



The winning Irwin Mitchell team with Sarah Kelly of Coutts

## PRIVATE CLIENT TEAM OF THE YEAR SPONSORED BY COUTTS

### IRWIN MITCHELL

#### Ros Bever

##### A LANDMARK DIVORCE JUDGMENT IN THE SUPREME COURT

Bever was engaged in two of the standout divorce cases in 2015, the successful *Sharland* and *Gohil* Supreme Court divorce challenges, which were heard simultaneously in June 2015.

The Supreme Court ruled in favour of both Alison Sharland and Varsha Gohil, giving them the right to revisit the unjust divorce settlements that had been based on a material failure by their respective husbands to disclose the true extent of their wealth. It was the first time in a generation that the

highest court in the land heard cases on the issue of non-disclosure in divorce proceedings.

The victory on behalf of Gohil was especially impressive, given that her application to extend her legal aid had been rejected on the grounds that her appeal had poor prospects of success.

Testimony from Gohil of the work done by Bever and her team is particularly persuasive, with the client stating after the judgment: 'All spouses subject to deceit and deliberate financial skulduggery in a divorce owe a huge debt of gratitude to the tireless efforts of the legal team here today.'

### HIGHLY COMMENDED

#### BOODLE HATFIELD

##### Simon Rylatt

Rylatt and his team's strong pedigree for private client work came to the fore again in 2015, particularly in advising on a number of standout matters for the family offices of international and domestic high-net-worth individuals. Transactions ranged from advice on property investments to fundraising initiatives and acting for investors in high-value art collections.

practices in the City, covering the full scope of high-value, multi-jurisdictional disputes and private deals. The focus is being a high-profile private wealth player, rather than traditional private client work.

#### CHARLES RUSSELL SPEECHLYS

##### Bart Peerless

Following the merger of Charles Russell and Speechly Bircham in 2014, this firm now boasts one of the largest contentious and non-contentious private client

#### McDERMOTT WILL & EMERY

##### Ziva Robertson

Robertson's team represents five of the Top 20 in *The Sunday Times Rich List* and eight of the top 100 billionaires on Forbes' list. One standout matter last year for the London team was advising Tana Africa Capital to form a joint venture with Saham to form Satahed, a vehicle for investments in the private secondary education sector across Africa.

#### PENNINGTONS MANCHES

##### Laura Dadswell; James Stewart

Highlights for the team during another standout year include acting for more than 70 high-net-worth individuals who have invested in controversial film finance schemes and have launched cases against accountants and financial advisers.

#### TAYLOR WESSING

##### Andrew Hine

Following the hire of Gowling WLG's head of contentious trusts Emma Jordan in 2015, Taylor Wessing has upped the frequency of its roles in major cases, including representing clients in major trustee disputes involving offshore jurisdictions and is developing its full-service private client offering.

# EXCELLENCE PAYS DIVIDENDS.

Congratulations to Irwin Mitchell, winner of the Private Client Team of the Year Award.  
Exceptional effort, well rewarded.

