

Best US law firm

WINNER

LeBoeuf, Lamb, Greene & MacRae



Peter Sharp of LeBoeuf, Lamb, Greene & MacRae (centre) accepts the award from David Carreras of Longbridge International

**Steven Davis, chairman;
Peter Sharp, London managing partner**

Growing practice groups through an active expansion programme

LeBoeuf, Lamb, Greene & MacRae's ambitious, but ultimately highly successful, recruitment strategy has seen more than 50 lateral hires across its offices since 2004.

High-profile moves, such as securities litigator Ralph Ferrara in the US and arbitration veteran Arthur Marriott QC in the UK (both from Debevoise & Plimpton), have injected new momentum into the firm – transforming it into a top global player that last year ranked just outside the world's top 50.

London is now LeBoeuf Lamb's second biggest office after New York, following its own impressive list of hires; including a three-partner environmental and real estate team from Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, insurance litigation partner Francis Mackie from Norton Rose and, most recently, leading capital markets expert Camille Abouseiman from Dewey Ballantine. Chairman Steven Davis says the firm has not finished growing London yet. 'We have placed a huge emphasis on the UK,' he explained.

In 2006, the firm branched out and invested in a global telecoms practice, recruiting Andrew Garard from Cable & Wireless in London and Eric Cowan from Thelen Reid & Priest in New York. The new practice group sits alongside top-tier practices in energy and insurance. Already more than 10% of the firm's revenue is telecoms-related and last year saw a succession of deals across Russia and Africa.

HIGHLY COMMENDED

HOGAN & HARTSON

**Warren Gorrell, chairman;
Garry Pegg, London managing partner**

2006 was a stellar year for the firm, which continued to grow its M&A and capital markets work across Europe and Asia, as well as make significant lateral hires in the UK, Germany, France and Poland. Particularly impressive were Hogan & Hartson's London efforts, which included recruiting John Pheasant from Lovells and Jonathan Coppin from Shearman & Sterling. The firm has also seen gross revenue increase by 182% since 2000, a substantial rise from \$262m to \$740m.

KIRKLAND & ELLIS

**Thomas Yannucci, chairman;
Jim Learner, London partner**

The Chicago giant has continued to expand globally, opening in Hong Kong in late 2006, as well as investing heavily in London with a number of high-profile hires – including Allen & Overy ex-head of banking Stephen Gillespie, Linklaters' top private equity team and, most recently, a trio of funds partners from SJ Berwin. The German office, which opened in 2005, is also proving to be a private equity powerhouse. The firm's deal list for 2006 is impressive across the firm, with M&A, acquisition finance and restructuring departments all flourishing.

REED SMITH RICHARDS BUTLER

**Greg Jordan, managing partner;
Roger Parker, European managing partner**

Last year saw the announcement of the courageous transatlantic merger between Reed Smith and Richards Butler, creating a top 20 international mega-firm, with global revenues forecast in the region of \$725m. The motivation for merger is not simply a transatlantic tie-up, it is also to cross-sell services. Pre-merger due diligence means that execution of global synergies is already taking place.

SIMPSON THACHER & BARTLETT

Pete Ruegger, chairman; Walt Looney, London head

Amid what was an unprecedented global private equity frenzy in 2006, Simpson Thacher has emerged ahead of its Wall Street rivals. The firm has worked assiduously for key clients Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co and Blackstone and over the past year saw more bids and more successes than any of its competitors. A superb year for the firm.

WEIL, GOTSHAL & MANGES

**Stephen Dannhauser, chairman;
Mike Francies, London managing partner**

2006 was an impressive year on both sides of the Atlantic. In London, where it is leading the way for US firms developing sponsor-driven corporate practices, Weil, Gotshal & Manges recruited a heavyweight team from Lovells, including private equity star Marco Compagnoni.

10th
anniversary

LONGBRIDGE

INTERNATIONAL

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Since 1989, Longbridge International Legal has been assisting leading global law firms to achieve their strategic growth objectives, through the placement of the highest quality partners and teams. Longbridge also works with multinational corporations to source the most talented senior in-house lawyers and general counsel. In addition, tailored solutions for new office openings, law firm mergers and acquisitions and related consultancy services can be provided.

Our consultants and research associates, most of whom are qualified UK, US and Continental European lawyers, possess a wealth of market knowledge which is underpinned by solid research capabilities. Currently teams are successfully executing placements in London, Frankfurt, Munich, Geneva, Paris, Amsterdam and Brussels. With comprehensive coverage of Europe's key legal markets, Longbridge International remains at the leading edge of global legal business.



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