin Mitchell LLP Manchester Olliers Manchester Ralli Solicitors Manchester Russell Jones & Walker Manchester	2
DWF LLP Manchester, Preston Freeclaim Solicitors Manchester Hibberts LLP Nantwich JMW Solicitors LLP Manchester Levys Solicitors Manchester	3

Firms are listed A-Z within tiers

Brian Koffman & Co handles major criminal work, such as serious firearms cases and allegations of attempted murder, and is representing an increasing number of clients facing prosecution under the environmental protection legislation. Brian Koffman is the key individual.

Daniel King is the lead partner at [Forbes](#), where recent highlights include advising in a multi-faceted fraud case involving alleged fraudulent transfers in excess of €90m. The group has experience in regulatory and other business crime cases including corporate manslaughter, health and safety, and environment offences.

Keoghs LLP has expertise in motor crime cases and regulatory prosecutions. The team includes the *'thorough, professional and personable'* Suzanne Drinkwater; Mark Whalley, who has *'a wealth of knowledge in the regulatory risk arena'*; and Ken Young, who demonstrates *'strong interpersonal and negotiation skills'*.

Commercial litigation - Elsewhere in the North West

Aaron & Partners LLP Chester
Brabners Chaffe Street LLP Preston
DTM Legal Chester
Forbes Blackburn
Hill Dickinson LLP Chester
Kippax Beaumont Lewis Bolton
Mason Hayes Sandbach
Maxwell Gillott Lancaster
Taylors Blackburn

1

Keoghs LLP Bolton
Naphthens LLP Preston
Woodcock Bury

2

Firms are listed A-Z within tiers

Stuart Irons joined Brabners Chaffe Street LLP from Pannone LLP in 2008 to lead the practice. He *'has a very calming and practical approach to issues'*; and is described as *"the voice of reason" when you are personally involved in a case'*.

Forbes recently acted at short notice for a defendant subject to a search and seize order involving alleged theft of €20m. Robin Stephens is the lead partner.

DTM Legal LLP is new to the ranking following the arrival of Richard Thomas' team from Walker Smith Way. Its experience includes property disputes, contractual and shareholder disputes, and defamation cases.

Employment

<p>ADDLESHAW GODDARD LLP Manchester BEACHCROFT LLP Manchester DLA PIPER UK LLP Manchester, Liverpool DWF LLP Liverpool, Manchester EVERSHEDS LLP Manchester HALLIWELLS Manchester HAMMONDS LLP Manchester</p>	1
<p>BRABNERS CHAFFE STREET LLP Liverpool, Manchester COBBETTS LLP Manchester HILL DICKINSON LLP Manchester MACE & JONES Liverpool, Manchester PANNONE LLP Manchester PINSENT MASONS LLP Manchester WEIGHTMANS LLP Liverpool</p>	2
<p>Aaron & Partners LLP Chester George Davies Solicitors LLP Manchester Hempsons Manchester Kuit Steinart Levy LLP Manchester Martin & Co Manchester</p>	3
<p>Berg Legal Manchester Berrymans Lace Mawer LLP Liverpool, Manchester Davies Arnold Cooper LLP Manchester Forbes Blackburn, Preston Gorvins Stockport Hibberts LLP Nantwich</p>	<p>Keoghs LLP Bolton Laytons Manchester Lees Lloyd Whitley Liverpool exus Solicitors Manchester SAS Daniels LLP Stockport</p>
<p>Irwin Mitchell LLP Manchester JMW Solicitors LLP Manchester Neil Myerson Solicitors Manchester</p>	<p>Stephensons Solicitors LLP Wigan Taylors Blackburn</p>
<p><small>Firms are listed A-Z within tiers</small></p>	

Davies Arnold Cooper LLP has bolstered its employment offering with the hire of four practitioners since the practice began in 2007. Stephen Robinson's team recently advised a major sports retailer on internal reorganisations, trade union disputes and redundancies.

Forbes assists a number of local authorities, and has also recently handled a race discrimination case. Peter Byrne is the practice head.

Gorvins was recently boosted by the arrival of David Walton, previously head of employment at Myers Lister Price. The practice, which offers 'a personal service and positive approach', regularly acts for employers and is experienced in contentious work. Nigel Crebbin is recommended.

Personal injury - defendant

BEACHCROFT LLP Manchester BERRYMANS LACE MAWER LLP Liverpool, Manchester DWF LLP Liverpool, Manchester HILL DICKINSON LLP Liverpool, Manchester KEOGHS LLP BOLTON WEIGHTMANS LLP Liverpool	1
DLA Piper UK LLP Liverpool, Manchester Davies Arnold Cooper LLP Manchester	2
colemans-ctts LLP Manchester Forbes Blackburn Halliwells Manchester Horwich Cohen Coghlan Manchester Horwich Farrelly Manchester Kennedys Manchester	3

Firms are listed A-Z within tiers

At colemans-ctts LLP, Roger Coleman recently acted for a major insurer in the defence of a claim brought by a brain injured child (C v R). The practice is highly rated by peers.

Forbes' practice head Martin Crabtree has handled claims for Manchester United and Liverpool football clubs, and also assists a number of public sector clients. Recent significant cases include a £1m-plus environmental claim involving nearly 500 claimants. David Yates recently returned to the team after a stint at the firm's Leeds office.

Halliwells' large team is led by Kevin Finnigan, who specialises in severe spinal injury and brain damage cases. Recent client wins include a consortium of police forces comprising Greater Manchester, Merseyside, Lancashire, Staffordshire, North Wales, Cheshire and Cumbria Police.

Family

MACE & JONES Knutsford, Liverpool, Manchester PANNONE LLP Manchester	1
BRABNERS CHAFFE STREET LLP Liverpool HALLIWELLS Liverpool, Manchester LAYTONS Manchester LINDER MYERS Manchester STEPHENSONS SOLICITORS LLP Manchester	2
DWF LLP Manchester, Liverpool Forbes Blackburn Gorvins Stockport Hill Dickinson LLP Liverpool Irwin Mitchell LLP Manchester Lees Lloyd Whitley Chester, Liverpool Mills & Reeve LLP Manchester Morecrofts Solicitors Liverpool	3
Cheesman & Co Liverpool Cullimore Dutton Chester Hague Lambert Manchester	Hibberts LLP Nantwich Kippax Beaumont Lewis Bolton Lees Solicitors LLP Chester
Aaron & Partners LLP Chester George Davies Solicitors LLP Manchester SAS Daniels LLP Stockport	Taylor's Blackburn Walker Smith Way Chester

Firms are listed A-Z within tiers

DWF LLP's James Maguire is highly recommended for both complex financial divorce and matrimonial work, and children work. 'One of the country's leading family solicitors', he is noted for his experience in 'relocation cases involving children into England and out of England'. Recent standout cases include a divorce case involving assets in excess of £120m.

Forbes regularly handles ancillary relief cases, and recently handled a unique care proceedings case involving a Portuguese couple. David Parkinson is the key partner.

Amanda McAlister heads the team at Gorvins. The practice regularly represents police officers facing divorce, and receives instructions from 39 police federations nationwide. The team also handles private children work.

Personal tax, trusts and probate

ADDLESHAW GODDARD LLP Manchester PANNONE LLP Manchester	1
Brabners Chaffe Street LLP Liverpool, Preston Cobbetts LLP Manchester DWF LLP Liverpool, Manchester George Davies Solicitors LLP Manchester Halliwells Manchester, Liverpool Hibberts LLP Nantwich Hill Dickinson LLP Liverpool, Manchester JMW Solicitors LLP Manchester Kuit Steinart Levy LLP Manchester Lane-Smith & Shindler LLP Manchester Mace & Jones Knutsford, Manchester	2
Aaron & Partners LLP Chester Cullimore Dutton Chester Forbes Preston Gorvins Stockport Laytons Manchester Lees Lloyd Whitley Liverpool Morecrofts Solicitors Liverpool SAS Daniels LLP Stockport Stephensons Solicitors LLP Leigh Thompsons Manchester	3
<small>Firms are listed A-Z within tiers</small>	

Mace & Jones' private client team operates from both Manchester and Knutsford. The team has undertaken taken tax planning work for high-net-worth and UK non-domiciled clients. Peter Houghton is the key partner.

Also recommended are: Aaron & Partners LLP, which regularly handles wills and Court of Protection work; Cullimore Dutton, where Helen Davenport is the lead partner in the personal tax team; **Forbes**, where Ian Howard is the partner contact; Gorvins, which has one of the largest private client teams outside of Manchester city centre, with Valerie Bown and her team handling all aspects of personal tax planning; Laytons, which assists clients with trusts, wills, powers of attorney, and CGT issues; Lees Lloyd Whitley, which advises on the range of private client issues; Morecrofts Solicitors, where Alan Emmett is the key contact; sas daniels LLP, where Justine Clowes is the lead partner in the probate team; Stephensons Solicitors LLP, which has recently seen an increase in mental capacity work referred from local authorities; and Thompsons, which handles wills and other matters.

Aaron & Partners LLP regularly handles wills and Court of Protection work.

Commercial property - Elsewhere in the North West

BRABNERS CHAFFE STREET LLP Preston
HILL DICKINSON LLP Chester

1

Aaron & Partners LLP Chester
DWF LLP Preston

2

Forbes Blackburn

GORVINS Stockport
Hibberts LLP Nantwich
Hillyer McKeown Chester
Kippax Beaumont Lewis Bolton
Napthens LLP Preston, Chorley, Blackpool, Blackburn
Neil Myerson Solicitors Altrincham
Slater Heelis Collier Littler Sale
Stephensons Solicitors LLP Wigan, St Helens, Leigh, Bolton
Walker Smith Way Chester

Barnetts Southport
Jobling & Knape Lancaster
Mace & Jones Knutsford
Percy Hughes & Roberts Birkenhead
SAS Daniels LLP Stockport, Macclesfield, Chester, Congleton, Bramhall
Whiteheads Solicitors Limited Chorley

3

Firms are listed A-Z within tiers

Barry Scott joined DWF LLP's Preston office in 2008, having acted for commercial and residential developers for many years.

Forbes maintains a broad and impressive practice, overseen by managing partner John Barker, and partners Tim Hollingsworth and Diana Robertson. It recently acted for BTC Activewear in connection with a new distribution centre in Wednesbury.

Stockport-based Gorvins impresses with its 'speed of response', 'strength in depth' and 'value for money'. In 2008 it advised Kids of Wilmslow on the real estate elements of its £45m MBO. 'Excellent' and 'very professional' managing partner Lorraine Lockie has a strong following amongst SMEs. Landlord and tenant specialist Steven Moyle is also recommended.

Property litigation

COBBETTS LLP Manchester

1

Addleshaw Goddard LLP Manchester

Beachcroft LLP Manchester

DLA Piper UK LLP Manchester

Eversheds LLP Manchester

Halliwells Manchester, Liverpool

Hill Dickinson LLP Liverpool

Mace & Jones Manchester

Pannone LLP Manchester

2

Brabners Chaffe Street LLP Liverpool

DWF LLP Manchester

Forbes Blackburn

Stephensons Solicitors LLP St Helens

3

Firms are listed A-Z within tiers

Social housing

TROWERS & HAMLINS LLP Manchester

1

BERRYMANS LACE MAWER LLP Liverpool

2

BRABNERS CHAFFE STREET LLP Liverpool

COBBETTS LLP Manchester

HOWARTH GOODMAN Manchester, Preston

WEIGHTMANS LLP Liverpool

3

Addleshaw Goddard LLP Manchester

Beachcroft LLP Manchester

DWF LLP Liverpool, Manchester, Preston

DWF LLP Liverpool, Manchester, Preston

Forbes Blackburn

Halliwells Manchester

Pannone LLP Manchester

Whiteheads Solicitors Limited Chorley

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