

IFLR

INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL LAW REVIEW

Firms of the year in Europe, Asia and the Americas

The fallback alternative to Rule 144A

Dubai prepares for flood of new offerings

Tips to make bondholder talks work

Danier ruling reassures Canadian issuers

Securitization goes to Hollywood

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Tax and Tax Litigation
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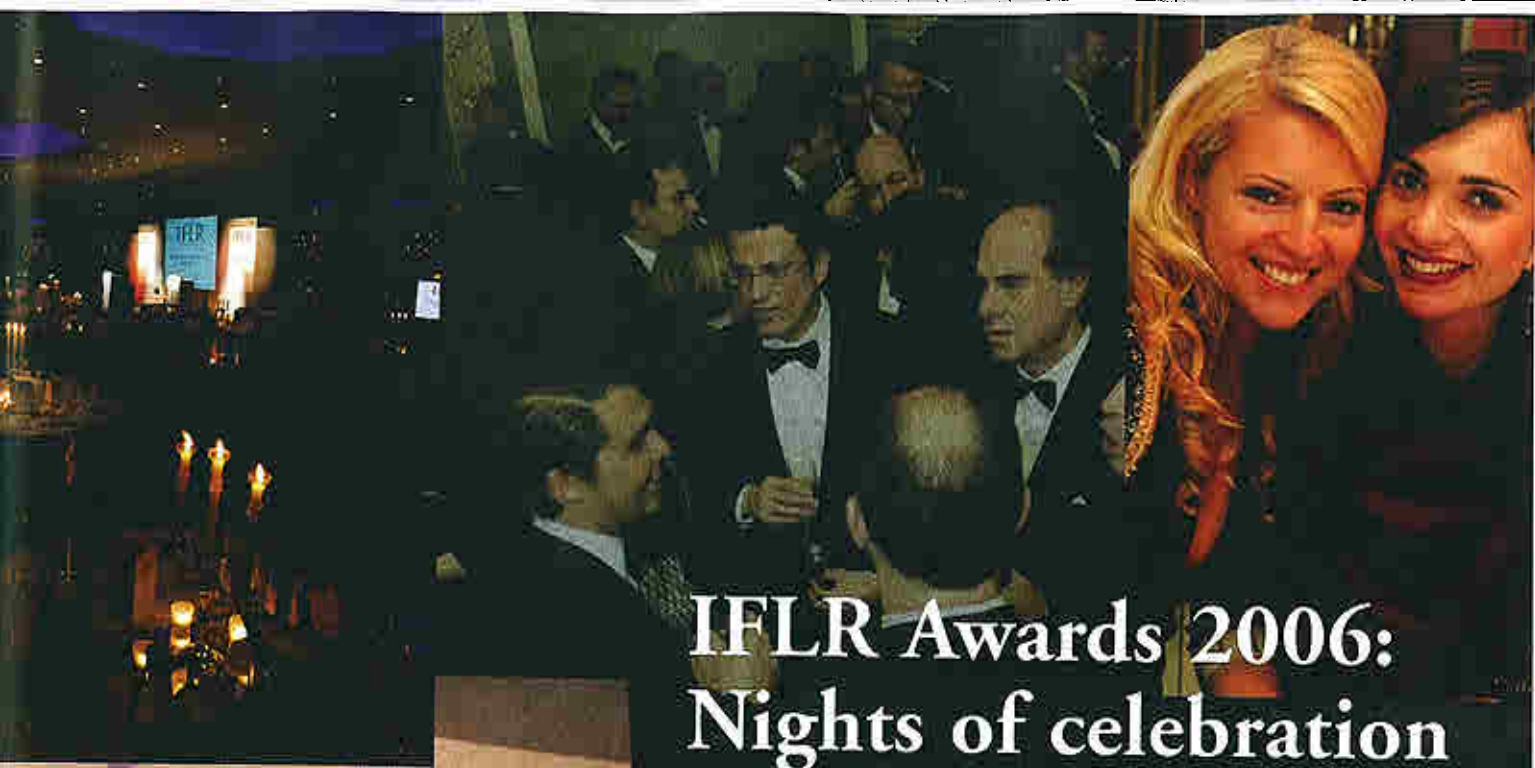


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IFLR Awards 2006: Nights of celebration

In March the biggest ever IFLR European Awards were held in the Dorchester Ballroom in London, the ninth Asian awards were held in Hong Kong in The Ritz-Carlton and the first US awards were presented in the New York Palace.

In total, almost 1,000 of the world's elite in financial law gathered to be rewarded by IFLR for their innovation in 2005.

At every event, the winners were easy to spot – they were the tables toasting each other repeatedly, smiling and lovingly polishing their glass trophies. Clifford Chance in London, Shearman & Sterling in New York and Linklaters in Hong Kong all walked away with a stack of awards.

Thank you for all your help with the research for the awards and for coming along, making each evening so entertaining. See you next year.



The Norwegian law firm of the year, **BAHR**, advised on eBay's offer for Skype Technologies, and acted for Nord LB and Terra Securities on an innovative syndicated facility to five Norwegian savings banks.

IFLR's Polish winner, **Dewey Ballantine**, acted on the merger of Bank Pekao with Bank BPH to create Poland's largest bank, and has played a key role in the development of asset securitization in Central Europe.

And in Portugal, winning firm **PLMJ** advised Shell on the sale of its liquefied petroleum gas business, acted for CVC on Flint Ink's merger with XSYS Print Solutions, and guided KKR through its acquisition of Toys R Us.



Rolf Johan Ringdal of BAH, Fred Gander of Dewey Ballantine, Nigel Savage of IFLR and Fernando Campos Ferreira of PLMJ



Stefan Brocker from Mannheimer Swartling, Peter Allen and Pam Shores from Linklaters, Shelby du Pasquier and Patrick Hünerwadel from Lenz & Staehelin and José María Alonso from Garrigues

IFLR's winning firm in Russia, **Linklaters**, had an exceptional 2005 in what was a strong year for the country's capital markets. On the equity side it acted on an impressive list of IPOs, and in the debt capital markets worked on the first Russian subordinated bond issue as well as several complex refinancings.

The winning firm in Spain, **Garrigues**, secured a role on one of IFLR's short-listed project finance deals of the year, acting for the lead arrangers on the Perpignan-Figueras high-speed rail line. The firm was also involved in France Telecom's acquisition of Amena.

In Sweden, winning firm **Mannheimer Swartling** was involved with one of the most talked about topics in the debt capital markets: hybrid funding. Mannheimer worked alongside Allen & Overy on Vattenfall's subordinated perpetual bond issue.

And IFLR's Swiss firm of the year, **Lenz & Staehelin**, worked on two of Europe's stand-out acquisitions: eBay's acquisition of Skype, and French energy company Suez's offer for Electrabel and related rights issue.

IFLR Pro Bono Award 2006

London Bombings Helpline

In the aftermath of the terrorist attack on the London Underground on July 7 2005, many people were in need of immediate legal assistance. The Law Society established a freephone number for claimants within hours of the bombings, and calls were logged onto a web-based case placement system developed by the charity LawWorks. The numerous law firms participating in the scheme could then view claims and identify cases most suitable to them.

Approximately 150 calls were received from victims and families of victims, and most cases were accepted within an hour of being placed on the system. Applications have now widened from those directly affected by the attack to businesses forced into temporary closure. To date every case placed on the system has been accepted.

The project also promoted cooperation between those involved, as the system allows for information to be shared among the various city firms and smaller private

client firms involved. One observer said: "The victims are all tremendously grateful for the help they have received through the helpline – help they would otherwise had to pay for or not received."

The firms involved were: **Allen & Overy, Baker & McKenzie, Barrett & Co Solicitors, Birchall Blackburn, Blanchards Solicitors, Bond Pearce, Chadbourne & Parke, Clifford Chance, Clyde & Co, Collins Solicitors, Dean Wilson Laing, Dechert, DLA Piper Rudnick Gray Cary, Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, Goldens, Greene Wood & McLean, Howe Roche & Waller, Humphries Kirk, Irwin Mitchell, J A Forrest & Co, Kilpatrick Stockton,**

Kirkpatrick & Lockhart Nicholson Graham, Leigh Day & Co, Lovells, Mayer Brown Rowe & Maw, Pannone Solicitors, Potheary & Barratt, Reid & Co, Shepherd Harris, Simons Muirhead & Burton, Stewarts Solicitors, Talfourds, Thring Townsend, Travers Smith, TV Edwards, White Rose Solicitors and Withy King.



Graham Bucknall of LawWorks receives the award from Nigel Savage, editor of the IFLR1000