

Law firm of the decade

WINNER

Latham & Watkins

**Robert Dell, chairman and managing partner;
Andrew Moyle, London office head**

A textbook example of how to globalise

After conquering New York in the first part of the 1990s, the firm turned its attention to Europe and Asia, with staggering success. The firm is unique in establishing heavy-weight London and New York offices despite hailing from neither financial centre. In 2006 the firm's revenue per lawyer was \$919,698, comfortably outpacing all its globalising Magic Circle rivals.

Now arguably the only global firm that can honestly say it has no headquarters, Latham has followed its financial institutional clients around the world with an aggressive expansion plan. The firm first caused a stir in the UK on the back of the high-yield debt wave in the 1990s, creating a capital markets niche that it has since grown into a full-service capability, servicing its top global clients.

Despite its rapid growth, the firm is considered to be one of the most collegiate and diverse firms around, with its famed 'associates committee' becoming a training ground for future leaders of the firm. All but one of the current seven-member Latham executive committee previously served on the associates committee. The firm also contributed more than 128,000 hours of free legal services, valued in excess of \$41m, for the year 2005. In a decade defined by the globalisation of top law firms, Latham is the textbook example of how to go about it.

