

The
LEGAL
500
JOHN PRITCHARD

The Legal 500 recommends

Forbes

2010 edition

This PDF is an extract of the full recommendations for the firm in the 2010 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 | Health and safety

Insurance

Personal injury: defendant

Private client

Family | Personal tax, trusts and probate

Public sector

Local government

Real estate

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

Yorkshire and the Humber

Insurance

Personal injury: defendant: Leeds, West Yorkshire

Corporate and commercial: Elsewhere in the North West

Aaron & Partners LLP Chester Brabners Chaffe Street LLP Preston Hill Dickinson LLP Chester	1
Gorvins Stockport Kippax Beaumont Lewis Bolton Naphthens LLP Blackburn Neil Myerson LLP Altrincham	2
Forbes Blackburn SAS Daniels LLP Stockport Slater Heelis Sale Stephensons Solicitors LLP Wigan	3

Firms are listed A-Z within tiers

Neil Myerson LLP has a solid presence in south Manchester. Active clients include Bagus Group plc, OPS LLP and the CSL Group.

Daniel Milnes at Blackburn firm **Forbes** advises clients on a mix of commercial issues, including restructuring, sponsorship, and procurement matters, as well as on corporate deals.

SAS Daniels LLP welcomed Jeremy Orrell from Slater Heelis to head its corporate team. Orrell has already advised on some significant refinancing and share reorganisation deals for his new firm.

Crime	
Burton Copeland LLP Manchester DLA Piper UK LLP Manchester Pannone LLP Manchester Tuckers Solicitors Manchester	1
Burrows Bussin Manchester Hill Dickinson LLP Chester, Liverpool Stephensons Solicitors LLP Manchester, Wigan	2
Farleys Blackburn Forbes Preston Irwin Mitchell LLP Manchester JMW Solicitors LLP Manchester Levys Solicitors Manchester Olliers Manchester Stephen Lickrish & Associates Ltd Manchester Russell Jones & Walker Manchester	3
Brian Koffman & Co Manchester	Tranters Solicitors Manchester
Firms are listed A-Z within tiers	

Longstanding Lancashire firm Farleys is recommended for general crime, with Paul Schofield recommended for business crime and special case work.

In Preston, Daniel King now heads up **Forbes'** business crime unit. The firm also has an experienced general crime team.

Dan Stowers at Irwin Mitchell LLP is currently acting in a £100m-plus fraud case, as well as on other HMRC and MTIC matters.

Commercial litigation: Elsewhere in the North West

Aaron & Partners LLP Chester
Brabners Chaffe Street LLP Preston

Forbes Blackburn

Gorvins Stockport
Hill Dickinson LLP Chester
Kippax Beaumont Lewis Bolton
Neil Myerson LLP Altrincham

1

Hillyer Mckeown Chester
Jolliffe & Co. Solicitors Chester
Keoghs LLP Bolton
Naphthens LLP Preston
Stephensons Solicitors LLP Wigan

2

Firms are listed A-Z within tiers

Stuart Irons joined Brabners Chaffe Street LLP as practice head from Pannone LLP. He is known for commercial contract disputes, particularly relating to liquid petroleum gas, and property.

A popular choice north of Manchester is **Forbes**, headed by Robin Stephens. The team handles general contractual litigation, including insolvency-related matters.

Gorvins is highly recommended by clients; *'service delivery is excellent: very commercial and cost effective'*. Michael Morris is recommended for consumer credit matters.

Employment

Addleshaw Goddard LLP Manchester Beachcroft LLP Manchester DLA Piper UK LLP Manchester, Liverpool Eversheds LLP Manchester	1
Brabners Chaffe Street LLP Liverpool, Manchester DWF LLP Liverpool, Manchester Halliwells Manchester Hammonds LLP Manchester Hill Dickinson LLP Manchester	2
Cobbetts LLP Manchester Mace & Jones Liverpool, Manchester Pannone LLP Manchester Pinsent Masons LLP Manchester Weightmans LLP Liverpool	3
Aaron & Partners LLP Chester Berg Legal Manchester George Davies Solicitors LLP Manchester Hempsons Manchester	Irwin Mitchell LLP Manchester Kippax Beaumont Lewis Bolton SAS Daniels LLP Stockport
Berrymans Lace Mawer LLP Liverpool, Manchester Forbes Blackburn, Preston Freeth Cartwright LLP Manchester Gorvins Stockport Hillyer McKeown Chester JMW Solicitors LLP Manchester Kuit Steinart Levy LLP Manchester	Laytons Manchester Martin & Co Manchester Neil Myerson LLP Manchester Nexus Solicitors Manchester Stephensons Solicitors LLP Wigan Stripes Solicitors Manchester Trowers & Hamblins LLP Manchester
Firms are listed A-Z within tiers	

SAS Daniels LLP impresses at all levels; leadership comes from the *'straight-talking'* Jonathan Whittaker, whose clients include Asda and who is *'outstanding in his judgement'*. John Cook is *'excellent'*. Louise Tobin joined with a team from Slater Heelis, bringing good local authority contacts.

Also recommended are: the experienced Michael Parr at Berrymans Lace Mawer LLP; Peter Byrne at **Forbes**; Patricia Jones at Freeth Cartwright LLP; David Walton at Gorvins; the *'excellent'* Lindsey Kidd at Hillyer McKeown; Lindsey Bell at JMW Solicitors LLP (*'exact, confident, articulate, and professional'*); Sally Bird at Kuit Steinart Levy LLP; Keith Corkan and Michelle Gray at Laytons – noted for their *'very professional service'*; John Martin at Martin & Co, although Andrew O'Neill has left to establish a new firm; Joanne Evans at Neil Myerson LLP (*'timely and practical'*); Carl Moran at Nexus Solicitors (*'excellent'; 'advice has been spot on'*); Phil Richardson at Stephensons Solicitors LLP; Paul Harris-Stelfox and Dan Rubin at Stripes Solicitors; and Helen Cookson at Trowers & Hamblins LLP, for housing trust work.

Peter Byrne is recommended at Forbes.

Health and safety

Addleshaw Goddard LLP Manchester DWF LLP Manchester Halliwells Manchester	1
Hammonds LLP Manchester Hill Dickinson LLP Chester, Liverpool Osborn Abas Manchester	2
Beachcroft LLP Manchester Berrymans Lace Mawer LLP Manchester DLA Piper UK LLP Manchester Forbes Blackburn Keoghs LLP Bolton Pannone LLP Manchester Weightmans LLP Liverpool	3

Firms are listed A-Z within tiers

'One of the leading lawyers in her field', Madeleine Abas' niche firm Osborn Abas continues to gain ground. It has attracted instructions from construction giants such as Amec and Balfour Beatty, and was recently appointed to advise Crossrail. The firm is praised for its professionalism.

Firms with strong defendant litigation in the region have good depth in respect of health and safety work. Particularly recommended are Iain Moore at Beachcroft LLP; Andrew Relton at Berrymans Lace Mawer LLP; Paul Geldard at **Forbes**; the 'very competent' David Walton at Keoghs LLP; and David Lewis at Weightmans LLP.

Regulatory expert Richard Smyth at DLA Piper UK LLP is recommended.

Personal injury: defendant

Beachcroft LLP Manchester	1
Berrymans Lace Mawer LLP Liverpool, Manchester	
DWF LLP Liverpool, Manchester	
Halliwells Manchester	
Hill Dickinson LLP Liverpool, Manchester	
Keoghs LLP Bolton	
Weightmans LLP Liverpool	
Forbes Blackburn	2
Barlow Lyde & Gilbert LLP Manchester	3
Davies Arnold Cooper LLP Manchester	
Horwich Farrelly Manchester	
Kennedys Manchester	
Plexus Law LLP Manchester	
<small>Firms are listed A-Z within tiers</small>	

Weightmans LLP is another standout defendant firm with a longstanding reputation, particularly for its work for local authorities and the police. Of note in 2009 was a case led by Roddy Macleod, who successfully defended Darlington BC against the claim of a 15-year-old boy left tetraplegic after falling from a tree. David Holt is known for his work for the MIB.

Forbes is *'outstanding, a leader in its field'*; it specialises in local authority work (acting for some 52 authorities), with a team led by the *'vastly experienced'* Martin Crabtree. Zurich is also a client. David Pickford and Elizabeth Bower were promoted to partner.

Also recommended are: Barlow Lyde & Gilbert LLP, which opened its Manchester office in September 2009, recruiting former DLA Piper UK LLP partners Robert Mutton and Mark Hemsted; Davies Arnold Cooper LLP; Horwich Farrelly, which has a popular costs service headed by Nicola Critchley; Kennedys; and Plexus Law LLP, which opened a Manchester office in 2010 and has recruited Tim Short, Chris Gough, and Louise Shawe from Halliwells.

Family

DWF LLP Manchester, Liverpool Mace & Jones Knutsford, Liverpool, Manchester Pannone LLP Manchester	1
Brabners Chaffe Street LLP Liverpool Halliwells Liverpool, Manchester Hill Dickinson LLP Liverpool Laytons Manchester Linder Myers Manchester Mills & Reeve LLP Manchester Stephensons Solicitors LLP Manchester	2
Forbes Blackburn Gorvins Stockport Irwin Mitchell LLP Manchester Morecrofts LLP Liverpool Stowe Family Law LLP Altincham	3
Cullimore Dutton Chester Hague Lambert Manchester	Kippax Beaumont Lewis Bolton SAS Daniels LLP Stockport
Aaron & Partners LLP Chester George Davies Solicitors LLP Manchester	JMW Solicitors LLP Manchester Slater Heelis Sale
<small>Firms are listed A-Z within tiers</small>	

While Stephensons Solicitors LLP carries out some high-asset divorce and separation work, its notable feature is its commitment to legal aid work. The childcare team is headed by Andrew Mountain.

David Parkinson's team at **Forbes** advises clients across the north of the region, on assets and complex children issues.

The team at Gorvins is committed to constructive negotiation as promoted by Resolution and collaborative law. The firm specialises in family law advice to police officers.

Personal tax, trusts and probate

Addleshaw Goddard LLP Manchester Brabners Chaffe Street LLP Liverpool, Preston Hill Dickinson LLP Liverpool, Manchester	1
Aaron & Partners LLP Chester DWF LLP Liverpool, Manchester George Davies Solicitors LLP Manchester JMW Solicitors LLP Manchester Kuit Steinart Levy LLP Manchester Lane-Smith & Shindler LLP Manchester Mace & Jones Knutsford, Manchester Pannone LLP Manchester	2
Gorvins Stockport Halliwells Manchester, Liverpool Laytons Manchester Mills & Reeve LLP Manchester SAS Daniels LLP Macclesfield Stephensons Solicitors LLP Leigh	3
Cullimore Dutton Chester Forbes Preston	Hibberts LLP Nantwich Lawson Coppock & Hart Manchester
<small>Firms are listed A-Z within tiers</small>	

At Stephensons Solicitors LLP, Olwen Williams is a Deputy and looks after awards for a number of personal injury clients. The practice has seen growth in mental incapacity work, referred by local authorities.

Also recommended are: Helen Davenport at Cullimore Dutton; Ian Howard at **Forbes**; David Young at Hibberts LLP; and Paul Lochery at Lawson Coppock & Hart.

Local government

Addleshaw Goddard LLP Manchester Eversheds LLP Manchester	1
Cobbetts LLP Manchester DLA Piper UK LLP Liverpool, Manchester Weightmans LLP Liverpool	2
Beachcroft LLP Manchester Hammonds LLP Manchester Pinsent Masons LLP Manchester	3
Aaron & Partners LLP Chester Berrymans Lace Mawer LLP Liverpool, Manchester Forbes Blackburn	Hill Dickinson LLP Liverpool Pannone LLP Manchester Stephensons Solicitors LLP Manchester

Firms are listed A-Z within tiers

The *'competent and professional'* Celia Cullen heads government services at Pinsent Masons LLP, recently carrying out significant work for Bolton and for Sutton Councils.

Also recommended are: Aaron & Partners LLP, for real estate and planning/environment; Berrymans Lace Mawer LLP, for local authority and police litigation; **Forbes**, for employment and litigation; Hill Dickinson LLP, for regeneration and employment; Pannone LLP, for real estate; and Stephensons Solicitors LLP, for childcare work for local authorities.

Berrymans Lace Mawer LLP is recommended for local authority and police litigation. Forbes is recommended for employment and litigation.

Commercial property: Elsewhere in the North West

Brabners Chaffe Street LLP Preston Hill Dickinson LLP Chester	1
Aaron & Partners LLP Chester Forbes Blackburn Gorvins Stockport Hibberts LLP Nantwich	2
Hillyer McKeown Chester Kippax Beaumont Lewis Bolton Naphthens LLP Preston, Chorley, Blackpool, Blackburn Neil Myerson LLP Altrincham Slater Heelis Sale Stephensons Solicitors LLP Wigan, St Helens, Leigh, Bolt... Walker Smith Way Chester	3
Jobling & Knape Lancaster	SAS Daniels LLP Congleton, Macclesfield, Stockport
<small>Firms are listed A-Z within tiers</small>	

Development specialist Colin Rowe is making his mark at Aaron & Partners LLP, advising on regeneration projects in Liverpool and Manchester. The Chester team, headed by Richard Forrester, acts for Dwr Cymru/Welsh Water.

Forbes has a good reputation in the region. The property team is headed by Tim Hollingsworth, and carries out substantial work for a varied client base of funders, developers and RSLs.

Gorvins is another popular choice locally. Steven Moyle is recommended for landlord and tenant work. Clients include expanding regional entities such as Kids of Wilmslow along with banks and developers.

Property litigation

Addleshaw Goddard LLP Manchester Beachcroft LLP Manchester Cobbetts LLP Manchester DLA Piper UK LLP Manchester Eversheds LLP Manchester Hill Dickinson LLP Liverpool	1
Brabners Chaffe Street LLP Manchester DWF LLP Manchester Halliwells Manchester Pannone LLP Manchester	2
Aaron & Partners LLP Chester Forbes Blackburn Hammonds LLP Manchester Mace & Jones Manchester Nexus Solicitors Manchester	3

Firms are listed A-Z within tiers

Kate Hamilton Ryan at Pannone LLP advised Piccadilly Gateway on obtaining vacant possession of Gateway House, and also provides corporate support.

Also recommended are: Richard Forrester and John DeVoy at Aaron & Partners LLP; Robin Stephens at **Forbes**; Hammonds LLP 'property @ction' team, under 'responsive and direct' senior associate Helen Hoath, which acts for large corporates such as Michael Page, and the Stobart Group; Simon Murphy at Mace & Jones; and retail specialist Debbie Illsley at Nexus Solicitors.

Robin Stephens is recommended at Forbes.

Social housing

Brabners Chaffe Street LLP Liverpool Trowers & Hamlins LLP Manchester	1
Berrymans Lace Mawer LLP Liverpool Cobbetts LLP Manchester Howarth Goodman Manchester, Preston Weightmans LLP Liverpool	2
Eversheds LLP Manchester Forbes Preston Hill Dickinson LLP Liverpool Mace & Jones Manchester Platt Halpern Solicitors Rusholme Stephensons Solicitors LLP Manchester	3

Firms are listed A-Z within tiers

Eversheds LLP has a good RSL client list; the practice is focused on the planning stage of regeneration/redevelopment projects.

Stuart Penswick at **Forbes** made partner in 2009. The firm provides 'good value for money', and will 'go the extra mile to deliver an effective service'.

Hill Dickinson LLP advises a number of RSLs on site acquisitions and development.

Personal injury: defendant: Leeds, West Yorkshire

Beachcroft LLP Leeds	1
Berrymans Lace Mawer LLP Leeds DWF LLP Leeds Ford & Warren Leeds Gordons LLP Bradford Plexus Law LLP Leeds	2
Cobbetts LLP Leeds Forbes Leeds Levi Solicitors LLP Leeds Walker Morris Leeds	3

Firms are listed A-Z within tiers

Cobbetts LLP's Stephen Green handles personal injury defence as part of the firm's wider commercial litigation department.

Siobhan Hardy at **Forbes** specialises in disease work, and represents a number of insurers.

Levi Solicitors LLP has defended numerous £1m-plus claims relating to catastrophic brain injuries.