

The Journal 

Thursday, June 15, 2017

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# Northern Law Awards 2017

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# Awards celebrate best of the Northern legal community

ON June 1, the third Northern Law Awards, sponsored by NWG Property Solutions, brought together the best of the Northern legal community to share their successes and achievements of the past year in a night of great celebration.

Organised by Newcastle-based events agency, Echo Events, the event celebrated a range of talented teams and individuals, from Toby Hedworth QC, Head of Chambers at Trinity Chambers (Outstanding Achievement Award) to Kimberley Fryer (Trainee of the Year) and Emma Crowther (Rising Star of the Year) from Irwin Mitchell LLP, illustrating excellence at both ends of the career spectrum.

Hosted by BBC Radio Newcastle presenter Alfie Joey, the black-tie event took place at the Hilton Newcastle Gateshead, allowing this growing event to

expand and welcome 350 attendees from the region's foremost legal firms and institutions in a celebration of individual and team success.

Tonia Reeve, Property Solutions Manager of NWG Property Solutions, said: "We were once again delighted to be given the opportunity to be the main partner for the 2017 Northern Law Awards third year running.

"We have seen the event grow and flourish with a higher number of attendees once again. The evening had a fantastic friendly 'feel good' atmosphere celebrating the great law firms (small and large) of the Northern region, and the passionate, professional and talented people who work within them who give great service to their clients.

"Many congratulations to every single winner and to all those that took time to take part, a pat on the back to each and

every one of you who make a difference in the everyday work that you do."

The most prestigious award of the evening was the Outstanding Achievement Award, which was awarded to Toby Hedworth QC, Head of Trinity Barristers Chambers.

Toby was recognised for his contribution to the Region's legal community, as well as overseeing and inspiring the expansion and diversification of Trinity, making it an outward-looking, vibrant and commercial set that has lost none of its commitment to publicly funded work.

Fellow Silk, Nicholas Stonor QC said of Toby: "To his great credit and to the great benefit of our regional legal community - his reputation for excellence extends nationally. He is a great ambassador for the North East."

Other key awards of the event were presented to Judith Archi-

bold of Parkdean Resorts (Lawyer of the Year), Swinburne Mad-dison (Law Firm of the Year - 6+ Partners; Team of the Year - Litigation & Dispute Resolution) and Collingwood Legal (Law Firm of the Year - 1-5 Partners). Cumbria-based firm Cartmell Shepherd's Practice Manager Scott Garson (Law Practice Management Award) was recognised for making a material difference across the entire practice.

Geoff Harrison, Chair of Judges and Non-Executive Director at Parklane Plowden said: "I know I speak for all the judges when I say what a privilege it is to be part of these very special awards. Once again we have seen the depth and range of excellent practice across the whole legal sector in the region."

■ For the full list of winners and more information on the Northern Law Awards visit [www.lawawards.co.uk](http://www.lawawards.co.uk)



# Firm making Hay while sun shines on their way to double award win

**H**AY & Kilner underlined its standing as one of the region's leading law firms by winning two categories at the recent Northern Law Awards.

The firm beat tough competition from a wealth of legal talent to take home Private Client Team of the Year and, for the third year running, Crime and Regulatory Team of the Year.

The accolades are recognition of the firm's commitment to providing a first class service to its clients, underpinned by the firm's core values.

Hay & Kilner's private client team was commended by the judges for their impressive client base, broad range of expertise and commitment to staff training and development.

The leading team has seen significant growth over the last 12 months and now has a team of nine specialist solicitors, providing advice to an extensive private client base, including entrepreneurs and owner-managers.

The team comes highly recommended in independently researched guides to the legal profession, the Legal 500 and Chambers and



➤ From left to right, Rachael Leathley, Elizabeth Gibbison, Alison Hall from Hay & Kilner, Rebecca Lander from Sovereign Wealth and Richard Marshall from Hay & Kilner

Partners, where they are commended for their 'strong reputation and providing good, solid advice.'

Alison Hall, partner and head of orivate client at Hay & Kilner, said: "We are very proud to be named Private Client Team of the Year.

"This award isn't just reflective of

the high level of service we provide to our clients it is also recognition of the passion and dedication of our team.

"I am very proud to work alongside some of the best private client lawyers in the region."

The judges also praised the firm's

crime and regulatory team members for their legal expertise and unparalleled dedicated round-the-clock service to clients.

The team regularly receive positive feedback from clients who praise them for their professionalism, flexibility, and speed of response.

The leading team is positioned as a top-tier firm by the Legal 500.

Mark Harrison, partner and head of crime and regulatory, said: "It is an honour to be recognised as Crime and Regulatory Team of the Year and we are immensely proud to win this award for the third time.

"We are extremely passionate about the work we do and are committed to providing a first class service to our clients."

Jonathan Waters, managing partner, added: "We are delighted to have won these awards which are both outstanding achievements for our leading Private Client and Crime & Regulatory departments.

"The awards are a testament to our high standards of training and development.

"We are very proud to be part of the Northern Law Awards and to celebrate the great wealth of legal talent and success in the North East. Many congratulations to all the finalists and winners."

Established more than 70 years ago, Hay & Kilner is one of the region's leading law firms, offering a full range of legal services to both businesses and individuals.

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**wardhadaway**  
lawfirm

**W**ARD Hadaway's double win at the Northern Law Awards 2017 reinforces the firm's place as a leading adviser to the region's business community, according to its managing partner.

The Top 100 UK law firm was named Corporate and Commercial Team of the Year and Employment Team of the Year at the prestigious awards held at the NewcastleGateshead Hilton.

For Ward Hadaway managing partner Jamie Martin, the double victory is further evidence of the firm's position as a key partner for North East companies as well as a successful business in its own right.

Jamie said: "It is always gratifying to win these awards, not only because they recognise the hard work, dedication and considerable skill of the teams involved, but also because of what they say about our firm as a whole.

"As one of the largest independent law firms in the North East, we are dedicated to helping the region's businesses and organisations to achieve their aspirations and to playing our part in helping to drive growth.

"We have worked hard to establish an enviable reputation for meeting companies' needs in a commercial way that helps to build and protect their businesses.

"Both of our award-winning teams from this year's Northern Law Awards are proof positive of that - the work which they carry out for a wide range of clients plays an important part not just in those businesses but, by extension, to the wider North East economy."

The corporate team, one of the largest pure transaction corporate finance teams in the North East, covers all types of corporate transactions, with specialists in private equity and venture capital investments, acquisitions and disposals, and IPOs.

The team has a real focus on owner-managed businesses, and incorporates specialists in debt finance as well as tax, offering a fully rounded service to

# Ward Hadaway chalks up double award win



➤ **Top team** – members of Ward Hadaway's Corporate team (from left): Tom Pollard, Danielle Kelly, Head of Corporate Martin Hulls and Imogen Holland accept the Corporate/Commercial Team of the Year award from Jo Aitken of Acritas.

their clients. As well as being an award-winning team, it also has an award-winning leader - Head of Corporate Martin Hulls is the current North East Insider Corporate Lawyer of the Year.

Jamie Martin said: "Working with clients on the ultimate strategic moves which businesses

make - raising finance, buying or selling companies - requires great skill, technical ability and commercial know-how.

"It is also vital to build up a strong, trusting relationship with clients - something which the corporate team and Ward Hadaway as a whole place great store by.

"We see our role as trusted business advisers, giving pragmatic commercial advice rather than just dealing with matters of law, and the

extensive range of true specialists which we have at the firm means we can help clients across a raft of sectors to deal with many different scenarios."

This approach is reflected by Ward Hadaway's other award-winners - its employment team, again one of the largest in the North.

It is a multi-disciplined team of Solicitors and Human Resources professionals who work together to ensure their clients receive commer-

cial, practical and pragmatic advice and support.

Jamie Martin said: "It is often said that a company's greatest asset is its workforce so helping businesses to manage their staff, balancing commerciality with compliance, is a vital part of modern-day business.

"The size and skills make-up of the team and, on a wider scale, of Ward Hadaway as a firm, mean that we can offer genuine specialist expertise and experience in whichever sector our clients operate in.

"This makes a real difference to the quality of the advice and support which we offer and is just one of the reasons why clients in so many different industries - from housebuilding to healthcare, manufacturing to digital, recruitment to retail and many others in between - trust us to work with them on helping them to grow their businesses and dealing with the challenges which they face.

"Part of this process is also anticipating issues before they turn into problems. This is why Ward Hadaway takes a pro-active approach to the work which we do, not only informing clients about forthcoming changes which will affect their operations but also setting out ways to tackle these.

"Our work advising clients on Brexit and the forthcoming introduction of GDPR data protection regulations are just two examples of how we put those principles into practice. As we look to meet the challenges of the coming years, it is reassuring to know we have award-winning expertise on our side."

■ **For more information on how Ward Hadaway could help your business, head to [www.wardhadaway.com](http://www.wardhadaway.com) or contact Jamie Martin on 0191 204 4341.**



➤ **Jamie Martin**



➤ **Awards success** – NGL chairman John Marshall (left) with members of Ward Hadaway's Employment team (from second left) Bernard Hodgson, Gillian Burns, Joe Thornhill, Katie Adams and Hollie Ball at the Northern Law Awards 2017.



## NORTHERN LAW AWARDS

In association with EMG Solicitors

# Phenomenal growth for firm

**A**S a firm that could be considered one of the new kids on the block, Durham's EMG Solicitors have notched up a remarkable list of achievements in a relatively short time.

It's not surprising then that for the second year running in the Northern Law Awards, the firm was named as "the one to watch", having been nominated in three categories.

It's praise indeed when faced with competition from the elder statesmen of law across the region, as it's taken just three brief years for EMG Solicitors to make a real impact.

The company growth is little short of phenomenal since it was launched in 2014 by experienced Court of Protection solicitor Emma Gaudern, who is nationally regarded for her work with clients who have sustained brain injuries.

EMG manages more than £70m for a range of clients, ensuring their assets are protected, along with working closely with people who have a range of challenges to deal with on a daily basis.

Since those first days the company has continued to grow, so much so that last year saw a move to much larger offices which would be able to accommodate EMG's ambition – to become the number one private client law firm in the north.

With a team of 19 staff, the ethos at



► Emma Gaudern (front right next to Spocky Dog) with the team at EMG Solicitors, Durham

EMG is very much about a culture of co-operation based around the company's mission statement – "Supporting clients. Protecting assets. Changing Lives."

That co-operation is excellent news for clients, who have a team of people working with them across a range of disciplines.

For example, EMG's court of protec-

tion lawyers will support a client's financial requirements which might include overseeing an investment portfolio or rental property as well as organising and paying for carers and therapies as well as large capital items.

The company's conveyancing lawyer supports the client in organising the purchase of a more appropriate home or the sale of their current home.

Because of the high percentage of relationship difficulties following the personality change that some of EMG's clients experience, the firm's family lawyer is on hand to advise on divorce and separation.

EMG's wills and trusts lawyer contributes by setting up trusts where appropriate and preparing Wills or statutory Will applications.

Building lasting relationships is at the heart of EMG, which is true to its strapline "legal services for life."

The solicitors at EMG are hand-picked for their expertise and include Natalia Lalas, EMG's family law specialist who deals with a whole host of relationship-related issues from pre-nuptial agreements, child custody to cohabitee disputes.

Natalia has also built up a niche specialist practice assisting families in the UK and internationally with surrogacy matters.

In 2008 she became one of the first solicitors in the region to qualify as a Collaborative Lawyer, a trailblazing process aimed at trying to take the sting out of divorce or separation.

Experienced solicitor Ros Danson has also recently been promoted into a business development role within the company, tasked with building on EMG's success to date, while residential conveyancing expert Richard Swinbank was a welcome addition to the team last year.

For Emma Gaudern, the steady growth of the company is directly in line with her long-term vision.

"We have had a fantastic period of growth over the last couple of years and have built a really strong team," she said.

"And we're now looking forward to strengthening our reputation going forward."

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➤ DAC Beachcroft's Newcastle Real Estate team

# New kids on the block celebrate awards victory

**D**AC Beachcroft's Newcastle Real Estate team is delighted to have been jointly awarded the prize for Property Team of the Year at the Northern Law Awards 2017.

New kids on the block, the team is already known for acting on high-value strategically important property transactions, both locally and nationally, and for its impressive calibre of client base in health, government, education, logistics, financial services and retail.

Their strong local and regional knowledge is founded on a commitment to delivering outstanding client service and providing relevant

national and international insights to inform real estate decisions. Nicola Fairbairn, Andrea Proudlock and Richard Hartis are lead members of the team, united by a shared purpose of helping their clients succeed.

Nicola is ranked in leading legal guide Chambers & Partners as 'one to watch' and is recognised for creating and developing strong client relationships. She advises a range of high-profile clients including Royal Mail and Newcastle University.

Andrea is the firm's real estate expert in the health sector for the North of England and is currently involved in developing an innovative

*This award is a great achievement for the team and recognition of the skill and expertise they offer.*

**David Weatherburn**

estates management programme for clients across the country. The Legal 500 recognises Andrea as being 'very responsive and helpful and gives excellent advice.'

Richard said: "We're extremely

proud to collect this award. As a team we work collaboratively and diligently to deliver a service of exceptional quality and it's a pleasure to see our efforts celebrated by the region's legal community.

"Our priority has always been the delivery of top quality legal advice and we look forward to continuing to provide this level of service to our clients both in the region and beyond."

The Newcastle team forms part of the wider DAC Beachcroft national real estate network, working particularly closely with the firm's offices in Leeds, Manchester, London and Bristol to ensure consistency of qual-

ity, service and accessibility to clients across the country.

David Weatherburn, regional senior partner in Newcastle, said: "This award is a great achievement for the team and recognition of the skill and expertise they offer. Since its inception in 2012, the team has grown steadily and has established itself as a regional force with genuine national reach."

The quality of advice from DAC Beachcroft has been further recognised in the recent Legal Week Best Legal Advisers Survey, ranking the firm in the 'top 5' in nine categories overall and one of only 10 firms to be named 'Overall Best Legal Adviser'.

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In association with Trinity Chambers

# Outstanding achievement



> Toby Hedworth  
QC in Chambers

**T**OBY Hedworth QC, head of Trinity Barristers Chambers, was presented with the pinnacle of the evening's Outstanding Achievement Award.

The award celebrates individuals who have made an outstanding impact on the legal profession in the region and to their organisation.

Welcomed by a standing ovation, Toby was presented with the award by Tonia Reeve from the title sponsor of the evening, NWG Property Solutions.

Caroline Goodwin QC, also from Trinity, was one of the five Lawyer of the Year finalists at the awards.

Trinity's Nicholas Stonor QC introduced Toby Hedworth on behalf of Chambers by saying: "Those who have worked with or against him know that Toby always brings added value to a case: his preparation, his strategic-planning and, above all, his advocacy, are, quite simply, exemplary."

Toby Hedworth QC was born in Tynemouth and lived in Whitley Bay before studying law at Cambridge. He was called to the Bar in 1975 and undertook pupillage and became a tenant at 60 Grainger Street, Newcastle, later to become Trinity Chambers.

Toby rapidly established himself as a leading junior barrister, specialising in prosecuting and defending criminal and regulatory cases. He

was appointed Crown Court Recorder in 1991 and became Queen's Counsel in 1996.

Throughout his career, Toby has dealt with many complex and high-profile cases, including the prosecution of child killer Robert Black.

He also acted in the first-ever prosecution under the Terrorism Act for membership of a proscribed organisation.

As well as regular recommendations in the leading Chambers UK and Legal 500 directories, Toby is given specific recognition in the memoirs of high-profile Silk, Michael Mansfield QC - "Toby Hedworth QC cool, calm and effective".

Toby became head of Trinity Chambers in 1998. During his time as head, he has overseen and inspired the expansion and diversification of Chambers, including the renovation of and move to the historic Custom House on Newcastle's Quayside in 2004.

In response to a growing client base in the Tees Valley, he also spearheaded the opening of a Chambers in Middlesbrough.

Under Toby's leadership, Trinity has tripled in size, now with approaching 80 barristers and Silks. In his introduction at the awards, Nicholas Stonor QC said: "Toby steers the ship with wisdom, dedication and good humour. He is the life and soul of chambers."

Reflecting on receiving his Outstanding Achievement award, Toby Hedworth QC said: "Any professional success that I have enjoyed has been largely because of the guidance and support of those around me in Chambers. I regard this award as very much being for everyone, the barristers and the staff, at Trinity Chambers."

Following a period of growth and diversification under Toby Hedworth's leadership, Trinity provides expert advice and advocacy in a wide range of legal areas including agriculture, business, chancery, costs, crime, employment, environmental protection, family and matrimonial finance, immigration, licensing, Court of Protection, personal injury and clinical negligence, planning and regulatory.

In response to client demand, Trinity has also developed an Alternative Dispute Resolution team dealing with mediation and arbitration.

With its extensive facilities, Chambers often hosts mediations, and more recently arbitrations.

Many of these practice groups are recognised in the leading legal directories, Chambers UK and the Legal 500, where Trinity is listed as a Tier One Set.

The most recent edition of the directory highlights Trinity's range of counsel, who are 'easy to deal with



> Toby delivering his  
acceptance speech



# for Toby Hedworth QC

and always high quality,' with service rated as 'first class,' thanks to the 'fantastic clerks,' who 'always go the extra mile.'

Given its structure, the Bar is increasingly seen as a lean and cost effective business model.

As such, the barristers at Trinity provide specialist legal advice and advocacy to a broad and diverse range of clients including solicitors, insurance companies, local authorities, police authorities, the Crown Prosecution Service, the Government Legal Department, trade unions and in-house legal teams from commercial businesses.

As well as a strong regional presence, some of the teams work nationally and indeed internationally, with some barristers having worked in The Hague, Bermuda, The Falkland Islands, Ukraine, Somaliland and most recently, Saint Helena. Despite the ever-evolving legal market and the challenges and opportunities this creates, the barristers at Trinity also continue to maintain a commitment to publicly funded work.

■ For details about Trinity Chambers contact Practice Director, Simon Stewart on 0191 232 1927, email [simon.stewart@trinitychambers.co.uk](mailto:simon.stewart@trinitychambers.co.uk) or visit [www.trinitychambers.co.uk](http://www.trinitychambers.co.uk).



► Trinity Chambers in Newcastle



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In association with Swinburne Maddison LLP

# Dual award success for Durham law firm



► John Davison, managing partner, Swinburne Maddison accepting Law Firm of the Year (6+Partners)

**S**INCE its creation in 1998, Swinburne Maddison LLP has undergone significant change and development and has now been named winner in two categories at the recent Northern Law Awards – Law Firm of the Year (6+ Partners) and Team of the Year – Litigation and Dispute Resolution.

The firm has not only developed an enviable client base over the intervening 19 years, but has also established itself as the pre-eminent law firm in County Durham and one of the region's leading law firms.

Its ten partners – seven of them began their careers with the firm – deliver a multi-disciplinary service to a diverse portfolio of regional and national clients. In fact its ratio of

partners to staff enables the firm to provide an exceptional, partner-led service; a factor which received plenty of positive client feedback in a recent independent market research exercise.

When announcing the winner of Law Firm of the Year (6+ partners), the judges said: "Swinburne Maddison showed excellence across all criteria – a substantial increase in turnover in the past year, a clear and well-positioned strategy, excellent client feedback, staff training programme and CSR policy."

When awarding Team of the Year – Litigation and Dispute Resolution, the judges said Swinburne Maddison's team "was to be praised for its wide client base and an impressive

breadth of expertise as well as its strong home-grown team that delivers results for clients, who describe their services as 'first class'".

Commenting on the firm's success, senior partner, John Davison, said: "Excellent service delivery and client satisfaction are key drivers for us. We constantly strive for both while providing unrivalled partner access and a personal, tailored approach to all clients in our desire to achieve what is best for them."

"Currently just over 70 per cent of our professional staff are under the age of 40, which reflects our belief in recruiting, nurturing and developing young talent and choosing to evolve and grow organically."

"I believe this is a big factor in our

success because there is a great sense of mutual respect and team spirit in the firm."

"Making the shortlist in eight categories of the Northern Law Awards and walking away as the winner in two is a tremendous result for us. Everyone in the practice is absolutely thrilled."

Over the last five years, turnover at Swinburne Maddison has increased by 55% and a progressive management style has seen the firm reposition itself within the market with a greater focus on commercial and corporate services.

In direct response to a continued increase in demand for its services and to allow expansion of its service offering, in December 2016 Swin-

burne Maddison created eight new posts, and in January doubled the size of its office space, not only becoming the sole occupier of its 10,000 sq ft detached office building, Venture House, but also signalling a new phase in the development of the firm as it continues to expand and consolidate its position within the regional economy.

Davison added, "We are certainly at a very exciting stage in our development, able to combine a high-quality working environment with varied and challenging work from high calibre clients and, as an ambitious team, we are actively seeking to attract and recruit the best legal talent in the region to add strength and depth to our firm."

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# TLW Solicitors celebrates its staff

**F**LEXIBILITY, investment in training and staff well-being came up trumps for TLW Solicitors at this year's Northern Law Awards.

The North-Shields based firm, which was also shortlisted in the Law Firm of the Year, Rising Star and Practise Management categories, beat off stiff competition from some much larger firms and budgets to win the Employer of the Year award.

To win the award TLW had to demonstrate how it 'offers the best possible opportunities' for its employees.

Ongoing investment in staff training and well-being, staff away-days, charitable giving and regular internal communications were highlighted as part of the entry with judges praising TLW's flexible working policy and staff retention record.

Partner Peter McKenna said: "We are absolutely delighted to have won the Employer of the Year award. We invest a lot of time and effort into making TLW Solicitors a great place to work and pride ourselves on being the best – both for our staff and clients.

"This award recognises the continued self-improvement and learn-



► The team from TLW Solicitors – Winners of Employer of the Year

ing of our staff and is something which we are very proud of."

This latest success follows another busy year for the firm which has seen it branch out into new areas of work including serious injury and mis-sold solar panels and successfully gain re-accreditation with Lexcel, the Law Society's legal practice quality mark for excellence in legal practice management and excellence in client care.

The firm has also continued to boost its expertise and learning by strengthening partnerships with charities such as Momentum.

Alistair McDonald, head of marketing and business development at TLW and shortlisted for the Law Practice Management award, said:

"We work very hard to make sure our team is happy. We aim to get the best possible results for our clients and we know that investment in our staff, through training and well-being, means we'll get the best outcomes.

"Ultimately, our staff and our clients benefit from us bringing together the legal expertise and experience in our team with new partnerships, staff rewards and access to learning."

Established in 2000 and specialising in the areas of serious and personal injury, financial mis-selling, professional negligence, road traffic accidents and motoring law, TLW Solicitors has grown into one of the UK's leading accredited law firms.



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## NORTHERN LAW AWARDS

In association with Irwin Mitchell

**T**HE North East offices of national law firm Irwin Mitchell are celebrating more success after winning three awards at this year's Northern Law Awards.

Irwin Mitchell has had a presence in the North East for 14 years and has offices in Newcastle and Middlesbrough helping clients across the entire region.

The Northern Law Awards recognise the very best legal talent across the North of England and Irwin Mitchell won:

Personal Injury/Clinical Negligence Team of the Year for the third year running.

Specialist asbestos-related disease and child abuse lawyer Emma Crowther was named Rising Star of the Year.

Personal injury expert Kimberley Fryer was also awarded Trainee of the Year.

The Serious Injury team alone has recovered more than £45m in damages for its clients and has several new team members including new associate Andrew McGowan, who has 25 years' experience of high value PI work, two new solicitors, Laura Gabbey-Cristofini and Alastair Elliot. Registered general nurse Kim Davies has been appointed as a client liaison manager delivering a unique support service to the firm's clients.

Commenting on this year's award wins, Paula Myers, regional managing partner of Irwin Mitchell's Newcastle office, said: "We have enjoyed a huge amount of success in recent years and these latest award wins are another great tribute to the phenomenal work and great talent we have

# Irwin Mitchell celebrate after triple awards success



► The North East offices of national law firm Irwin Mitchell are celebrating more success after winning three awards

within the firm.

"We are very proud of all of those who have won prizes and are delighted that so many talented individuals have been recognised. However, this will not stop us from continuing to

look to further develop our offering to ensure our clients always get the best possible outcome in their cases."

Fran Mayes, lead partner for the Personal Injury team at Irwin Mitchell's Newcastle office, said: "I am

incredibly proud of the work that we do to support individuals that have suffered injury and illness."

"The damages we recover for our clients enable them to have access to the rehabilitation and care that they

require for the rest of their lives. Our teams work hard to get the best possible outcomes for our clients so that they can live as independently as possible and get the help and support they need to recover.

"The Personal Injury team works closely with our Court of Protection and Public Law and Human Rights teams to ensure that our clients are supported whilst their case is ongoing and after their personal injury claim has concluded."

"Our Court of Protection team has extensive specialist knowledge to assist clients who lack the requisite capacity to manage their own property and affairs such as those suffering from dementia or Alzheimer's, or brain injuries caused through medical negligence or severe head injuries in accidents or assaults."

Last year Irwin Mitchell's Newcastle office raised over £14,000 for its charity of the year, Tiny Lives, which helps to care for premature and sick newborn babies, their mothers and families at the Royal Victoria Infirmary. The firm is supporting Rape Crisis Tyneside & Northumberland in 2017 to help women who may have been affected by rape or sexual abuse.

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## Helping you to get the most out of life after serious injury or illness

At Irwin Mitchell, we are widely regarded by experts as the number one personal injury law firm\*, helping our clients and their families get the best possible advice, rehabilitation and support. Call us to see how we can help you. Irwin Mitchell, standing by you.



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\*Sources: The Legal 500 UK 2014, Chambers & Partners UK 2015 Guide. Irwin Mitchell LLP is authorised and regulated by the Solicitors Regulation Authority.



# Experienced firm puts families first with top teamwork award

**T**HIS year's Northern Law Awards witnessed Beecham Peacock crowned Team of the Year in Family Law.

The award comes as recognition for the efforts made by the firm, which was founded in 1953 and has grown to become one of the region's most experienced law firms.

Located on Collingwood Street in Newcastle city centre, Beecham Peacock's family law team handles divorce, domestic violence, prenuptial agreements and child care issues amongst its small but dedicated team. As further recognition of the firm's family law expertise, Charlotte Talbot, Family Partner, was also named a finalist in the Lawyer of the Year award.

Beecham Peacock's Family Law service is heavily active throughout the region and is number one for Family Law provision organically via internet search. It's the also the recommended team for members of trade unions Unite and USDAW in the North East. The team pride themselves on their personal, understanding service whilst also offering the best legal representation possible, which ultimately leads to better client satisfaction.

The award win is a sign of success for the Family Law service within the firm,

which deals with around 900 matters per year and is perhaps the busiest family law department in the city. As the service has grown, so too has its contribution to the company. Family Law once represented just 10% of the overall turnover, but in just four years this has risen to 25%.

Charlotte Talbot, who was one of this year's Lawyer of the Year finalists and is part of the Family Law team, was enthusiastic about the future of the service and the firm at large: "We're very passionate about our family law services. The Northern Law Awards serve as a stamp of approval on our ability to deliver superior customer service and valued advice to families. We've already grown the service in just a few short years and feel more confident than ever about the future."

Beecham Peacock is already widely recognised as one of the North East's most renowned firms. This year alone, the firm has scooped the top prize for Team of the Year in Family Law as well as being named finalists in Personal Injury/Clinical Negligence, Employment and Lawyer of the Year categories. This large number of categories illustrates the outstanding dedication & commitment of the teams and shows that Beecham Peacock, and their Family Law team, will continue to grow.



➤ Beecham Peacock was crowned Team of the Year in Family Law at this year's Northern Law Awards



## FINALIST FOR:

- ⊖ Personal Injury – Team of the Year
- ⊖ Employment – Team of the Year
- ⊖ Lawyer of the Year – Charlotte Talbot

[www.beechampeacock.co.uk](http://www.beechampeacock.co.uk)

# WINNER!

## Team of the Year Family Law

**Northern  
Law Awards  
2016**

Personal Injury ◦ Employment ◦ Family Law ◦ Conveyancing ◦ Wills, Trusts & Probate ◦ Criminal Law ◦ Education Law

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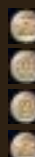
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