



The Wedlake Bell team with Steve Roberts of Kidatu

## COMMERCIAL LITIGATION TEAM OF THE YEAR

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### WEDLAKE BELL

ADAM COLENZO, DAVID GOLTEN

#### OVERTURNING A PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

It is hard to overlook the work of a law firm that directly contributes to changing the political landscape of an entire nation. This was the case for Wedlake Bell when it was approached by the former Prime Minister of Kenya and opposition leader Raila Odinga to work pro bono with his local lawyers to challenge the Kenyan presidential election result in 2017.

Colenso and Golten advised Odinga to make an urgent application to the Kenyan supreme court to get access to the

election servers, a move considered highly unlikely to succeed. The team brought in specialist forensic technology experts to help make the case that access to the servers that stored all the voting records was key to the success of the whole challenge. The Kenyan supreme court found in the client's favour and ultimately annulled the election result – the first time an election has been overturned in Africa by a court rather than a coup.

#### HIGHLY COMMENDED

**DEBEVOISE & PLIMPTON/  
SLAUGHTER AND MAY**

**KAROLOS SEEGER, STEVE COOKE**

These firms jointly defended Rolls-Royce in one of the longest-running and high-profile criminal investigations of recent times. The case was a particular challenge, as it involved three investigating agencies with different legal systems and approaches. The sheer volume of the investigation was unprecedented, involving the collection and review of over 30 million documents, 229 internal interviews and 250 intermediaries.

#### COMMENDED

**DENTONS**

**FELICITY EWING,  
THOMAS LEYLAND**

Dentons has played a key part in RBS' handling and defence of some of the most

notable Libor mis-selling claims. One of the most significant results was the landmark judgment in *Property Alliance Group v RBS*. This was the first civil Libor claim to go to trial in England and Wales, and to date is the only such case tested at trial.

#### HERBERT SMITH FREEHILLS

**ADAM JOHNSON QC**

Representing RBS in the high-profile rights issue litigation, guiding the bank through proceedings where nearly 40,000 shareholders issued claims against the bank for damages of around £4bn. The last of the claims was settled in June 2017, with RBS achieving a final resolution of the claim for less than a quarter of its alleged value.

#### HOGAN LOVELLS

**MICHAEL ROBERTS**

Winning a landmark High Court judgment for the Deposit Insurance Agency against

Russian oligarch Sergei Pugachev.

This ended a four-year dispute relating to Pugachev's New Zealand-based discretionary trusts, which the court has broken open, allowing the DIA to enforce against previously sheltered assets.

#### NORTON ROSE FULBRIGHT

**LISTA CANNON, DAVID HARRIS**

Successfully defended the former JP Morgan executive Javier Martin-Artajo in multi-jurisdictional regulatory investigations and proceedings, and related civil and criminal proceedings, in the UK and US. After five years of investigations and charges, the US regulators, including the DoJ and the SEC, eventually dismissed all criminal charges and civil claims.



# Here's to Success

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Congratulations to Wedlake Bell and all of this year's winners and finalists.

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