

# Management partner of the year

## WINNER

## Peter Crossley

### Squire Sanders Hammonds

#### *Securing the firm's future and leading it into a US merger*

Since he became managing partner in 2004, Peter Crossley has led Hammonds through one of the most turbulent periods in its history with considerable skill. It has not been easy, as Crossley was forced to improve the firm's poor financial position while balancing the twin challenges of maintaining a national network and growing an international footprint. Throughout, Crossley has maintained not only the steady nerve that reflects his litigation background but also a demeanour that has won him many admirers in the market.

Securing a merger in 2010 with US firm Squire, Sanders & Dempsey has now transformed the UK firm's international offering and Crossley can take much of the credit for the tie-up. The deal went live in January of this year with Crossley becoming head of Europe in the merged firm, which has more than 1,400 lawyers spread across 37 offices. Putting Hammonds on a firmer footing and delivering an eye-catching US merger makes him a worthy winner of Management Partner of the Year.

## HIGHLY COMMENDED

### TIM EYLES

#### Taylor Wessing

Tim Eyles has played a central role in a year of change for Taylor Wessing, bringing considerable vision to his first full year in charge. He has overseen a rebranding, greater alignment between the firm's international offices, the introduction of industry sector groups and a global key client programme. The firm is now well placed to not only bolster its position in the City but globally as well.

### PETER JACKSON

#### Hill Dickinson

Hill Dickinson's managing partner Peter Jackson has played a central role in another year of considerable progress for the firm. During 2010, the firm added teams in Liverpool and Sheffield from Halliwells and confirmed its position as one of the best-managed firms in the North.

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Peter Crossley of Squire Sanders Hammonds (centre) with John Garwood of Canary Wharf Group on behalf of Challenger

### MICHAEL LINGENS

#### Speechly Bircham

Since he took over as managing partner in 1998, Michael Lingens has been the driving force behind Speechly Bircham's push towards the top 50 of the *Legal Business 100*. A 2009 merger with Campbell Hooper gave the firm's revenues a considerable boost, while profits have also risen.

### IAN PITTAWAY

#### Sacker & Partners

As senior partner of Sacker & Partners, Ian Pittaway has played a central role in establishing the firm as one of the most impressive niche players in the City. Re-elected in 2010 for a third consecutive term, he combines his management duties with being one of the UK's leading pensions specialists.

### GARY SENIOR

#### Baker & McKenzie

Now in his third term as managing partner of Baker & McKenzie's London office, Gary Senior has driven much of the firm's recent success in the City. In 2010 the office out-performed much of the competition with significant growth in both turnover and profits. Senior has also played an active role in improving the integration of Baker's global network.

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