



> Gibson and Co



> Toby Gibson, Gibson and Co

# Prestigious accolades for Gibson & Co

**T**HE North East's longest established firm of solicitors, Gibson & Co (founded in 1715), is celebrating after their most recently developed area of expertise was acknowledged at the recent Northern Law Awards.

The work and achievements of the firm's dispute resolution department saw it recognised as the Litigation and Dispute Resolution Team of the Year for the Northern Region. Partner Toby Gibson also took home the prestigious accolade of Lawyer of the Year.

Toby and Jane Gibson established the firm's litigation practice in 2003 and were soon joined by Michael Reed in 2005, with Michael being elevated to partner in 2012.

While the litigation team act for a large number of high-profile regional clients, the unique feature of the practice is the high value and complex work carried out for international clients.

The judges highlighted the international reach of the firm from its offices on the West Road. The firm includes among its clients large international banks (including ING Bank NV and Credit Suisse), foreign governments, other household names, and is one of the few UK firms to ever have been instructed by the European Commission in a dispute.

The litigation team conduct work all over the world - in the last year it has been involved in disputes in the US, Singapore, Germany, Tanzania, India, Cyprus and Australia.

The judging panel complimented the team on the complexity and high value of their dispute resolution practice.

For one large international bank, the firm initiated over 30 different arbitrations with a combined value of more than US\$70m.

The underlying disputes raised interesting questions of marine and contractual law that had been considered by the Supreme Court. The department's development continues apace with new clients won

in the last 12 months including a global aerospace developer. On the morning of the Northern Law Awards, the litigation team was included on the panel for the first time by a well-known international bank.

The team undertaking the work has grown steadily and now consists of three partners and four dedicated associate solicitors advising on a wide variety of disputes. Their practice and individual partners have been consistently recognised over many years in the leading independently researched guides to the legal profession, Chambers and Partners and Legal 500.

Toby and Jane Gibson have been ranked as leading lawyers for over a decade. Likewise, Michael is recognised by the Legal 500 for his expertise in a number of practice areas as well as his underlying "commercial savvy".

"These awards are very much a recognition of the hard work carried out by all of our team over several years - they reflect the consistent excellence of all of our lawyers, and I am proud to work alongside them," said Jane.

The practice constantly reviews its working practices to find new, innovative and cost efficient solutions for clients. As an example it has recently invested in a special in-house edisclosure and document management facility, which the judging panel picked up on.

Jane said: "The practice faces two particular challenges: how to manage a large volume of data for our clients and how to do so in a cost efficient way. This platform, provided by Security Risk Management in Gosforth, has been very helpful in facing both of those challenges."

Toby Gibson was honoured and delighted to receive the Lawyer of the Year accolade.

"I am very proud to receive this award," he said.

"I feel that I am being recognised for work that has been not just by me, but by all of our team in Newcastle."

