

Law Firm of the Year

WINNER

CLEARY GOTTLIB STEEN & HAMILTON

Mark Leddy

An outstanding year on all fronts

Although Cleary has been a blueblood of the international legal community for a very long time, 2012 will stand out as one of its most successful in recent memory. Proving the recessionary maxim 'flight to quality' to be a truism, Cleary enjoyed another year at the forefront of international financial and corporate activity, notably representing Greece in its overwhelmingly complex and critical debt restructuring plan. It went on to advise Rosneft on the highly political \$55bn acquisition of TNK-BP, while demonstrating its equally strong prowess in high-stakes litigation by acting for the Republic of Iraq in successfully defending its sovereign immunity in the UK Supreme Court.

While the firm posted the highest five-year compound annual growth rate of any Global Elite firm, it has been no slouch on the strategic side either. In 2012 the firm did something that it has only done once before – open two non-US offices in the same year. Seoul became the firm's sixteenth office, launched just a month after its fifteenth in Abu Dhabi. Cleary has shown that it is more than capable of being fleet of foot to gain market advantage.

HIGHLY COMMENDED

BAKER & MCKENZIE

Eduardo Leite

2012 was a stellar year for Baker & McKenzie. It continued to improve its market position with openings in Johannesburg, Casablanca and Lima and topped the Global 100 for the third year running, having ranked seventh in 2006. High-profile 2012 mandates included acting for Lufthansa on its sale of BMI and Global Blue on the biggest private equity deal in Europe this year.

BRISTOWS

Iain Redford; Mark Watts

Bristows turned 175 last year and the firm is in a stronger position than ever. 2011-12 revenues leapt 27% to £32.9m and the firm enjoys a five-year compound annual growth rate of 10% – almost double that enjoyed by any of the UK Global Elite firms in the same period. All of this growth has been achieved organically, making the firm one of the strongest performers in the *LB100*.

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(L-R) The Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton team with Mike Littlewood of RBS and Alex Novarese of Legal Business

CLIFFORD CHANCE

Malcolm Sweeting

CC had a particularly strong 2012. It outshone its four fellow UK Global Elite rivals financially, with the highest revenue and profit growth in the peer group, with a 7% rise in revenues and a double-digit increase in net income.

CLYDE & CO

Michael Pryton

In 2012, Clyde & Co realised its long-term strategy of creating the world's premier insurance law firm, opening in Sydney, Perth and Tripoli on the back of the mergers with Barlow Lyde & Gilbert and Canada's Nicholl Paskell-Mede in late 2011.

RPC

Jonathan Watmough

RPC has delivered on a five-year strategy focused on ambitious growth, improved recognition, strategic recruitment and modern infrastructure. In 2012 RPC opened a six-partner Bristol office and added 40 lawyers in Hong Kong.

TRIVERS SMITH

Chris Carroll

Travers continues to defy the odds: turnover and profit per lawyer were both up 16% for the financial year ending June 2012 while its superb reputation in the mid-market corporate space has seen it win a string of top-notch mandates.

Congratulations

We are delighted to celebrate the success of Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton, winner of the 'Law Firm of the Year' award in this year's Legal Business Awards, who has clearly demonstrated a level of dedication and commitment beyond the ordinary.

At RBS, these same values play a key part in the way we do business and that is why we are proud to support this event.

**To find out more, contact James Tsolakis,
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