

CSR Programme of the Year

WINNER

HOGAN LOVELLS

Crispin Rapinet; Yasmin Waljee

Leading the way with its innovative programme

Hogan Lovells has long been at the vanguard of CSR work and this year is no exception. The firm created an innovative fund that encourages law firms to release their dormant client funds and donate them to the Access to Justice Foundation (AJF).

With cuts to legal aid looming, the 'It's Not Just Peanuts' campaign endeavours to give firms an easy way to donate money to the AJF. So far, the Attorney General and Lord Chief Justice have both backed the scheme, which has already released freed up £76,000 for use by AJF. Hogan Lovells provided advice to AJF on the SRA's rules surrounding the unlocking of dormant client funds. Any unclaimed client monies are paid to the AJF, which will then distribute the much-needed money to law centres across the country. Hogan Lovells then worked with the AJF to design a PR and launch campaign to promote the scheme and sent over 7,000 information packs to law firms.

'The campaign is one of both simplicity and ingenuity,' said the Attorney General Dominic Grieve.

HIGHLY COMMENDED

FRESHFIELDS BRUCKHAUS DERINGER

Paul Yates

Freshfields has been advising one of the UK's largest charities, Save The Children, on its global restructuring since 2009. The firm racked up some £2.5m worth of billable hours on the project. 'Without Freshfields' support we simply would not have been able to attempt this reshaping of our global operations,' said Jasmine Whitbread CEO of Save the Children International.

HERBERT SMITH

Richard Brophy

Herbert Smith underlined its pioneering CSR credentials by committing to a five-year scholarship scheme that will provide work experience, a bursary for higher education and mentoring to five young people a year. Herbert Smith hopes to create a network of young people from diverse and

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(L-R) Hogan Lovells' Crispin Rapinet and Yasmin Waljee, with Michael Greene of The International Bar Association

under-privileged backgrounds with the skills to succeed in professional services firms.

LINKLATERS/WEIL, GOTSHAL & MANGES

Mark Nuttall (Linklaters);
James Cole (Weil Gotshal)

Linklaters and Weil, Gotshal & Manges used their specialised capital markets expertise to great effect, advising the charity Scope on a bond issuance programme. Thanks to both firms, Scope now has access to much needed complementary funding of up to £20m from the capital markets.

OLSWANG

Linda Zell

Olswang has shown its firm-wide commitment to CSR by allowing its staff six days a year to participate in volunteering. Currently over 70% of staff do some volunteer work for charities such as Coram and local schools like the Haverstock School in Camden.

THOMAS EGGAR

Tony Edwards

Thomas Egggar has been working with the Prince's Trust, providing work experience and raising funds to reduce the number of disadvantaged young people facing unemployment. The 150-lawyer firm is also offering free legal advice to young people who are starting their own business.



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