

Wragge & Co wins FT pensions award

Wragge & Co LLP has been named pensions law firm of the year at the FT Business Pensions and Investment Provider Awards.

The firm's 30-lawyer Pensions Team won the pensions law category at an awards ceremony in May. The awards celebrate excellent service provision to UK occupational pension schemes. Wragge & Co's team took the legal title ahead of Ashurst, CMS Cameron McKenna, Linklaters, Mayer Brown Rowe & Maw, Pitmans and Sacker & Partners.

Glyn Ryland, head of the Pensions Team, said: "Wragge & Co has invested in its pensions practice and has confidence in its abilities to deliver at the highest level. I am proud to be part of a phenomenal team who work hard each day to provide the very best advice and service to our clients. Pensions is a highly technical, difficult and competitive field and I am very pleased our industry has recognised the team's strengths."

The award caps a year of growth, high-profile work and client wins. New clients won over the past 12 months include the trustees of AMEC's £1 billion plus pension schemes and Britannia Building Society Pension Scheme's trustees.

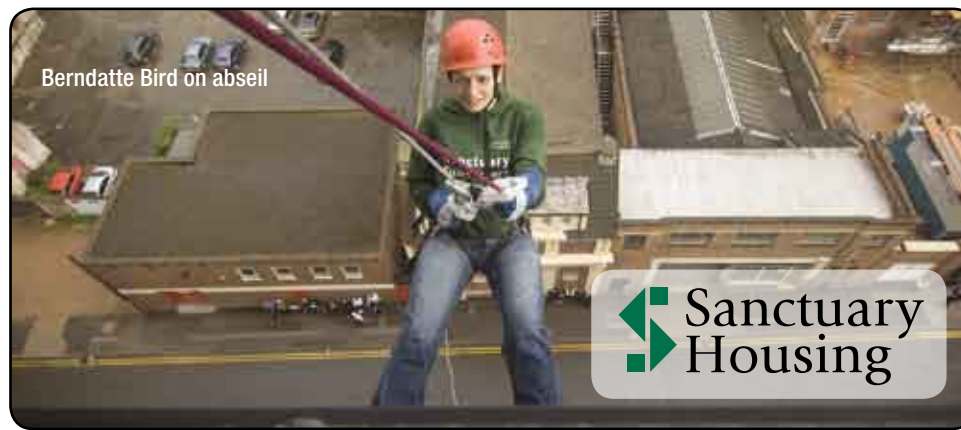
Other highlights saw Wragge & Co's pensions experts complete the transfer of the MG Rover Group Pension Scheme to the Pension Protection Fund. It was the largest transfer to the PPF and helped secure compensation for more than 6,000 people. The team also hit the headlines with a landmark Court of Appeal victory for Steria. The case, Steria v Hutchinson, clarified issues surrounding summary information provided to members of occupational pension schemes.

In May, Paul Feathers became the team's newest partner, joining Glyn Ryland, Richard Black, Vivien Cockerill, Peter Shave and Jason Coates as the firm's six pension partners. Sacker & Partners partner Jane Kola is also set to join the team in August. With further recruitment planned, the team is looking to total more than 40 lawyers within 18 months.

Wragge & Co's pensions practice operates as a single team from offices in London and Birmingham. Its experts advise employers, trustees and institutional clients on a full range of non-contentious and contentious pensions issues. With clients including the Rolls-Royce Pension Fund, EMAP, Philips Pensions Trustees Limited and Resolution Group Pensions Scheme, the team is widely recognised as one of the UK's premier pensions practices. www.wragge.com

Wragge & Co

Sanctuary Superstars rise to the challenge



A team of five Worcester-based Sanctuary Housing Group employees, recently tested their wits, speed and mental agility in a charity event to raise money for Birmingham and Solihull Women's Aid.

The Wragge & Co City Challenge involved competitors answering a series of brainteaser challenges based on the history and geography of Birmingham. Additional challenges included abseiling from the top of the City's Mailbox building, completing laps on a Karting track and weaving team members through a specially made 'spider's web'.

Birmingham and Solihull Women's Aid (BSWA) provides services for women and children who have been affected by the experience of domestic violence, rape and sexual assault. In a bid to support them, leading law firm Wragge & Co, came up with this novel and rather complex challenge which involved over 20 teams and raised £25,000 for the cause.

Sanctuary Housing manages over 63,000

homes in the UK including a number of refuges for women fleeing domestic violence so it came as no surprise when staff expressed their interest in supporting the event.

The Sanctuary Superstars team, comprising Bernadette Bird, Nathan Warren, Janet Robbins, Mark McCarthy and Gareth Dixon – all from Worcester head office – dashed around the city in a desperate attempt to find the answers to the brainteaser challenges.

Said team leader Bernadette: "Our knowledge of Birmingham city centre was limited and we had to contend with torrential rain so you can imagine our surprise and delight when we learned that we had achieved third place.

"It was an excellent day and we thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to help the BSWA in this way. We hope that the funds will help them with their work in the future."

www.sanctuary-housing.co.uk

Innovation award for Malvern Instruments

At a recent major trade congress, Powtech 2007 held in Nürnberg, Germany, Malvern Instruments became the first recipient of a new innovation award, presented by the technical journals PROCESS, PharmaTEC and Schüttgut. The company's new SyNIRgi near infrared chemical imaging (NIR-CI) system, which was on show at the exhibition, was judged the winner in the Materials Analysis and Characterization section.

Chemical imaging is used increasingly for a wide range of applications. In the pharmaceutical industry, for example, it can help ensure correct blending and uniformity of drug content in tablets, and is also used in the detection of counterfeit drugs. It has applications elsewhere, one of which is to detect banned substances, such as proteins of mammalian origin, in animal feedstuffs.

SyNIRgi was launched in February at Pittcon 2007 in the USA, and was shown for the first time in Europe at Powtech. Collecting the award, Malvern's marketing manager for Europe, Renate Hessemann said: "Malvern is delighted to receive this



innovation award. It is especially pleasing that it is in recognition of

our development work in chemical imaging, which is now moving from its specialist roots to become a routine diagnostic tool."

www.malvern.com

Perfect remedy for storage headaches

Businesses looking to import, store and despatch goods need not take on the added responsibility or costs of running their own warehouse, advises Kidderminster smart storage specialists Whitefoot-Forward Ltd.

Michael Whitefoot, managing director said: "Talking to businesses across the two counties we have uncovered a huge number of organisations who have signed up for whole building leases or extra premises just to accommodate their own storage or high seasonal stocks. But often that's just not cost effective. It is usually far cheaper, but just as efficient, to use a storage specialist who can ensure you only pay for exactly the space and services you need at any one time. Plus there are no staff or other administrative overheads to worry about."

Providing a fully managed warehouse solution for customers as well as records management services, Whitefoot-Forward

WOW Awards Employee of the Year finalist Diane Hall-Smith

A Kidderminster woman has reached the finals of Worcestershire Employee of the Year awards. Diane Hall-Smith has worked for Hewett Recruitment at the Kidderminster office for 25



years and the Worcestershire Women of the Year Committee run by St. Richard's Hospice has chosen her as one of the three finalists.

Diane runs Hewett Recruitment's thriving industrial division, and with the help of her able assistant, has a team of over 200 temporary staff working every week. Di explained "I was truly delighted and surprised to have been nominated for this award, and thrilled to be selected amongst the finalists! I love my job – it's second nature to me. It gives me a huge buzz and no day is ever the same. I love it when my clients tell me how delighted they are with our service and I get great satisfaction finding work for people, they often get offered permanent jobs whilst temping and I consider that a measure of our success."

Di took some time off when she had her two sons whom she is hugely proud of. Despite running a busy job and family, Di has still found time to raise money for various charities, most recently she held a garden party at her home and raised £400 for Kemp Hospice.

"I have a good boss – Louise is brilliant to work for and I work with some lovely people – I'd never work anywhere else! I live and breathe Hewett Recruitment".

Louise Hewett said – "Di has helped me maintain my sanity over the years – she is a highly successful consultant and a great friend. Her enthusiasm and drive is infectious, the rest of my team see her as the example they would like to emulate."

www.hewett-recruitment.co.uk

Perfect remedy for storage headaches

provides a range of bespoke storage services on a short or long-term basis. With over 100,000 sq. ft. of space at its disposal in Shenstone and Hartlebury, an increasing number of regional businesses including recent new contract wins UK Sports Imports and 4Logistics have taken advantage of the impressive crate and pallet storage service offered by the firm.

"Out-sourcing stock storage, pick & pack operations and even fleet parking makes financial and practical sense for public and private sector organisations of all kinds," continues Michael. "It's a solution that offers flexibility and lower risk, as well as saving potentially thousands of pounds along the way."

To find out more about any of Whitefoot-Forward's services contact Michael Whitefoot on 01299 250566.

www.whitefoot-forward.co.uk