

# Russell Lewin

### WINNER RUSSELL LEWIN

London managing partner  
Baker & McKenzie

Lewin's superb efforts on behalf of this giant and at times amorphous global firm paid off in magnificent style in 2002. He has presided over a three-year growth that now sees the London office as the biggest and most profitable of all the Baker & McKenzie operations.

Lewin had much against him when he took over the job: Baker & McKenzie has never shaken off the perception in the UK market that it is an international giant simply not in the same ilk as a Clifford Chance or a Shearman & Sterling; that it was a mid-level performer in many markets. Lewin focused on maximising the market strengths of his leading practices, and by encouraging such growth, allowed momentum to build.

Crucial to this was making Baker & McKenzie's formidable US client base appreciate the talents available in London, and to provide the UK operation with top-level work. The aforementioned results are testament to the success over which Lewin has presided. Over and above the hard figures, Lewin has also reinvigorated the London office, creating in the process a far more united culture



Baker & McKenzie's Russell Lewin (centre) accepts the award for Senior/Managing partner of the year from Mark Fussell of sponsor Mark Fussell Legal Recruitment Consultants

among all tiers of lawyers and staff than was evident before.

Baker & McKenzie's global priorities this year are 'focus' and 'impact'. Lewin has lashings of both.

### > RUNNER-UP

### VIRGINIA GLASTONBURY

Chief executive, Denton Wilde Sapte

Glastonbury has been instrumental in awakening the potential in Denton Wilde Sapte since her election to the post of chief executive in February 2002. She now presides over a firm confident of its positioning and future in the international market. Her ascension at the firm comes from

solid foundations: she joined it as an articled clerk in 1980 and has stayed loyal throughout her 23 years, acting as a strong role model for female lawyers within the firm and beyond.

On becoming Denton Hall's managing partner in 1999, she then oversaw the merger with Wilde Sapte, and retained her role in the merged firm. Her titular change is a result of a streamlined management system that came into force early last year, and from which the firm can only gain further strength in its sensibly balanced cross-section of City and international practice areas. **LB**

## HONOURABLE MENTIONS

### Tony Angel Managing partner, Linklaters

In adverse conditions for an elite corporate-focused firm, Angel has bravely rebranded and modernised one of the world's most famous law firms, and given all levels of staff and partners the opportunity to create a far more dynamic global powerhouse. Angel's modernisation programme extended from bottom to top of the firm. Associates now have a direct line to management, practices are being streamlined to make for a more focused approach in dealing with deal flow, and the firm can look to the US with more cohesion now than at any time in the last five years, since European expansion has settled down.

### Robert Bata London managing partner, Altheimer & Gray

Bata has re-written the rule books on US firms opening in London. Thanks to tireless commitment to developing the brand and to hiring quality, committed players, Bata has overseen the beginnings of a US firm that, with little initial market profile, is already well established in the City as a base of premium

English advisers with close links to Europe and the American headquarters. The strength and attractiveness of Bata's character has much to do with this success.

### Mark Jones Managing partner, Addleshaw Booth & Co

Jones is one of the most forward-thinking and innovative managing partners to be found in the UK. His refusal to accept traditional barriers to growth – such as ineffective older partners – has won widespread respect from within and without the firm, which is going from strength to strength in its core Northern headquarters and in its rapidly expanding City base.

### Michael Taylor Managing partner, Walker Morris

Taylor runs a corporate-focused heavyweight that continues to baffle rivals with its stunning growth – in turnover, profile and profits. Despite operating from just a single Leeds office, Taylor's firm is a national player of great repute, and a thorn in the side of many larger and more dispersed UK firms. His management style is simple: work hard, and focus on the client rather than the overheads.

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