

# Private Client Team of the Year

## WINNER

# STEWARTS LAW

Stephen Foster

*Seizing the initiative in family law*

There is no doubt that Stewarts Law has all the momentum in family law right now. The steady growth of the litigation firm's matrimonial practice in the last few years paved the way for a significant coup in 2012: the firm's recruitment of Helen Ward from Manches. One of the biggest names in her field, Ward cited the firm's dynamism and creativity as the reasons behind her move and she brings with her not only huge experience but also a slew of big-name clients such as Guy Ritchie, Countess Spencer, Andrew Lloyd Webber, Paloma Picasso and David Seaman.

The rise of the private client practice has undoubtedly contributed to the firm's outstanding financial performance in recent years, with turnover increasing in the last year by 22% to £34.9m. In addition to handling work for high-profile clients – the firm gained its reputation by acting on celebrity divorces for the likes of Peter Andre – Stewarts Law is skilled at managing instructions of notable complexity. For instance, the team is currently advising a member of a royal family in multijurisdictional proceedings involving potential freezing injunctions.

## HIGHLY COMMENDED

### BATES WELLS & BRAITHWAITE

Stephen Lloyd

Even by its own stellar standards, the firm had a strong year in 2012. The firm acts for over 2,000 charity clients, among them Barnardo's, Christian Aid, the RSPCA and Samaritans. In addition, the firm has the skills of Stephen Lloyd, who is the go-to lawyer for the government on charities work; the firm is always at the heart of legislative change and new trends in the charities sector.

### FAMILY LAW IN PARTNERSHIP

David Allison

There is no doubt that this team has made an extraordinary impact on the way in which firms conduct matrimonial and childcare work. It is habitual nowadays to find firms all over the country speaking about how they are doing more on the collaborative side: when they do so they are talking a language FLIP might almost be said to have invented.

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(L-R) Stephen Foster of Stewarts Law with Rebecca Hughes of Coutts

### IRWIN MITCHELL

Julia Lomas

Stands alone for work in Court of Protection cases and has built up a national reach in cutting-edge deputyship, welfare, wills, and receivership work. Recent standout work includes *W v M*, a withdrawal from medical treatment case, and *RK*, a deprivation of liberty appeal.

### MAURICE TURNOR GARDNER

Clare Maurice

The firm's six-partner trust team brings a commercial Magic Circle approach to private client matters. During 2012 it regularly advised ultra high-net-worth individuals on all aspects of tax and pre-arrival planning, involving immigration/visa requirements, tax planning for the family home, remittance advice on structuring the ownership of yachts, planes and art collections and advice on philanthropic activities.

### MISHCON DE REYA

James Libson

Art law pioneer Karen Sanig carries out an impressive variety of work on the art and cultural property front. In the last year, the firm handled the range of heritage and art issues in advising the Church Commissioners on the sale of Auckland Castle, as well as a slew of new art investment vehicles, art funds, collectors and artists.

# EXCELLENCE PAYS DIVIDENDS.

Congratulations to Stewarts Law LLP,  
winner of the Private Client Team of the Year Award.  
Exceptional effort, well rewarded.

