



The Fieldfisher team with James Tsolakis of NatWest and Alex Novarese of Legal Business

LAW FIRM OF THE YEAR

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FIELDFISHER

MICHAEL CHISSICK

SPEARHEADING THE MID-TIER RENAISSANCE

Fieldfisher has in recent years emerged as one of the most potent performers in the UK top 50, a remarkable transformation given that as recently as five years ago Field Fisher Waterhouse looked like the poster child for mid-tier drift. In 2012 the firm had been hit by the failure of merger talks with Lawrence Graham and Osborne Clarke and seen profits per equity partner drop 20% to its lowest since 2004.

How things have changed. In the past 18 months this pace-setting firm has completed four strategic mergers in Italy, the Netherlands,

China and Birmingham. This is reflected by steady growth in headcount and a 36% increase in revenue in 2016/17 to £165m - the largest growth of any law firm in the Legal Business 100. The firm also completed a striking 22 lateral hires during the last financial year.

Marked out alongside Osborne Clarke and Watson, Farley & Williams in our feature on the mid-tier renaissance, 'Reversal of fortunes', Fieldfisher fully deserves the plaudits it gets these days after a highly impressive turnaround.

HIGHLY COMMENDED

STEWARTS

JOHN CAHILL

Stewarts has been shortlisted in this category so frequently in recent years that outstanding financial performance is viewed as standard now for the UK's largest litigation-only firm. It posted its third consecutive period of double-digit growth in 2016/17 and, as a standout performer across the LB100 as a whole, it had a record year with turnover rising 25% to £77.9m and PEP climbing 19% to £1.9m, seeing it move up into the top half of the LB100 for the first time.

COMMENDED

ALLEN & OVERY

ANDREW BALLHEIMER

In 2016/17, Allen & Overy blew its closest rivals away with a 25% rise in PEP, which jumped from £1.21m to £1.51m, while

revenue saw a 16% increase to £1.52bn from £1.31bn. It is now the second-largest Magic Circle firm in revenue terms and made some significant investment in its partnership, in particular boosting its IP practice in Europe and making several lockstep-breaking hires in the US, bringing in a five-lawyer finance team in particular.

CLYDE & CO

SIMON KONSTA

Clydes has achieved compound average annual revenue growth of 12% over the last five years, making it one of the fastest-growing firms in the world. In the most recent financial year, the firm increased revenue by 14% to £508m and is now ranked 61 in the world, after being outside the top 100 as recently as 2011. It has successfully transformed from a mid-tier City firm to a global powerhouse.

OSBORNE CLARKE

RAY BERG

One of only three firms in the current UK top 100 to have more than doubled its revenue organically since 2012, OC turned over £209m in 2016/17, one of the strongest set of results in the UK top 100 this year and 152% up on a decade ago, good for the fifth-best organic performance of an LB100 firm since 2007.

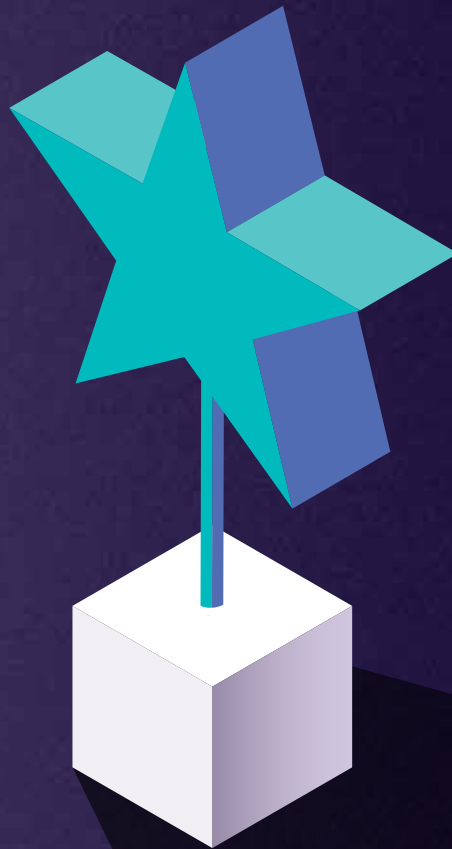
WATSON FARLEY & WILLIAMS

CHRIS LOWE, LOTHAR WEGENER


WFW is another firm that has seized on opportunities and reinvented itself as a thrusting player in a hugely competitive market. Despite a period of heavy investment in people and infrastructure, the firm has nevertheless seen revenue increase 36% from £117m for the financial year ending 2013/14 to £159.8m for 2016/17, and profits per equity partner increase 28% during the same period.


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Congratulations to Fieldfisher for winning our
Law Firm of the Year Award



To find out how we can work with you and your business, please contact
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NatWest

We are what we do