



The Stephenson Harwood team with Alex Little of Coutts

## PRIVATE CLIENT TEAM OF THE YEAR

Sponsored by Coutts

### STEPHENSON HARWOOD

#### JAMES QUARMBY

##### EXCEPTIONAL PERFORMANCE FROM A GLOBAL TEAM

In a highly successful year for Stephenson Harwood's London private wealth team, it posted a 73% fee-income increase for 2016/17 and followed this up with the recruitment of two partners and three associates. The international core private wealth team continues to significantly grow, reporting a 96.5% fee-income increase (from financial year 2015/16 to 2016/17).

The group has impressed with its work for a number of foreign family offices and ultra-high-net-worth individuals, including

advising on novel will and trust structures for an individual's worldwide multi-billion dollar estate. In addition, team leader Quarmby led an active media campaign in the wake of the Paradise Papers affair to take a stance on the misreporting of offshore tax 'evasion' as well as contributing widely to the transparency debate, advocating strongly that public registers of beneficial ownership can infringe human rights.

##### HIGHLY COMMENDED

###### IRWIN MITCHELL

###### CLARE WISEMAN

Building on its frequent exposure to landmark cases, which saw this team pick up this award in the previous two years, Irwin Mitchell has impressed in recent cross-border divorce cases, including issues that were previously untested in the UK the high-profile case of *Brack*, which covers cross-border matters in the UK, Sweden and USA. Moreover, the firm has made a further impression in international and domestic tax issues for ultra-high net worth individuals.

##### COMMENDED

###### BAKER MCKENZIE

###### ASHLEY CROSSLEY

The firm's wealth management team has particularly impressed in the Middle East, advising on a major asset structuring

project for an extremely high-profile and wealthy family, which involved establishing a series of private trust company structures that demanded particular attention to local Sharia succession rules.

###### CHARLES RUSSELL SPEECHLYS

###### ANDREW CAMERON

Key to the firm's wider business, the private client division now holds 45 partners and 120 other fee-earners. The international sub-group has been especially active in non-dom tax issues, offshore trusts and residential property. The team has also impressed in major trusts issues, including complex offshore structures for UK-based and international clients.

###### HARBOTTLE & LEWIS

###### DAVID SCOTT

Leveraging its leading media and privacy law practice for private clients and

further developing its standing in multi-jurisdictional tax and succession planning, the firm heightened its standing with the hire of partners Catherine Bedford, Nicholas Westley, Mark Irving and four associates from Lee & Thompson to its family team.

###### MACFARLANES

###### PIERS BARCLAY

UK-based Macfarlanes has worked hard to develop its contacts with firms in other jurisdictions in this practice area. It has launched a series of initiatives to achieve this, including a private client symposium for international lawyers and team secondments to other jurisdictions. It also hired Clarissa Lyons, a charity and philanthropy specialist, and Jenny Bird, a cross-border succession expert and qualified notary, to the team.

# APPLAUDING THE EXCEPTIONAL.

Congratulations to Stephenson Harwood,  
winner of the Private Client Team of the Year Award.

