

Insurance Team of the Year

WINNER

RPC

Stuart White

White predicts a riot

Stuart White's RPC team ably demonstrated its commercial nous in providing crucial advice to the insurance industry in the wake of the summer riots, which began in Tottenham in early August last year and spread throughout Britain. When the riots kicked off in London, White was on holiday. It wasn't until he returned on 8 August and tuned into the *Today* programme that he was prompted to think of the Riot (Damages) Act (RDA) for the first time since the disturbances at Yarl's Wood in 2002. He realised that the potential exposure to insurers was massive – given insurance for riot damage is standard cover – so the response from insurance industry advisers needed to be prompt and clear. As such, RPC became the first firm to issue advice on the riots and led the way from then on.

Work included drafting new government-approved forms to be used for insurance-related riot compensation claims, after pointing out flaws in the form produced immediately in the aftermath of the riots. Its work means that many insurers have instructed RPC to vet all their claims relating to the RDA and the Association of British Insurers also invited White's team to help co-ordinate what happens next.

HIGHLY COMMENDED

CLYDE & CO

James Burns; Simon Konsta

Clyde & Co turned the insurance legal market on its head by securing a game-changing merger with Barlow Lyde & Gilbert in 2011 to form an insurance powerhouse. The creation of the largest UK insurance firm, with combined revenues of £307m, will put additional pressure on rivals in what was already a fiercely contested market.

DAC BEACHCROFT

David Pollitt

Not to be outdone by the union of Barlow Lyde & Gilbert and Clyde & Co, a clearly beneficial merger between insurance stalwarts DAC and Beachcroft in 2011 has helped to rewrite the rulebook in a highly competitive market. The £175m union offers each firm more bench strength in largely complementary insurance services.

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(L-R) RPC's Stuart White and Catherine Percy, with Martin Ellis, director of Prime Risk Solutions

EVERSHEDS

Simon Brooks

Eversheds' team stood out when advising new client Bank of America in setting up, from scratch, a cross-border intermediation facility for the marketing of corporate credit card risks in 27 European countries. A tight time frame and a host of complex regulatory hurdles meant that the firm's advice had to be both decisive and innovative.

NORTON ROSE

Ashley Prebble

Another remarkable year for Norton Rose saw Prebble lead a team acting for RBS Insurance on its restructuring, resulting in the industry's largest-ever Part VII transfer of insurance businesses. RBS was keen to consolidate four insurance businesses into a single entity through a court-sanctioned transfer in a move that affected 22 million policies.

SLAUGHTER AND MAY

Philippe Chappatte; Craig Cleaver; Glen James

2011 saw Slaughters typically advise on a number of corporate deals for major insurers. However, its analysis of the EU *Test Achats* case, where the court ruled that insurers cannot use gender-related factors in determining premiums and benefits under insurance policies, for the Association of British Insurers stood out.

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