



WATSON ESAM Solicitors

**PRESS  
RELEASE**



## **Legal 500 2009 - Recommendation for Watson Esam**

Amid economic downturn and turmoil in the legal profession, 2009 has been a year of consolidation for Sheffield city centre solicitors Watson Esam. First recognised in the Legal 500 – renowned as the definitive guide to the legal market – in 2006, the partners are delighted that it has again achieved recognition for its niche employment, family and charities departments in 2009. A multi-disciplinary practice with over 150 years in the legal profession in Sheffield, the 3 current dynamic partners at Watson Esam have recognised that survival lies in creating expert teams to meet the demands of an increasingly specialised world.

The firm has found itself well placed to weather the recent storm and maximise the skills and dedication of its staff to continue to offer a solid and dependable service to businesses and individuals in Sheffield and its surrounding areas. Whilst the firm has continued to act for loyal small and medium sized businesses which have been its clients for many years, it has also been sought out by larger businesses looking for a more bespoke service, which a smaller, more flexible firm such as Watson Esam is able to offer.

The firm's private client base has also been able to rely on the individually tailored service that such a long standing firm has been able to carve out and for which Watson Esam is well known. Its award winning family lawyers, for example, continue to remain high profile in the field of contentious care issues and high value divorce and ancillary relief.

Charities and voluntary organisations have not been spared from the economic storm either and many have really struggled. Watson Esam has a long tradition of working with these organisations and has continued to offer the responsive, cost effective service needed to enable them to deal with ever changing demands from the communities they serve.

Always keen to put as much back into the community as possible, Watson Esam has also stepped up its contribution to the third sector by increasing the involvement of its staff as directors and trustees of organisations such as chambers of commerce and charities such as Voluntary Action Sheffield, Nomad, Classy, Castle Advice and Sheffield Out of School Network. Specialist members of the firm are also delivering free training to the voluntary community helping them to offer the best service possible to Sheffield residents.

For further information about Watson Esam and how it can help you, please contact senior partner Jay Bhayani on 0114 275 3350 or email [jay.bhayani@watson-esam.co.uk](mailto:jay.bhayani@watson-esam.co.uk).

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**Further information:**

Watson Esam is one of the oldest established legal firms in Sheffield practising from its offices in Paradise Square. A medium sized firm with 3 partners and approximately 40 staff, it is well known for delivering first class services to businesses in South Yorkshire.

The employment, family and charity departments are recognised in The Legal 500. The family department won the Yorkshire Lawyer Private Client Award in 2007 and in 2005 the firm won the Law Society's Race Equality Award in the category of Best Employer (25 partners or fewer).

Jay Bhayani, senior partner and head of the firm's employment department is a former winner of Yorkshire Lawyer Employment Lawyer award (2005) and was short listed for the Yorkshire and Humberside Institute of Directors Adviser of the Year Award 2007. Jay sits on Sheffield's Local Economy Board.

The firm is active in the community with partners sitting on Sheffield and Rotherham Chambers of Commerce Representation Councils and various members of staff who are trustees and directors of charities and voluntary organisations in the city.

**Press contact:**

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