

# PARTNER OF THE YEAR



**Richard Morgan**  
Harrison Clark  
Rickerbys

Richard is an equity partner and Head of Dispute Resolution and Defence Security and Forces sector services at Harrison Clark Rickerbys across nine UK-wide offices.

He has specialised in civil and commercial litigation throughout his career.

Richard was appointed as a Deputy District Judge in 2001, and continues to sit at Birmingham Civil Justice Centre.

He has been a key member of the equity partnership, managing the growth of the firm from a single office with 125 personnel to a top 100 UK firm with 600.

This last year he has represented a private security company with contracts to protect UN missions in Afghanistan in an alleged fraud of more than £3 million which was settled before trial.



**Clive Read**  
VWV

Clive is passionate about bringing in new works and clients to Birmingham, championing the city as a great place to do business.

This has led to significantly impressive growth in turnover in the last financial year after pursuing a strategy of acquisition and new partners.

An on-going commitment to Birmingham will see further investment in more space at the firm's Brindley Place premises.

During 2019 Clive has led or been part of teams winning major new Midlands-based clients.

He is a renowned advocate for the legal profession and holds a number of voluntary positions. These include the Greater Birmingham Chamber of Commerce, Birmingham Civic Society, Downtown in Business and Institute of Directors. Energetic charity initiatives have included, among many other projects, tireless work for Cure Leukaemia.



**Emma Rush**  
Irwin Mitchell LLP

Emma has excelled in her renowned work on behalf of children injured at birth, resulting in life-changing injuries for them, including cerebral palsy. This last year she has won over £20 million for her clients, improving their quality of life in a number of ways.

She is an APIL member and an accredited member of the Law Society's Clinical Negligence panel.

Emma gains exceptional feedback in the confidential and highly sensitive matters she works in.

She is a passionate advocate for children with disabilities and supports some parents with free legal advice. She also helps with an Inclusive Sports Fest and has played a major role in 2019 for the national charity, Cauldwell Children.



**Karen Moores**  
Sydney Mitchell LLP

Karen was elected as the company's first woman senior partner since its beginnings. She has been working hard to develop a more inclusive culture.

After a financially strong year for the company, Karen oversaw bonus payments for employees. She has also put into place an independent review of the company, its systems and procedures to ensure sound future development.

She continues to head up the Sheldon office and her family law practice. Karen has been instrumental in supporting The Buddy Bag Foundation and Solihull Age UK.



**Kirsty McEwen**  
Higgs & Sons

Kirsty is the lead on philanthropy advice, a growth area for the firm, coordinating specialist advice to private and corporate clients on how best to structure their charitable giving.

She is an approved Charity Commission Interim Manager as well as a full STEP member and plays an active part in activities within the Birmingham branch.

Kirsty sat on the Heart of England Community Foundation donor development committee and as an active member of the Charity Law Association at the forefront of charity law, represents views of the Midlands region at a national level.

She has helped shape a lasting legacy for charities regionally and nationally and impacted significantly on Government considerations, leading to the production of the current Charities Bill.

In 2019 Kirsty provided more than 50 hours pro bono support to local organisations and community groups.



**Martino Giaquinto**  
Mills & Reeve LLP

As Mills & Reeve's Talent Partner, Martino has been key in improving its talent management processes. This includes in boosting the number of women on the partnership track.

In 2019 he became the first Mills & Reeve employee to win a prestigious The Legal 500 UK & West Midlands Award.

Regionally, he has been ranked as a Leading Individual for the West Midlands for eight consecutive years. He was humbled to receive an Aston University Honorary degree.

Martino continues to encourage his team to support charities that are close to his heart and this year more than £17,000 was raised for the Albert Kennedy Trust as well as £1,500 for the Children's Liver Disease Foundation.