

# Press Release

For immediate release:

**March 27 2009**

Contact:

**Tom Gillett on +44 20 7234 0606 or [tgillett@internationallawoffice.com](mailto:tgillett@internationallawoffice.com)**



## **Top In-house Counsel Recognized at the International Law Office European Counsel Awards in association with the Association of Corporate Counsel Europe**

London, United Kingdom – The International Law Office (ILO) and the Association of Corporate Counsel Europe (ACC Europe) hosted the second European Counsel Awards at London's sumptuous Dorchester Hotel last night. The gala event celebrated the achievements of in-house counsel recognized by their peers as excelling in their chosen fields.

**“While tough times have doubtlessly rendered us all more cautious, the core skills required to make great counsel have not changed. During bust as well as boom, great businesses need great in-house and external counsel, and we are fortunate to have both represented here tonight,”**

explained James Bellerjeau, president of ACC Europe.

To identify the winners the ILO team conducted in-depth analysis of in-house lawyers and legal departments worldwide, receiving over 3,000 individual nominations. Respondents were asked to focus on criteria such as effective communication, legal understanding, commercial awareness, depth and strength of team, and management skills.

Awards were presented to both individuals and legal teams working in the following areas: competition, corporate tax, general commercial, M&A, intellectual property, litigation and regulatory (financial and non-financial).

Pascal Duclos of Dufry Group was named General Counsel of the Year after receiving 106 individual nominations from partners at no fewer than 34 law firms.

**“He has all the qualities that make dealing with corporate counsel a pleasure. He is knowledgeable, decisive, attentive, prompt, responsive and courteous. He has one of the most thorough and active legal minds I have ever faced,”**

enthused one such respondent/nominator.

The event sponsors were Baker & McKenzie (Competition award), CMS Cameron McKenna LLP (Regulatory - Financial Services award), Hogan & Hartson LLP (Best Training Programme award), The IP Media Group (Intellectual Property award), Mayer Brown (M&A award) and Smith & Partners (Regulatory - Non-financial Services award), as well as Denton Wilde Sapte, Dorda Brugger Jordis, Milbank Tweed Hadley & McCloy LLP and Shearman & Sterling LLP.

**For more information and a complete list of winners, visit [www.europeancounselawards.com](http://www.europeancounselawards.com).**



### **About ILO**

Launched in 1998, ILO is one of the leading online legal update services for major companies worldwide. With over 39,000 subscribers, it represents a key portal through which law firms communicate with their clients. Recognized for the pre-eminent service it provides, ILO became the Official Online Media Partner to the International Bar Association ([www.ibanet.org](http://www.ibanet.org)) in 2002, an International Online Media Partner to the Association of Corporate Counsel ([www.acc.com](http://www.acc.com)) in 2005 and European Online Media Partner to the European Company Lawyers Association ([www.ecla.org](http://www.ecla.org)) in 2006.

### **About ACC Europe**

ACC Europe serves the needs of lawyers practising in corporations and other organizations throughout Europe. ACC Europe promotes the common interests of its members, contributes to their continuing legal education and seeks to improve the understanding of the role of in-house counsel. ACC Europe is a chapter of the Association of Corporate Counsel (ACC), which since its founding in 1982 has grown to over 23,000 members in 80 countries, representing more than 10,000 corporations and organizations. Headquartered in Washington, DC, its members represent all of the Fortune 50 and Fortune 500 companies. Internationally, its members represent 42 of the Global 50 and 74 of the Global 100 companies. Membership in ACC Europe includes membership in the ACC. Additional information on ACC Europe can be found at [www.acce.com](http://www.acce.com).

### **About the European Counsel Awards**

In January 2008 ILO, in association with ACC Europe, launched the European Counsel Awards to recognize the excellent work done by corporate in-house legal teams and individuals. The primary aim is to reward lawyers for demonstrable achievements across the full spectrum of in-house responsibility, and not simply those who have acted on high-profile transactions. Winners have performed above and beyond the usual requirements of their profession and position. The ILO research team focused on criteria such as effective communication, legal understanding, commercial awareness, depth and strength of team, and management skills, in addition to any significant projects or transactions. While based on thorough and coherent research, the results remain the subjective views of the ILO team.