

WINNER

Clintons

MAGGIE RAE

The Parlour and Aga Khan divorces

Celebrity law firm Clintons is now firmly on the matrimonial law firm map. In the past 12 months it has cracked one of the most steadfast and impenetrable legal cliques in London.

Representing Karen Parlour, the former wife of Arsenal and England footballer Ray Parlour, was certainly a turning point. Although technically not a difficult matter, client partner Liz Vernon was praised by leaders in her field.

In a recent *Legal Business* feature, Gill Doran from Withers noted that 'the way she handled both the case and the press interest that followed in *Parlour* was impressive'. And it was exactly the profile the firm needed.

As a direct result, last year the firm established an enviable international reputation for its expertise in dealing with uncertain future income cases on behalf of wives.

It was thus no surprise when Maggie Rae got the call from Aga Khan's wife, Begum Inaara Aga Khan. Proceedings have been issued in France but Clintons will deal with all matters

on the former pop-singer's behalf that fall within the English courts' jurisdiction. Aga Khan, famous for his passion for racehorses, has a fortune reported to exceed £1bn.

Maggie Rae and Liz Vernon, who represented royalty when they were at Mishcon de Reya, have applied their magic touch to Clintons; a firm that can now boast the cream of private clients. From now on the sky is the limit.



(L to R): Ilan Hislop, Liz Vernon, Maggie Rae, and Julia Whittle of Chase de Vere Private Clients

HIGHLY COMMENDED

BAKER & MCKENZIE

Paul Stibbard

In 2004 the private client department at Baker & McKenzie advised on the misappropriation of a substantial inheritance with interests in a number of jurisdictions. The firm is also making good use of its offices in Cairo, Riyadh and Bahrain with a concerted push in advising Middle Eastern families on trust restructuring.

BERWIN LEIGHTON PAISNER

Simon Phelps

Over the past year the private client group headed by Simon Phelps has grown to an impressive 14 lawyers,

CHARLES RUSSELL

David Long

In 2004 Charles Russell proved its commitment to private client work by taking on the private client and family team from Stephenson Harwood. In one of the largest lateral hires of the year, three partners, three consultants and 11 lawyers joined the firm, which brings the national total of Charles Russell's private client and family law capability to 90 fee-earners.

LAWRENCE GRAHAM

Andrew Young

Andrew Young's team has distinguished itself in a number of ways. Not only does it represent more billionaire families than any other UK law firm but, in the past 12 months, the firm has also seen success in its strategy to attract an international client base. Now 80% of its turnover, some £8m, comes from non-UK domestic clients.

MILLS & REEVE

Michael Aubrey

Mills & Reeve's private client fee income in 2004 grew to £6.3m, up 22% on 2003. Regional investment has paid off, with the firm developing its Midlands private client practice. A core element of this strategy is setting up a family team in its Birmingham office that will replicate the service provided by its other national offices.

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with senior hires from other firms and from other departments within Berwin Leighton Paisner itself. Last year the firm tackled a complex case that involved accommodating Luxembourg-specific legal and tax issues as well as BVI advice.



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