London’s one thousand most influential people 2009

10.11.09

The One Thousand – Law

**Fiona Shackleton - Family lawyer**
With the divorce courts now opened up to (limited) press coverage, the battle for clients is tougher than ever. Shackleton, right, once famously drenched in court by Heather Mills, is among the most sought-after solicitors. Now handling Katie “Jordan” Price's interests in the year's celebrity split from Peter Andre, as well as advising Princes William and Harry.

**Lord Judge of Draycote - Lord Chief Justice**
Marked his inaugural year by attacking the Government for introducing “too many laws” and showing a grim determination to stand up for judicial independence. His strong background in criminal law brings a hard-headed approach but courtroom regulars appreciate his warmth and humanity.

**Lord Phillips of Worth Matravers - Senior Supreme court judge**
The success or otherwise of the new Supreme Court, which replaces the Law Lords and opened in October, will hinge on its first President. The former Lord Chief Justice and Master of the Rolls did much to dispel the out-of-touch image of the judiciary when working undercover with convicted criminals serving Community Service orders.

**Jason McCue - Founding partner, H2O Law**
The Irish-Polish solicitor first rose to prominence with his tenacious use of civil courts in pursuit of the Omagh bombers. More recently has acted with skill on behalf of the Lockerbie families against his friend Gordon Brown. Thanks to his smoky-voiced presenter wife Mariella Frostrup, he's thick with the Hollywood set too.

**Michael Mansfield - Tooks Chambers, QC**
Charismatic and formidable, Mansfield is outspoken — arguing the Lockerbie bomber should have been able to appeal his case and claiming the Diana car crash was no accident. Has just published his memoirs and still a potent force in court.
David Cheyne - Linklaters, senior partner
Dapper dresser with a charming but steely reputation at the heavyweight City solicitors’ firm. Won the mandate to unravel the mess at Lehman Brothers after its collapse. As the firm coped with recession, Cheyne faced accusations that he cut staff to protect partner profits.

Ted Burke - Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, chief executive
Affable American in charge of one of the pillars of the UK legal establishment. The straight-talking Burke became chief three years ago and steered the Magic Circle solicitors’ firm through a radical shake-up. Ranked the most profitable law firm in the UK and fifth in the world.

Baroness Scotland - Attorney General
The first black QC and probably the first member of the House of Lords to have worked (part-time) in a supermarket. Showed her resolve by ignoring the public outcry and refusing to seek an Appeal Court increase in the Baby P sentences, but was politically damaged after she employed a cleaner who did not have the correct papers.

Keir Starmer - Director of public prosecutions
Previously thought of only as a human rights QC, Starmer is nearing the end of his first year as head of the Crown Prosecution Service — marked by highly sensitive prosecution decisions ranging from MPs’ expenses to assisted suicide and errant policemen. Amateur footballer and Arsenal fan.

Shami Chakrabarti - Liberty, director
Articulate and charming head of the human rights organisation, she’s liberal with a small “l” and principled — witness her demolition of Labour minister Geoff Hoon on Question Time when she demanded disclosure over torture. Has also fought against ID cards and control orders.

Nigel Boardman - Slaughter & May, partner
Celebrated City deal-maker at Slaughters’ — the smallest but most profitable of the Magic Circle solicitors’ firms. Key adviser to the government during the banking crisis, working directly with City minister Baroness Vadera. An Arsenal fanatic, Boardman toured Zambia on a bike earlier this year for charity.

Sir David Eady - High Court judge
The most senior libel judge is a controversial figure. Eady must balance the right to privacy in the Human Rights Act with the public interest but, critics say, too often he doesn’t support the media’s right to publish. Suffered a blow when some decisions were overturned by the Appeal Court in trial over the summer.

David Childs - Clifford Chance, managing partner
Known as a cost-cutter — he was caricatured holding an axe by The Lawyer magazine. Has endured a tough credit crunch because of a plethora of banking clients and there have been more big cuts. Admits the solicitors’ firm must promote more women partners.

Lord Neuberger - Master of the Rolls
The former banker was a late starter at the Bar but then became the youngest Law Lord and is now head of the civil courts. Refused to become one of the 12 judges in the new Supreme Court, replacing the Law Lords, describing it as dangerous and memorably saying it was dreamed up over a last-minute glass of whisky.

Lord Pannick - Blackstone Chambers, QC
An alpha performer, David Pannick is a specialist in public law and much in demand with human rights organisations and multinational corporations alike. Acted in the recent cases of MS sufferer
Debbie Purdy, over assisted suicide, and Gary McKinnon, the computer hacker fighting extradition to America.

**Keith Schilling - Celebrity lawyer**

Fearsome solicitor, known for his combative approach on behalf of his many celebrity clients — with fees to match. Specialises in defamation and responsible for key privacy rulings. Not bad for a kid who left school at 15.

**Baroness Hale - Supreme Court judge**

Britain's most senior woman judge should be a role model for aspiring female barristers — although she is too self-deprecating to admit it. Quiet and effective, her background as an university academic before being called to the Bar has made her rise to the top even more remarkable.

**Clare Montgomery - Matrix Chambers, QC**

Specialises in the most complex cases from company law to fraud and crime. Regularly briefed by the Serious Fraud Office and those facing its scrutiny. Once a junior fencing champion and a memorable captain of the Bar pool team in a clash with courtroom press reporters over the baize.

**Andrew Caldecott - Libel barrister, QC**

One of the top defamation silks, Caldecott has handled dozens of top libel and privacy cases. Easy-going but fearsome intellect. Regularly used by Government, the BBC (during the Hutton Inquiry) and many newspaper firms. Writes plays in his spare time.

**Jonathan Sumption - Brick Court Chambers, head, QC**

Once dubbed the “Brain of Britain”, Sumption is able to command upwards of £2 million a year. Often retained to represent the Government in sticky spots such as the Hutton Inquiry, he is also a published medieval historian. Tipped as a Supreme Court judge.

**Ronald Thwaites - Libel barrister, QC**

His high-risk courtroom style mixes all-out aggression and remarkably good jokes which find more favour with juries than judges. Won memorable case against publisher Richard Desmond this year. Some suspect Thwaites the showman would like to be “the next George Carman”.

**Gareth Peirce - Defence lawyer**

Tireless defender of civil rights suspects for 30 years — from the Ulster conflict to the shooting of Jean Charles de Menezes and the Lockerbie bombing case. No solicitor has spent longer, often in vain, trying to get access to clients in high-security Belmarsh prison. She refused to accept a CBE.

**Anthony Scrivener - Gray’s Inn Court, QC**

Rated as the top barrister for consumer law, “Scriv” is versatile, too. He has also handled more than 40 murder cases, condemned repressive anti-terror laws in the wake of the Iraq war, and is often invited to be the independent expert in top cases such as the Max Mosley privacy case. Big beast.

**Baroness Kennedy - Barrister, QC**


**Lord Carlile - Independent reviewer of terror laws, QC**

Liberal Democrat peer who has run into trouble with the civil rights lobby, who believe he has been too willing to let Government impose tougher terror laws. Prior to taking this role in 2005, he was
nimble barrister who defended royal butler Paul Burrell in a celebrated case in which the Queen's testimony led to the case collapsing.

**John Kelsey-Fry - Criminal and libel barrister, QC**
Effortlessly charming and leading light of Cloth Fair chambers. Turf-loving Kelsey-Fry has a string of racehorses alongside his star-studded stable of clients which has included Steven Gerrard, Roman Polanski and, suitably, jockey Kieren Fallon.