

US law firm of the year

WINNER

Weil, Gotshal & Manges

Stephen Dannhauser, global chair;
Michael Francies, London managing partner

Thriving in a downturn

Where other firms have struggled as a result of the global economic downturn, Weil has positively thrived. The events of the past 12 months have reinforced Weil's position as king of the restructuring market, with a trophy mandate advising Lehman Brothers on its bankruptcy making it the envy of the legal elite. The firm has already billed over \$120m on the colossal restructuring, with six London partners working at rates of over \$1,000 per hour. While this has understandably grabbed the headlines, the reality is that the firm has been involved in almost every major deal in the market, including General Motors, AIG and Kaupthing. The firm's transactional teams have also excelled, as its victory in this year's Private Equity Team of the Year Award attests. It's the sort of commanding all-round performance towards which all international firms aspire, and makes Weil a worthy winner.

HIGHLY COMMENDED

GREENBERG TRAUIG

Cesar Alvarez, global chief executive;
Paul Maher, London chair

Greenberg's spectacular London launch has been one of the industry's major talking points of 2009. With much of the market battenning down the hatches to weather the storm, Greenberg pushed ahead with an ambitious plan to create a top-tier London practice with the hire of former Mayer Brown vice-chairman Paul Maher.

LATHAM & WATKINS

Robert Dell, global chair;
Andrew Moyle, London managing partner

Despite the turbulent market conditions, Latham has had another excellent year. The firm has continued its global expansion with moves in China, Singapore and



(L-R) Weil, Gotshal & Manges' Michael Francies and Fiona Spiers with IBA's Andrew Webster-Dunn

Grundberg Mocatta Rakison in May 2009. It was the Richmond-based firm's second merger in the past two years, following its acquisition of Charlotte firm Helms Mulliss & Wicker in 2008.

PAUL, HASTINGS, JANOFSKY & WALKER

Philip Feder, London managing partner

Paul Hastings is shortlisted following an excellent all-round performance, particularly in Europe. Finance expert Alberto Del Din joined with a team from Bonelli Erede Pappalardo in Milan, while London was bolstered by the relocation of global real estate head Philip Feder from Los Angeles and an audacious seven-partner hire from Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft.

PAUL, WEISS, RIFKIND, WHARTON & GARRISON

Brad Karp, global chair;

Mark Bergman, London partner

Paul Weiss has truly risen to the challenge of the financial crisis, with its powerhouse litigation practice acting on some of the market's most significant disputes. Its notable victory for Citigroup over Parmalat is just one in a long list of prominent cases that includes major roles for AIG, J.P. Morgan, ING and Morgan Stanley.

QUINN EMANUEL URQUHART OLIVER & HEDGES

Richard East, Sue Prevezer QC and Marc Becker, London partners

As a pure business litigation boutique, no other top-100 firm is so well suited to the current market conditions as Quinn Emanuel. A 91% trial success rate has powered it to the top of the market, with its fledgling London office recently securing judgment in favour of HSH Nordbank against UBS in the Court of Appeal.

Weil has been involved in almost every major deal in the market, including General Motors and AIG.

the Middle East, and has launched new cleantech, climate change, energy regulatory, emerging companies and takeover defence practices. It also acted on some of the most significant deals in the market.

McGUIREWOODS

Richard Cullen, global chair;
Anders Grundberg, London managing partner

Another US firm to launch in London, McGuireWoods gained entry through a tie-up with City boutique

Save the date: 3-8 October 2010



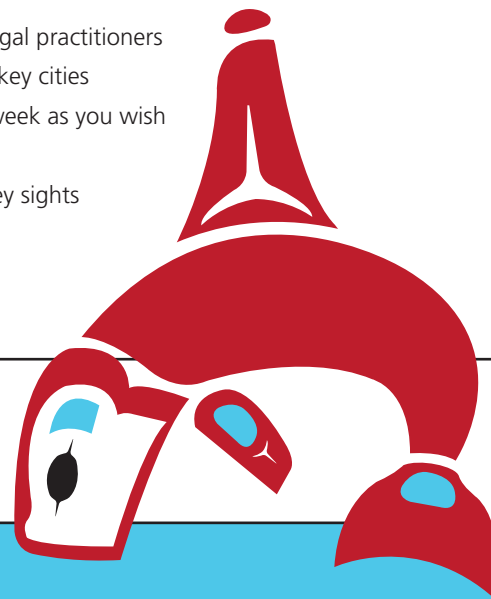
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