Clarion

01 November 2010

Leeds Firm Acquires Private Client Practice

Leeds-based law firm Clarion has expanded its established private client practice with the acquisition of Ridings Law Solicitors which specialises in providing legal advice for older clients and their families.

Clarion's six–strong private client team in Leeds will take on the former clients of the Ilkley-based practice Ridings Law Solicitors following the retirement of its founder Linda Pratt. Formerly known as Linda Pratt Solicitors, the firm was established in 1997 and changed its name to Ridings Law in 2005. It developed into a niche practice, specialising in legal advice for the elderly focussing on wills, conveyancing, trusts, administration of estates, care in the community, mental capacity and tax planning.

The practice has been acquired for an undisclosed sum. Linda Pratt was advised by John Beevers of Sagars and Richard Dean of Milners Solicitors; corporate partner Christian Hunt represented Clarion.

"This latest development will build on the success of our long established full service private client team in Leeds," explains Mark Burns, managing partner of Clarion. "They have accumulated a wealth of knowledge and experience in this area of work which is often neglected by other law firms. The acquisition will help us to offer our expertise to clients further afield."

Sara Rogers, Clarion partner and head of private client, comments, "Ridings Law has established an excellent reputation and built an extensive client base. Over the coming weeks, we will be introducing ourselves to all of the practice's clients and confirming to them that we will be working hard to provide a seamless transition, ensuring that all of their requirements are met.

"We were once again commended in the latest Legal 500 for our specialist private client advice and look forward to continuing to provide a dedicated service to meet the specific needs of our clients."

Linda Pratt adds: "I am pleased to see the practice I have worked so hard to build up continuing in the hands of Clarion's very capable and experienced private client team. I am confident that they will continue to provide clients with the highest levels of service in this specialist area."

Clarion's private clients practice offers a full range of services including a tailor made package of essential legal documents to ensure the smooth running of clients' legal and financial affairs should mental capacity be lost or if they should die. The team provides expert advice on wealth management including tax planning and tax efficiency.

The firm offers ten specialist service areas consisting of Clarion Advocates (formerly business crime and regulatory); corporate, commercial and IP; corporate recovery; private client; employment; property; dispute resolution; family, debt recovery and costs and litigation funding. Clarion has grown to 60 fee earners including 17 partners.

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Photography:

L to R: Clare King, Sharon Pallagi and Sara Rogers of Clarion's private client team.

Editor's Notes

Chambers 2010:

Clarion's private client practice has 'the necessary depth of expertise to tackle the full range of work, from wills and probates to high-end tax planning and trusts.' Clients find the team 'easy to speak to' and have commented that they don't confuse them with jargon.

Chambers 2009:

Sara Rogers is recognised throughout the North East and Yorkshire for 'her fantastic all round advice and support; she ticks all the boxes say interviewees'