

# INSURANCE TEAM OF THE YEAR SPONSORED BY WILLIS TOWERS WATSON

## **EVERSHEDS**

# **Paul Pugh**

A GAME-CHANGING SOLUTION TO A REAL-LIFE PROBLEM

The Flood Re not-for-profit scheme between the government and the insurance industry is a market-changing strategy to maintain the availability and affordability of the flood insurance provision to some 350,000 UK homeowners.

Eversheds advised The Association of British Insurers (ABI) on the Flood Re scheme while Pugh served for seven months as interim chief counsel for Flood Re, which has the power to call on an insurance industry-wide levy to raise £180m every year. The three-year reinsurance

programme is one of the largest 'natural peril' deals to be struck globally and the second-largest in Europe. The intention is that the fund will run for an initial 25 years, kick-starting a market that will eventually sustain itself.

Philippa Handyside, general counsel at the Association of British Insurers, commented: 'The legal challenges have required a multi-disciplinary, project-based approach by Eversheds which has seen Flood Re move from groundbreaking concept to an independent reinsurance facility on the brink of regulatory approval and opening for business.'

#### **HIGHLY COMMENDED**

#### **BLM**

#### Mike Brown

2015 was a strong year for this insurance-focused firm, which broke through the £100m revenue barrier after expanding its presence UK-wide. The appointment of former Law Commissioner David Hertzell, who has been a leading voice on insurance contract reform, as a consultant has added gravitas to its already strong bench.

#### **DWF**

### **Derek Adamson**

DWF represented Zurich Insurance in a landmark Supreme Court case against International Energy Group, which created new equitable rights contributions relating to policy coverage, affecting how mesothelioma claims are settled with serious financial implications for insurers.

# HERBERT SMITH FREEHILLS Geoffrey Maddock

Maddock's team advised Royal London over a seven-year period to help secure the future of its mutual business model. The firm developed a new 'with profits' life insurance product which was cleared by regulators the FCA and PRA in January 2016.

# NORTON ROSE FULBRIGHT Maria Ross

Acted for Merchant Navy Officers' Pension Fund on the creation of a £1.5bn longevity reinsurance arrangement with Pacific Life Re. Ross' team devised a scheme that is likely to be to be adopted by others as by using a trustee-owner cell insurer, the hedging becomes more affordable.

### **RPC**

## Alexandra Anderson

RPC advised Colliers International in its significant dispute with insurer Titan and managed to get a €32m ruling against its client overturned in the Court of Appeal. The case centred on who had the right to sue over a property valuation, setting a precedent for disputes involving properties sold to securitisation vehicles.

