

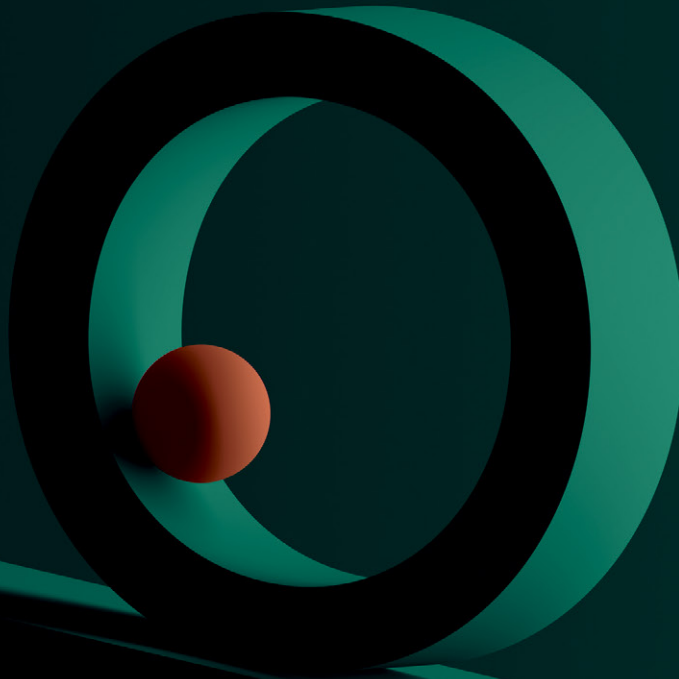
# Top Family Law Firms

2022





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PRIVATE WEALTH



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## Foreword



**Will Sidery**  
Senior Editor  
PAM Insight

**W**elcome to this special report celebrating the firms that featured in the 2022 *eprivateclient* Top Family Law Firm rankings. This year has seen 68 firms feature in the rankings, a record number and recognition of the quality of service that UK family law firms offer to clients from both the UK and abroad, helping to maintain the jurisdiction's cache as the premier destination for matrimonial and family legal advice.

By separating the firms into two categories – full-service and boutique firms – the rankings allow readers and clients to find the best family law firm to meet their needs, be it a team of specialist family lawyers at a firm dedicated solely to family legal advice or family lawyers with the backing of a full-service law firm behind them.

Congratulations to all the firms who feature in the rankings this year and thank you to our sponsor Nedbank Private Wealth for their kind support of the initiative.

**W**e are delighted to sponsor the 2022 *eprivateclient* Top Family Law Firms initiative. Congratulations to all the individuals and firms that have been recognised on this year's list.

More than ever, it is important for clients to partner with trusted teams that can understand their specific needs. In particular, it is crucial to find the right balance of analytical expertise and emotional connection which can achieve client goals as well as nurture and strengthen relationships.

As a boutique private bank with an established track record of working with discerning families, trustees and high net worth individuals, we recognise the vital role that family lawyers play in this partnership process, which is why we are so pleased to sponsor this initiative.

Through our specialist teams in London, Jersey, the Isle of Man and Dubai, we offer a holistic wealth management service which is led by wealth planning and fully integrated with our discretionary investment management service, as well as our banking, lending and wealth structuring solutions. We also provide planning advice and guidance to support clients at specific times in their lives where more support is required, such as divorce or retirement.

We look forward to working as a valued partner with you and your clients in the future.



**David McFadzean**  
Executive Head - Wealth Management  
Nedbank Private Wealth

## ANALYSIS

The Top Family Law Firm rankings are a part of a series of rankings published annually by *eprivateclient* alongside the annual **Top Trust Companies, Top Accountancy Firms, Top Offshore Law Firms and Top Private Client Law Firms.**

As with last year, *eprivateclient* has looked to further enhance the data available and allow readers and their clients to identify the right family law firms for them by splitting the firms between boutique family law practices and family law teams within full-service law firms.

The Full-Service Law Firm rankings feature 43 firms spread across three tiers, with 13 in Tier I, 16 in Tier II and a further 14 in Tier III. Twenty-five firms feature in the Boutique listings, with 13 in Tier I and 12 in Tier II.

The 68 firms employ 440 family law partners (up from 335 in 2021), 1299 family law fee income earners (an increase of 26 percent from 1014 last year), over 2000 family law staff (2017) and generated just over £0.3 billion (£301.4 million) in revenue last year.

The 13 firms in Tier I of the Boutique Firms employ 128 partners (up from 76 last year). The firms have 373 fee earners between them (an average of 29 per firm – up from 20 per firm in 2021), employ over 652 staff in total (more than double the 320 recorded in 2021) and generated between them fee income of £85.5 million at an average of £6.6 million per firm (a 12 percent increase per firm from 2021).

Tier II of the Boutique Firms sees a further 12 firms with 40 partners between them. The firms employ 90 fee earners and total staff across the Tier was recorded at 137. The dozen firms generated fee income of £17.6 million at an average of £1.5 million per firm (up from £1.3 million per firm in 2021).

Across the two tiers, the 25 firms employ 168 partners, 463 fee income earners, have total staff of 789 and generated fee income of £103.1 million.

The 13 Tier I family law teams in Full Service Law Firm recorded total partner numbers of 134 with an average of 10.3 partner per firm (up from 124 and an average of 9.5 last year). 445 fee earners are employed across the top tiered firms (down from 448 last year) and the 13 firms employ 633 family law staff in total – 14 higher than last year.

The 13 firms made a combined £133.5 million in fee income in the past twelve months – at an average of £10.3 million (up 6.8 percent from last year). Family law fee income as a percentage of total firm income averaged 12.2 percent across the firms.

Tier II sees sixteen firms featured – up from 11 last year. The 16 firms have 104 dedicated family law partners, 284 family law fee income earners, employ total family law staff of 440 and generated £46.7 million in fee income (at an average of £2.9 million per firm). The percentage of firm-wide fee income generated from family law ranges was 12.7 percent on average.

Tier III features a further 14 firms who have a total of 34 family law partners. The firms employ 107 family law fee income earners, 155 total family law staff and generated fee income of £18.1 million in 2021 (at £1.3 million per firm – down from £1.4 million per firm last year). The firms' family law teams generated on average 6.3 percent of their firm's total fee income last year.

Across the three tiers, the 43 firms employ 272 partners, 836 fee earners, have total staff of 1228 and generated fee income of £198.3 million in 2021.

## Tier Boutique Firms

|                           | Partners | Fee earners |
|---------------------------|----------|-------------|
| Alexious Fisher Phillips  | 6        | 10          |
| Bross Bennett             | 7        | 13          |
| Burgess Mee               | 6        | 10          |
| Dawson Cornwell           | 10       | 26          |
| Family Law in Partnership | 9*       | 29*         |
| Goodman Ray Solicitors    | 5        | 22          |
| Hall Brown Family Law     | 9        | 38          |
| Hughes Fowler Carruthers  | 9        | 27          |
| Jones Nickolds            | 4        | 18          |
| Levison Meltzer Pigott    | 5        | 9           |
| Rayden Solicitors         | 14       | 39          |
| Stowe Family Law          | 33       | 97          |
| Vardags                   | 11*      | 35*         |

## Tier Boutique Firms

|                            | Partners | Fee earners |
|----------------------------|----------|-------------|
| Bindmans                   | 3        | 9           |
| Bortoft Bell               | 2        | 3           |
| Camilla Baldwin Solicitors | 2        | 5           |
| CHR Solicitors             | 2        | 5           |
| Jones Myers                | 7        | 22          |
| Katz Partners              | 3        | 7           |
| Manders Law                | 2        | 7           |
| Miles Preston & Co         | 3        | 5           |
| Newton Kearns              | 4        | 7           |
| Peters May                 | 2        | 2           |
| Ribet Myles                | 3        | 8           |
| Vaitilingam Kay            | 7        | 10          |

\*denotes publisher's estimates

# top family law firms

## Tier Full-Service Firms

|                            | Partners | Fee Earners |
|----------------------------|----------|-------------|
| Charles Russell Speechlys  | 13       | 36          |
| Farrer & Co                | 7        | 25          |
| Harbottle & Lewis          | 5        | 13          |
| Hunters Law                | 6        | 11          |
| Irwin Mitchell             | 12       | 54          |
| JMW Solicitors             | 14       | 43          |
| Mills & Reeve              | 8        | 37          |
| Mishcon de Reya            | 8        | 31          |
| Payne Hicks Beach          | 14       | 28          |
| Penningtons Manches Cooper | 15       | 49          |
| Russell Cooke              | 10       | 21          |
| Stewarts Law               | 12       | 43          |
| Withers                    | 9        | 32          |

## Tier Full-Service Firms

|                         | Partners | Fee Earners |
|-------------------------|----------|-------------|
| Keystone Law            | 18       | 25          |
| Anthony Gold Solicitors | 8        | 15          |
| Boodle Hatfield         | 4        | 9           |
| Brodies                 | 4        | 17          |
| Clarke Willmott         | 7        | 12          |
| DMH Stallard            | 8        | 14          |
| Forsters                | 4        | 15          |
| Freeths                 | 9        | 19          |
| Howard Kennedy          | 2        | 8           |
| Howells                 | 8        | 52          |
| Kingsley Napley         | 7        | 17          |
| Osbornes Law            | 7        | 29          |
| Paris Smith Solicitors  | 6        | 13          |
| Royds Withy King        | 6        | 20          |
| Simons Muirhead Burton  | 4        | 10          |
| Turcan Connell          | 2        | 9           |

\*denotes publisher's estimates

# top family law firms

## Tier Full-Service Firms

|                            | Partners | Fee Earners |
|----------------------------|----------|-------------|
| BDB Pitmans                | 2        | 9           |
| Bishop & Sewell            | 2        | 6           |
| Blake Morgan               | 3        | 10          |
| Brachers                   | 2        | 10          |
| Burges Salmon              | 2        | 9           |
| Clarion                    | 2        | 8           |
| Collyer Bristow            | 4        | 7           |
| Cripps                     | 3        | 11          |
| Seddons                    | 2        | 5           |
| Sinclair Gibson            | 2        | 5           |
| Stevens & Bolton           | 1        | 4           |
| Thomson Snell and Passmore | 6        | 10          |
| Veale Wasbrough Vizards    | 2        | 8           |
| Wedlake Bell               | 1        | 5           |

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On 3 November 2022 PAM Insight and Nedbank Private Wealth co-hosted a champagne reception for senior representatives from the 2022 eprivateclient Family Law Firms as well as leading private client professionals from the legal, trust and accountancy sectors.

# top 35 under 35



Henry Hood, partner and head of family, Hunters Law



Roddy Balfour



Flora Harrigin, Partner, Farrer & Co



Amy Scollan, partner, Hunters Law and Benjamin Stowe, partner, Levison Meltzer Pigott

# top 35 under 35



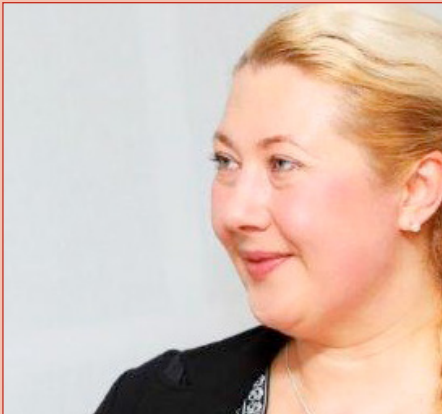
Rachael Brownlee, associate solicitor,  
Hall Brown Family Law



Anna Slater, paraplanner,  
Nedbank Private Wealth



Nina Lake, partner, Howard Kennedy



Katya Vagner, senior associate, Fladgate

# top 35 under 35

Fiona Wilson, partner, Freeths



Toby Yerburgh, partner and head of the family team, Collyer Bristow



James Mottram, associate director, Deloitte

# top 35 under 35



Chris Marquis, global head of private wealth, Vistra



Huw Williams, senior private banker, Nedbank Private Wealth



Paul Stibbard, executive vice chairman, Sequent



Katie Royals, managing editor, PAM Insight