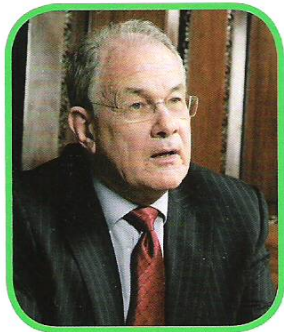


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Shortlisted for:
Lexcel Award for
Excellence in Practice Standards
Sponsored by Lloyds TSB Commercial

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Welcome to the Law Society Excellence Awards 2008

England and Wales can quite rightly boast the most enterprising, dynamic and diverse legal profession in the world, and tonight is an opportunity to showcase and celebrate the very best of the best in style.

This year saw a record number of entries - from legal executive, barrister, junior lawyer or solicitor of the year to the team nominations in client services, equality and diversity, social responsibility, marketing and business development, practice standards, innovation and exporting legal services. The quality of every single one was outstanding. I know I can speak for all the judges when I say this posed a considerable challenge and I thank them for their excellent job.

On behalf of the whole Law Society I wish to give special thanks to all our sponsors, who help make this such a special occasion. Finally, thank you all for joining us tonight, and I wish you an enjoyable evening.

Paul Marsh
President, The Law Society

Birkett Long

Birkett Long's commitment to maintaining and developing standards is demonstrated in its dedication to investing in staff and the firm's culture. There is extensive involvement of staff throughout the firm, particularly within its planning processes. The firm's open culture supports the commitment to continual development at all levels and has had a range of benefits especially in relation to effective risk management.

Corby Borough Council - Legal Services Department

In 2005 the department identified the need for fundamental changes to develop more effective practices and within a two year period had implemented a range of solutions, including Lexcel. The department demonstrated its positive and proactive commitment to adopting and developing best practice management for the benefit of their department and organisation.

Fiona Bruce & Co LLP

This firm has demonstrated a business-driven and practical approach to meeting the Lexcel standard through multiple initiatives implemented to support its commitment to continual development and maintaining high standards. The firm's proactive approach shows that it is keen not only to adopt but to go beyond the requirements within the standard.

Kinsey & Co

This sole practitioner showed a high level of commitment and dedication to best practice, particularly in client service, business continuity and personnel management. Kinsey & Co's implementation of the Lexcel standard supported the firm's business and strategic needs and demonstrates that small practices are in no way limited in either outlook or expectations.

Peters Langsford Davies

Following the merger of two culturally different firms and a Lexcel assessment, the firm identified a need to change its approach to quality systems. The firm demonstrated its commitment to achieving a high level of practice management standards through achieving accreditation and the steps taken to go beyond what is required.

Staffordshire County Council

Staffordshire County Council has taken a practical approach and implemented best practices appropriate for supporting their unit. It is using Lexcel standards to guide and complement its objectives, making Lexcel highly relevant for the organisation. This results and objectives-driven approach supports a commitment to provide relevant and effective services.

The Projects Partnership Limited

This practice showed a commitment to maintaining and developing standards which was particularly evident from the adoption of Lexcel shortly after the firm's inception. The Projects Partnership is utilising Lexcel as a tool to support its business and its objectives with a positive focus, particularly in relation to personnel management.