

WINNER

Andrew Wilkinson

CADWALADER, WICKERSHAM & TAFT

Restructuring skills

When Andrew Wilkinson left his post as head of non-contentious insolvency at Clifford Chance in 1998 to become the first English partner at Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft in London, many thought he was mad. But when he was revealed by *Legal Business* in September 2003 to be the biggest billing partner in London, netting £14m in revenue for his firm in 2002, they ate their words.

Wilkinson can single-handedly take the credit for the phenomenal bondholder restructuring business at his firm, and for many of the methods now regularly utilised in such

he gives you an answer, which is what you want as a client. He's accessible at all times, and will do whatever is necessary to get the thing done.'

Cadwalader partner James Douglas concludes: 'He sets a good example to the office, from the top.'

STAR PERFORMERS

MARK GAY

Denton Wilde Sapte

A leading light in Dentons' exceptional sports law practice, Gay had an incredible 2003. He kicked off the year by representing the English Cricket Board in hearings aimed at persuading it to move England's match against Zimbabwe out of the country, and ended it by representing the Football

and has led the firm's English practice ever since. In 2003, Hatchard not only topped the mergermarket.com individual M&A tables by value with an incredible 12 deals, he also found time to establish the 51 Committee, the first-ever forum for English lawyers in US firms, and became only the second US firm partner to be elected to the City of London Law Society. One senior investment banker who has recently worked with Hatchard described him as, 'technically very able, very commercial, with extensive deal experience'.

ALAN PECK

Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer

One of the strongest signs of a true leader is one who can adequately deal with his own succession issues. Alan Peck became managing partner of Freshfields in 1993 and took up his current position as chief executive in 1996. He will retire this April, leaving the firm with the affable Hugh Crisp at its helm. Peck has, in his time, played a huge part in the development of the firm's corporate practice in the mergers with two highly rated German firms, and in more than 70 lateral hires.

PAUL SMITH

Eversheds

In 1996, Paul Smith led a pitch to DuPont on behalf of Eversheds, aiming to win the mandate to handle all of its UK legal requirements. It was an unmitigated success, and DuPont's devotion to its 'partnering' model for external advisers meant Smith never looked back. Smith got to know DuPont's business like the back of his hand and, in return, DuPont introduced Eversheds to an enormous US client base. Smith is an incredible rainmaker responsible for winning 400 new US clients for the firm, which account for some 30% of turnover.



Andrew Wilkinson (centre) of Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft accepts the award for Lawyer of the Year from Nick Robbins of Garfield Robbins International

workouts. One client describes him as 'one of the best restructuring attorneys in the entire UK market'.

Wilkinson also heads the London office of his firm, and is the only non-American to sit on Cadwalader's management board. The London office is perhaps the most profitable of any such operation. Wilkinson has focused recently on diversifying its practice, away from simply bondholder restructurings, and into mezzanine bank debt and increasing work for financial institutions.

Michael Klingher of Goldman Sachs said: 'Andrew can be very forward-thinking, aggressive and smart, and

Association in the Rio Ferdinand case. This year started with work for tennis player Greg Rusedski in his battle to clear his name of doping charges.

MICHAEL HATCHARD

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom

Michael Hatchard joined Skadden Arps back in 1996 from Theodore Goddard,

'Andrew Wilkinson sets a good example to the office, from the top.'

James Douglas, Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft

In-House
International
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Lawyer of the Year 2004

The Senior Appointments & Mergers Team
of Garfield Robbins International is
delighted to have sponsored the Lawyer of
the Year 2004.

Congratulations to the winner,

Andrew Wilkinson
Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft LLP

and also to all the other nominees and
winners on the night.

▶▶ The Senior Appointments & Mergers team of Garfield Robbins International consists of Nicholas Robbins, Andrea Grossman, Bryn Bowden and Helen Bryant - some of the most experienced consultants in the marketplace today.

For more information on the services our Senior Appointments & Mergers Division can offer you or your firm, please contact Nicholas Robbins (Managing Director) on 020 7417 1400. Email: nicholas.robbins@garfieldrobbins.com