

CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

LEGAL PUBLISHERS

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A Client's Guide to the
UK Legal Profession

2010

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Agriculture & Rural Affairs
London
Leading Firms
Band 2
Forsters LLP
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Elliott Penelope Forsters LLP
Lane Andrew Forsters LLP

Forsters LLP

THE FIRM An influx of new personnel has given this team a major boost, while demonstrating its commitment to the sector. Recent work for the group has included handling the purchase of a large agricultural and sporting estate valued at more than £20 million and advising a non-domiciled owner on the ownership structure of a grouse moor.

KEY INDIVIDUALS Penny Elliott is praised as being “very bright, technically very good, practical and exceptional at getting on with the client.” She recently

moved to the firm from Withers alongside **Andrew Lane**. He is similarly commended for his “knowledge, determination and ingenuity at sorting out difficult problems.” He is a great strategist, with considerable strength in tax and commercial planning.

ELLIOTT, Penelope

Forsters LLP, London
(020) 7863 8432
pahelliott@forsters.co.uk

Recommended in Agriculture & Rural Affairs (London)

Specialisation: Partner specialising in buying and selling of agricultural land and estates; advice on landlord and tenant issues; farming partnership; share farming and contract farming; agricultural insolvency; capital taxation; heritage property.

Professional Memberships: Agricultural Law Association; Country Landowners Association (Cambridge and Bedfordshire branch committee).

Career: Trained at Taylors, Newmarket; qualified in 1985; Partner at Mills & Reeve 1988-98. Partner Withers 1998-2008. Partner Forsters 2008. Directorships - Fitzwilliam Museum Development Trust.

Personal: Educated at Girton College, Cambridge.

LANE, Andrew

Forsters LLP, London
(020) 7863 8590
alane@forsters.co.uk

Recommended in Agriculture & Rural Affairs (London)

Specialisation: Practice covers all types of landed estate work with a particular emphasis on succession and capital taxation. Often instructed on high-profile sales and acquisitions of farms and estates. Also deals with agricultural holdings law, estate management. Advises on tax implications of property transactions; particularly capital gains tax, stamp

duty and VAT. Clients include private individuals, family trusts and institutions.

Professional Memberships: VCT Committee of the Central Association of Agricultural Valuers, Agricultural Law Association. Trustee of RASE Pension Fund. Committee member CLA London Branch.

Career: Was a full-time farmer between 1978-87. Joined Withers in 1987 qualifying in 1992 and becoming a Partner in 1994. Joined Forsters as a Partner in 2009.

Personal: Born 22 January 1957. Educated Malvern College 1970-74 Christ's College Cambridge 1975-78. Lives near Salisbury, Wiltshire.

CONSTRUCTION: PURCHASE-LED

LONDON & UK-WIDE

Construction: Purchaser-led
London & UK-wide
Leading Firms
Band 5
Forsters LLP

Forsters LLP

THE FIRM Interviewees emphasise this team's high level of client care, and clients appreciate its ability to

Construction: Purchaser-led
London & UK-wide
Leading Individuals
Band 5
Cook Sarah Forsters LLP

offer the full range of property-related advice. The team recently advised Ronald McDonald House

Charities (UK) on the development aspects of a lease and procurement agreement.

Sources Say: “A small, focused and steady team consistently providing high-quality work.”

KEY INDIVIDUALS Practice head **Sarah Cook** “always goes the extra mile.”

COOK, Sarah

Forsters LLP, London
(020) 7863 8496
srcook@forsters.co.uk

Recommended in Construction (UK-wide)

Specialisation: Partner and Head of Construction Group with extensive experience in non-contentious construction matters including drafting and negotiating building

contracts and associated documentation such as performance bonds and guarantees; drafting and negotiating professional team appointments; negotiation of warranties provided by building contractors, sub-contractors and the professional team and consideration of third party rights. She acts for developers and others carrying out works in relation to the primary documentation and provides

advice regarding the legal position of lenders, purchasers and tenants on the acquisition of interests in newly completed buildings and buildings still under construction. She also has experience in providing advice in relation to contentious matters including acting on adjudications.

Professional Memberships: Law Society; Society of Construction Law; Adjudication Society.

Career: Qualified 1996. Frere Cholmeley Bischoff 1994-98. Forsters LLP 1998 to date; made Partner 2004.

Personal: Educated Kimbolton School; St Catharine's College, Cambridge University (MA).

CORPORATE/M&A

LONDON

Corporate/M&A: Lower Mid-Market
London
Leading Firms
Band 3
Forsters LLP

Corporate/M&A: Mid-Market

London
Leading Individuals
Band 3
Whiteson Jeremy Forsters LLP

Forsters LLP

THE FIRM Forsters has established a good name for itself through its focus on and talent for real estate transactional work, and boasts a strong client base of institutional investors and large portfolio companies. Despite the trying market conditions, the group has continued to attract work of this vein and recently advised Leander Group on its recommended cash partial offer for 74.9% of Real Office Group.

Sources Say: “The quality of the advice is superb; it balances the personal touch of a small team with the skills of a large firm.”

KEY INDIVIDUALS Jeremy Whiteson is “a leading expert in mid-market corporate deals and a great guy to work with,” according to sources. He leads the corporate group and worked with Clos du Mesnil on the private company takeover of Latitude Resources.

WHITESON, Jeremy

Forsters LLP, London
(020) 7863 8370
jpw@forsters.co.uk

Recommended in Corporate/M&A (London)

Specialisation: Partner and Head of Corporate with broad experience of corporate transactions and corporate recovery work.

Jeremy's work is focused on three areas: entrepreneurial business (where he acts for businesses and investors on start ups, expansion funding, sales and acquisitions and listings); property funds and structures (where he acts for property investors and managers on structuring collective ownership

or development of property as well as corporate real estate transactions); and corporate recovery (where he advises investors, creditors, debtors and insolvency practitioners on distressed business transactions, restructuring and insolvency issues).

Professional Memberships: The Law Society, R3 (associate).

Career: Qualified 1990. CMS Cameron McKenna (1988-1993); Blake Laphorn (1993-95); Rooks Rider (1995-2001) (Partner 1998-2001); joined Forsters as Partner 2001.

Publications: Chapter in Tolleys Insolvency Law; numerous articles.

PRIVATE CLIENT

LONDON

Private Client
London
Leading Firms
Band 2
Forsters LLP
Leading Individuals
Band 3
Robinson David Forsters LLP

Forsters LLP

THE FIRM Private client work is central to this firm's practice, and its growing reputation in the field is mirrored by its recent expansion. The recruitment of a number of former Withers partners has boosted the firm's offering in both landed estate and offshore work.

KEY INDIVIDUALS David Robinson is commended for his work in high-value UK estates and heritage property.

ROBINSON, David

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

Recommended in Private Client (London)

Specialisation: Partner and Head of Private Client Group. Advises a broad variety of

clients on estate planning and capital taxation, onshore and offshore. Trustee of several landed estates. Over 25 years' experience of drawing up and interpreting wills and settlements, and a specialised knowledge of the tax exemptions affecting fine houses and works of art.

Professional 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.

REAL ESTATE

LONDON

Real Estate: Mainly Mid-Market
London
Leading Firms
Band 1
Forsters LLP
Real Estate: Big-Ticket
London
Leading Firms
Band 5
Forsters LLP

Real Estate
London
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Hamilton Sophie Forsters LLP
Band 4
Edwards Smita Forsters LLP
Patterson Tony Forsters LLP
Band 6
Gill Howard Forsters LLP
McMahon Eugene Forsters LLP

excellent knowledge of the industry and always adopt a commercial approach."

KEY INDIVIDUALS Sophie Hamilton is heralded for her commercial nous: "*She is extremely savvy from a business point of view, and her energy and tenacity are remarkable.*" Highly regarded Smita Edwards led the team acting for Realis Estates on the regeneration of Stoke City Centre. Tony Patterson focuses on property development, investment and funding, where he is considered to be an expert. Eugene McMahon is "*sensible, hands-on and focused – he has great understanding of how a deal is put together, and he rolls up his sleeves and gets on with it. From a client's point of view, it's like having an extra pair of eyes and ears.*" Howard Gill "*consistently provides first-class property advice.*" One client added: "*Both his professional knowledge and business acumen are invaluable to me in running my business.*" Gill has broad experience but is noted especially for his knowledge of the retail and leisure sector.

Forsters LLP

THE FIRM This firm's property focus is bolstered by its capabilities in planning, construction, property finance and property litigation. It handles large complex transactions, in addition to smaller scale work, and covers all aspects of property work from investment, leasing, development and construction to

financing, planning and property litigation. The team has recently been active in major strategic development projects, such as advising on Menta's £500 million Cherry Orchard Road development in Croydon.

Sources Say: "*Due to their broad client base and the depth and breadth of their practice, the lawyers have*

HAMILTON, Sophie

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

Recommended in Real Estate (London (Firms))

Specialisation: 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 (clients include funds managed by Invista Real Estate, The Crown Estate and the Goldsmiths' Company). Also acts for tenants in major office relocations, and is involved both as a property lawyer and as a trustee for some significant family trusts with large landed estates and important property investments and acts for a number of charitable trusts with property portfolios.

Professional 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 2008.

EDWARDS, Smita

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

Recommended in Real Estate (London (Firms))

Specialisation: Commercial Property Partner with particular expertise in investment, complex development projects and town centre regeneration schemes. Clients include Active Retail Fund, Rockspring Hanover Property Unit Trust and Retail Plus Property Fund (investment); Realis Estates, Wrenbridge Land and Opus Land (development); Chester City Council (city centre regeneration) 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.

PATTERSON, Tony

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

Recommended in Real Estate (London (Firms))

Specialisation: Commercial Property Partner with 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, Wharf Property Investments Limited, Greenlight Property Fund and Rock Capital Group plc.

Professional Memberships: Investment Property Forum; 100 Property 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.

GILL, Howard

Forsters LLP, London
(020) 7863 8494
hfgjll@forsters.co.uk

Recommended in Real Estate (London (Firms))

Specialisation: Partner and Head of Commercial Property Group. Acts for occupiers as well as funds and institutions. Also acts for developers dealing with site acquisition, funding agreements and planning agreements. He is experienced in all aspects of landlord and tenant work including, in particular, lettings and insolvency issues. Particular experience in the retail investment and the leisure sectors. **Professional Memberships:** Law Society; Investment Property Forum; British Council of Shopping Centres.

Career: Educated Sherborne School; Durham University. Qualified 1989. Lovell White Durrant 1987-1995; Edge & Ellison 1995-97; Frere Cholmeley Bischoff 1997-98; Forsters LLP 1998 to date. Made Partner 1999.

MCMAHON, Eugene

Forsters LLP, London
(020) 7863 8475
efcmahon@forsters.co.uk

Recommended in Real Estate (London (Firms))

Specialisation: Commercial Property Partner with experience in a range of commercial property work acting for institutional investors and landlords on acquisitions, disposals and landlord and tenant matters. Particular expertise in development and funding transactions for both private and public sector clients (including complex town centre redevelopment schemes). Clients for whom he acts include British Airways Pension Fund, Wrenbridge Land, Menta Developments and LXB Properties.

Professional Memberships: The Law Society.

Career: Qualified 1996 at Clifford Chance. P&O Properties 1998-2000. Joined Forsters 2000. Partner since 2005.

Personal: Educated St Mary's High School, Blackpool; Durham University (LLB).

FAMILY/MATRIMONIAL

LONDON

Family/Matrimonial
London
Leading Firms
Band 3
Forsters LLP

Family/Matrimonial
London
Leading Individuals
Band 2
Northover Ann Forsters LLP

Forsters LLP

THE FIRM Forsters' family department is widely held to be a class act, acting for high net worth individuals in ancillary relief proceedings, prenuptial agreements and private children matters, including surrogacy.

KEY INDIVIDUALS Ann Northover is described as an authoritative leader. "She knows what is achievable and goes hell for leather to get it."

NORTHOVER, Ann
Forsters LLP, London
(020) 7863 8533
aenorthover@forsters.co.uk
Recommended in Family/Matrimonial (London)

Specialisation: Partner and Head of Family Law Group specialising in all aspects of family law and in particular complex asset cases of matrimonial and relationship breakdown often involving trusts and international

elements; and disputes concerning children. She is a practising collaborative lawyer.

Professional Memberships: Resolution (including formerly 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.

PLANNING

LONDON

Planning
London
Leading Firms
Band 5
Forsters LLP

Leading Individuals
Band 2
Cunliffe Michael Forsters LLP
Band 5
Taylor Tim Forsters LLP

Forsters LLP

THE FIRM Forsters' property group feeds its accomplished, flexible and approachable planning team. It does high-calibre work in and around London, including advising Menta Developments on the planning application for a £500 million residential-led, mixed-use scheme in Croydon. Tying in another of the firm's key practice areas of education, the team is advising St Paul's School on its redevelopment proposals.

Sources Say: "Offers a very high quality of preparation and can always pre-empt situations."

KEY INDIVIDUALS Sources applaud Michael Cunliffe's "excellent strategic approach," describing him as "a very well-respected lawyer and a true veteran of the planning circuit." Tim Taylor's practice takes in all aspects of planning and development issues, ensuring his continued popularity amongst clients.

CUNLIFFE, Michael
Forsters LLP, London
(020) 7863 8477
mdcunliffe@forsters.co.uk
Recommended in Planning (London)

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.

Professional 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. Member of the Planning and Environmental Law Reform Working Group of the Society for Advanced Legal Studies.

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

TAYLOR, Tim
Forsters LLP, London
(020) 7863 8479
tjtaylor@forsters.co.uk
Recommended in Planning (London)

Specialisation: Dual-qualified planning solicitor and chartered surveyor with experience in a range of planning law and related areas, acting for developers, local authorities, private clients and institutions. Particular expertise in relation to development issues (including environmental assessments), section 106 agreements, judicial reviews and listed buildings.

He has also advised on numerous public inquiries. Clients include Menta Developments, British Airways Pension Fund, Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council and the Phillimore Estate, as well as numerous private individuals.

Professional Memberships: The Law Society; the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (planning and development division).

Career: Qualified (1995) as a chartered surveyor; qualified (2004) as a solicitor at Berwin Leighton Painsner; Eversheds (2004-06); joined Forsters LLP (June 2006).

REAL ESTATE LITIGATION

LONDON

Real Estate Litigation
London
Leading Firms
Band 3
Forsters LLP

Leading Individuals
Band 1
Ross Jonathan Forsters LLP
Band 4
Rees Natasha Forsters LLP

Forsters LLP

THE FIRM This West End commercial firm is recognised for its niche in property matters, including

residential enfranchisement and commercial service charge disputes. It recently acted in the widely reported Sportelli and Les Aggio cases.

Sources Say: "With Forsters you get small-firm personal service combined with large-firm quality."

KEY INDIVIDUALS Team head Jonathan Ross is lauded as "a consistently impressive operator with fluent legal knowledge and an engaging manner." Natasha Rees has considerable experience particularly in the residential aspects of real estate. Her "strong and regular appearance in high-quality work," including the Sportelli case, contributed to her recent accession to the partnership.

ROSS, Jonathan
Forsters LLP, London
(020) 7863 8388
jmross@forsters.co.uk
Recommended in Real Estate Litigation (London (Firms))

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.

Professional Memberships: Secretary of Property Litigation Association, The Law Society.

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

REES, Natasha
Forsters LLP, London
(020) 7863 8385
nrrees@forsters.co.uk
Recommended in Real Estate Litigation (London (Firms))

Specialisation: Property Litigation Partner specialising in all aspects of commercial and residential property litigation with particular expertise in residential landlord and tenant work and leasehold enfranchisement. Natasha advises and acts for a number of settled

estates, charities, commercial landlords and management companies in London advising in relation to their residential property litigation work. She also acts for both landlords and tenants in relation to enfranchisement claims and enfranchisement related litigation including professional negligence claims.

Professional Memberships: The Law Society; Property Litigation Association.

Career: Qualified 1995 at Lewis Silkin. Masons 1996-2001. Joined Forsters 2001. Partner since 2008.