



WATSON ESAM Solicitors

**PRESS  
RELEASE**



## **PROMOTION FOR LOCAL SOLICITORS**

Sheffield city centre solicitors Watson Esam is pleased to announce that three of its solicitors will be promoted to associates from April this year.

Paul Szabo (pictured right) joined Watson Esam in 2004. He specialises in public law child care proceedings and is a member of the Solicitors Regulation Authority's Children Panel and of Resolution. He is an active member of the local legal community and currently sits on the Board of Directors of the Sheffield & District Law Society, chairing the social committee sub group.

Katie Beal (pictured left) joined Watson Esam in 2006. She specialises in employment law, in particular complex redundancy, restructure and TUPE issues. Katie is a director with Sheffield Business Club.

Laura Gooding (pictured centre) joined the firm in 2006. She specialises in commercial property and commercial work, including charity status and governance issues for charities. She is a trustee and director of NOMAD and CLASSY.

Jay Bhayani, senior partner at Watson Esam said "This is particularly exciting for us as these are the first associate appointments ever made at Watson Esam. The appointments are a formal way of recognising these solicitors' contribution to the firm and affording an opportunity to maximise their development with a view to enable progression towards

management and partnership level where appropriate. My partners and I are really looking forward to working with our new associates in their new roles”

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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.

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**Release:** immediate