

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

LEGAL PUBLISHERS

CHAMBERS UK

A Client's Guide to the
UK Legal Profession

2007

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Forsters LLP is ranked in Chambers UK 2007 as follows:

TRUSTS & PERSONAL TAX

LONDON

Trusts & Personal Tax London Leading Firms
² FORSTERS LLP

Leading Individuals
² ROBINSON David Forsters LLP WILLIS David Forsters LLP

Forsters LLP

The Firm: This “small but high-calibre” private client practice has enjoyed steady growth in the past year with two new arrivals, consultant Eliza Mellor and partner Carole Cook, and the internal promotion to partnership of Julian Washington. Its conversion to LLP in 2004 is also thought to be a catalyst behind its growth. Although best known for its successful property practice, the firm has received public recognition for a new practice that engaged in a campaign aimed at disseminating information on the tax and estate planning implications arising from the Civil Partnership Act 2004, which came into operation in December 2005. The team represents a staple base of landed estate clients, media figures, and UK and overseas high net worth individuals and entrepreneurs, and has strategically enhanced services with the offshore trust expertise of its new arrivals. In line with its perceptible growth, the firm has invested in a new office in Mayfair that unites its part-

ners under one roof and makes provision for future expansion. As the needs of its clients multiply, concomitant to the complexities of managing ever-increasing wealth, the team’s approach integrates the property and commercial practices and combines the firm’s emphasis on fundamental private client values with a business-savvy edge. As one source observed: “Forsters is a niche firm but with a corporate twist.”

The Lawyers: David Robinson is head of the department and “perfectly fits the private client specialist mould.” He is an expert in the conditional exemption from tax of heritage assets. “Sensible through and through,” consultant David Willis advises on wills and tax planning and in the administration of estates involving agricultural, business, heritage property and overseas assets. Both Robinson and Willis act as executors and trustees.

Leaders in Trusts & Personal Tax

ROBINSON, David

Forsters LLP, London
(020) 7863 8333
djrrobinson@forsters.co.uk

Specialisation: Partner and Head of Private Client Group. Advises a variety of private clients on estate planning and capital taxation. Trustee of landed estates in England and Scotland. Has a specialised knowledge of the tax exemptions affecting fine houses and works of art. Assists trustees and beneficiaries

of offshore trusts and has over 20 years’ experience of drawing up wills and settlements, often acting as executor.

Prof. Memberships: City of London Law Society; The Law Society; Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (STEP).

Career: Qualified in 1981. Glover & Co 1982-85. Frere Cholmeley Bischoff 1985-98. Partner 1989. Founding Partner Forsters 1998.

WILLIS, David

Forsters LLP, London
(020) 7863 8510
dcwillis@forsters.co.uk

Specialisation: Consultant in the Private Client Group. He has specialised in private client work for over 30 years. He acts for a broad range of individuals and trusts with UK and non-UK interests. He has been involved in some ground-breaking litigation for clients and recently acted in a case in the

Privy Council involving sham trust issues.

He also often acts as a trustee of landed estates and other settlements and as executor.

Prof. Memberships: The Law Society; Society of Trusts and Estate Practitioners (STEP); Resolution.

Career: Oxford University (MA). Qualified initially as a barrister before becoming a solicitor. Partner Frere Cholmeley Bischoff 1978-98. Founding Partner Forsters 1998 and Senior Partner 1998-2001.

FAMILY: MATRIMONIAL FINANCE & PRIVATE CHILDREN

LONDON

Family: Matrimonial Finance & Private Children London Leading Firms
⁴ FORSTERS LLP

Leading Individuals
⁴ RODGERS Hilary Forsters LLP NORTHOVER Ann Forsters LLP

Forsters LLP

The Firm & the Lawyers

Hilary Rodgers and Ann Northover are joint heads of family at Forsters LLP where the focus is on high net worth individuals, trusts and international law work. They have “a great rapport with their clients” and manage to “put complicated matters to clients without bamboozling them.” Private law children matters are also dealt with proficiently.

RODGERS, Hilary

Forsters LLP, London
(020) 7863 8540
hrodgers@forsters.co.uk

Specialisation: Partner and Joint Head of Family Law Group specialising in complex financial settlements on divorce which often involve an international element. She works closely with client’s accountants and other financial advisers. Some of the issues on

which she is experienced (in the context of family law) include questions of jurisdiction, taxation (UK and International), trusts and pensions.

Prof. Memberships: Resolution; International Bar Association; International Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers.

Career: Qualified 1987. Theodore Goddard 1987-91. Frere Cholmeley Bischoff 1991-98. Partner 1994. Founding Partner Forsters 1998.

NORTHOVER, Ann

Forsters LLP, London
(020) 7863 8533
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Specialisation: Partner and Joint Head of Family Law Group specialising in all aspects of family law and in particular complex substantial asset cases and disputes concerning children.

Prof. Memberships: Resolution (including serving on committee of Resolution London Region) The Law Society, Royal Society of Medicine.

Career: Qualified 1992 having trained at Stephenson Harwood. Partner Gordon Dadds 2002. Joined Forsters LLP as a Partner in 2004.

Leaders in Family: Matrimonial Finance & Private Children

REAL ESTATE

LONDON

Real Estate: Big-Ticket
London
Leading Firms

6¹ FORSTERS LLP

Real Estate: Mainly Mid-Market
London
Leading Firms

1¹ FORSTERS LLP

Real Estate
London
Leading Individuals

1¹ HAMILTON Sophie Forsters LLP

4¹ EDWARDS Smita Forsters LLP

PATTERSON Tony Forsters LLP

Forsters LLP

The Firm: Property is the raison d'être of this "consistently excellent niche player" and, just by looking at the stable of clients and work undertaken this year alone, it is obvious the firm plays to its strengths. A lot of firms profess to offer a partner-led service, but this firm actually delivers, according to grateful clients, with "genuine partner involvement all the way along." It operates at the very forefront of the middle market and, with some serious investment, development, tenant and public sector instructions under its belt, it is knocking loudly on the door of the big-ticket deals. Some cracking work for British Airways Pension Fund, Chester City Council and Frogmore, as well as the work undertaken for funds managed by Insight Investment, such as Clerical Medical and Halifax Life, stand this practice in good stead at the complex end of the market.

The Lawyers: Sophie Hamilton has "such a wealth of experience that she instinctively knows the best way forward in a deal and provides truly practical solutions." Hamilton is a senior partner in the group, a tremendously respected property solicitor and work generator, and is more than able to handle any form of property deal. Tony Patterson is another respected solicitor here, impressing clients with his "positive influence on a deal" and commercial nous. Smita Edwards is credited by clients for her ability to "compress advice into easily digestible chunks" and for "turning transactions around with her exuberant and friendly approach."

Clients/Work Highlights: Other clients include Lathe Investments; Moorfield Group; Opus Land; Plus Shops; Bank of Ireland; Allied Irish Banks; Fujitsu and the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

Leaders in Real Estate

HAMILTON, Sophie

Forsters LLP, London
(020) 7863 8450
schamilton@forsters.co.uk

Specialisation: Senior Partner and Commercial Property Partner with extensive experience in a broad range of property work including acquisitions, disposals, funding and development agreements for UK institutional and international investors and acquisitions and management of shopping centres (clients include funds managed by Insight Investment and Goldsmith's Company). Has also acted for tenants in major office relocations and for occupier tenants in the leisure industry. Also involved both as a property lawyer and as a trustee for some significant family trusts with important property investments and acts for a number of charitable trusts with property portfolios.

Prof. Memberships: The Law Society; Anglo-American Real Property Institute; Liveryman, the Goldsmiths' Company; Freeman of the City of London.

Career: Educated St Mary's School, Calne; Marlborough College; Clare College, Cambridge. Qualified 1979; Partner 1985; Head of Property Department 1991-94 (all at Frere Cholmeley Bischoff); founding Partner Forsters 1998; Senior Partner 2001 to date.

PATTERSON, Tony

Forsters LLP, London
(020) 7863 8460
ajpatterson@forsters.co.uk

Specialisation: Commercial Property Partner with extensive experience of commercial property work. He acts for a variety of funds, developers and investors (clients include British Airways Pension Fund, The Osprey Limited Partnership and Wharf Property Investments Limited). He is also Head of Forsters' Irish Group and has acted for Irish investors on major city office acquisitions and disposals.

Prof. Memberships: Investment Property Forum; 100 Property Club; Lansdowne Club, The Law Society.

Career: Qualified 1975; Frere Cholmeley Bischoff 1973-98. Partner 1980; Head of Property Department 1994-98; various management committees. Founding Partner Forsters 1998.

EDWARDS, Smita

Forsters LLP, London
(020) 7863 8470
sedwards@forsters.co.uk

Specialisation: Commercial Property Partner with particular expertise in complex development projects and town centre regeneration schemes and in acting for public sector bodies. Clients include Active Retail Fund, Cheshire County Council and Retail Plus Property Fund (investment), Highland Developments Limited (development), Chester City Council, Surrey Heath Borough Council and Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead (city centre developments) and McDonald's Restaurants Limited (occupier).

Career: Qualified 1985. Joined Frere Cholmeley Bischoff 1985. Partner Frere Cholmeley Bischoff 1992. Founding Partner Forsters 1998. Head of Property Department Forsters 1998-2003.



Planning
London
Leading Firms

⁴ FORSTERS LLP

Leading Individuals

³ CUNLIFFE Michael Forsters LLP

Forsters LLP The Firm & the Lawyers

Forsters LLP moves up the rankings this year. Practice head Michael Cunliffe is renowned for advising public sector clients on major projects involving complex S106 agreements, and this is a key area for the practice. Described as “positive and supportive,” Cunliffe recently led the firm’s advice to the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea on Circadian’s redevelopment of the Lots Road Power Station

site. The Royal Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust and Chester City Council instructed the team last year, while private sector clients included Allied London Properties, which Forsters assisted in relation to the Brunswick Centre retail development in central London.

Leader in Planning

CUNLIFFE, Michael

Forsters LLP, London
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mdcunliffe@forsters.co.uk

Specialisation: Partner and Head of Planning Group specialising in planning law with particular reference to major regeneration schemes both on behalf of developers and local planning authorities. He has particular expertise in drafting planning and other statutory agreements for major development projects. He has considerable experience of dealing with projects requiring environmental assessment, planning appeals by way of Public Inquiry, objections to development

plans, judicial review and other statutory challenges to administrative decisions.

Prof. Memberships: Legal Associate of the Royal Town Planning Institute, Member of the Law Society’s Planning Panel and Member of the City of London Law Society’s Planning and Environmental Law Sub-Committee. Associate Fellow of the Society for Advanced Legal Studies and a Member of the Society’s Planning and Environmental Law Reform Working Group.

Career: Qualified 1974. Joined Ashurst Morris Crisp 1983. Partner Ashurst Morris Crisp 1987-2001. Partner Forsters 2001.

REAL ESTATE LITIGATION

LONDON

Real Estate Litigation
London
Leading Firms

² FORSTERS LLP

Leading Individuals

² ROSS Jonathan Forsters LLP

Forsters LLP

The Firm: With its reputation for “total quality” in landlord and tenant matters, this impressive group offers clients an “absolutely spot-on service” in both commercial and residential property disputes. It offers a wide palette of expertise, in which development agreement, break clause and negligence disputes stand out. The team recently advised a developer on redevelopment break clauses in the renewal leases of a property in Bath.

The Lawyers: The “responsive, tactical and efficient” Jonathan Ross is a “top-of-the-range” practitioner, according to sources.

Clients/Work Highlights: Clients include Corporation of Trinity House; The Goldsmiths’ Company; Benchmark Group; Delancey Estates; Rockmartin; Time Warner and McDonald’s.

Leaders in Real Estate Litigation

ROSS, Jonathan

Forsters LLP, London
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Specialisation: Partner and Head of Property Litigation Group specialising in commercial property litigation. He acts for clients ranging from major institutions to private individuals. He writes a weekly piece for PropertyWeek and

lectures regularly on property litigation matters.

Prof. Memberships: Secretary of Property Litigation Association, The Law Society, RICS Dilapidations Forum.

Career: Qualified 1983 with Saunders Sobell. Partner 1989. Head of Property Litigation at Forsyte Saunders Kerman 1994. Denton Hall 1996-2002. Joined Forsters in 2002.