



Ogier services in Guernsey going from strength to strength in latest Legal 500 rankings

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Ogier in Guernsey has been designated top tier rankings across seven of its core services in the latest Legal 500 UK guide - including Banking and Finance; Commercial Property; Private Client, Trusts and Tax; Corporate and M&A; and Dispute Resolution.

The directory, which is a guide to leading UK and offshore law firms, has also singled out 27 lawyers for recognition, two of which are new leading partner or associate rankings, and two of which are new additions to key lawyer status.

According to client feedback, "*nothing is too challenging*" for Ogier, which is also described as "highly efficient and very reliable", with the partners "*always on hand when needed*".

Partner Christopher Jones said: "Our practice in Guernsey continues to go from strength to strength as we see increased recognition across our individuals and services lines. Our range of depth and expertise is evidenced by client feedback and demonstrated by our position as market leaders in so many areas. I am very proud of the team."

From the top tier Banking and Finance team, **Christopher Jones** is ranked as a leading partner, with "*technically gifted*" **Paul Chanter** (who feedback also described as "*leading deals from the front*") named a next generation partner, and managing associate **Matthew Macfarlane** recommended as a key lawyer.

In the Corporate and M&A team, which is praised for its "*very good market knowledge*", partner **Bryon Rees** is ranked as a leading partner, described as a "go-to lawyer in Guernsey for anything corporate". Clients appreciate the "swift and sound legal advice" of managing associate **Michelle Watson Bunn**, who is named as a key lawyer alongside **James Walsh**, **Diana Collas** and **Gabrielle Payne**.

The firm's Insurance practice has also seen its reputation enhanced from firm to watch to top tier,

with partner **Richard Sharp**, who impresses clients with his "efficiency and ability to turn things around quickly and to a high standard", ranked as a leading individual. Michelle Watson Bunn, James Walsh and Gabrielle Payne are also listed as key lawyers in this area.

Bryon Rees is also ranked as a leading individual in Ogier's Investment Funds team, which is described as "always going above and beyond to help". It also includes the "incredibly responsive, commercial and clear" **Tim Clipstone**, who has been awarded a new leading partner rank. As well as further recognition for Michelle Watson Bunn and "*terrific*" Gabrielle Payne, consultant **Michaela Jesson** is also named as a key lawyer.

Bryon Rees, Tim Clipstone, Richard Sharp and Paul Chanter also head up the "*proactive and user-friendly*" Capital Markets team, with Diana Collas recognised as a recommended individual.

Ogier's Guernsey Dispute Resolution team is "dynamic and highly versatile", according to the guide's client feedback. Partner **Mathew Newman**, ranked as a leading partner, is described as "one of the leading dispute lawyers in Guernsey", while the team's co-head, **Simon Davies**, is "*a doyen of the Guernsey bar*" and ranked in the Hall of Fame. "*Extremely helpful and approachable*" **Bryan De Verneuil Smith** is a next generation partner, while "energetic and charismatic" partner **Sandie Lyne** and consultant **Julia Schaefer**, a new entry having joined Ogier in April 2024, are named as key lawyers.

"*True employment specialist*" **Rachel De Sanges**, who heads up Ogier's Employment team, is ranked as a next generation partner, recognition of her team being "thoughtful, hard-working, clever and client focused". She herself is described as an "*absolute star*" and "*strategically and commercially astute*". Also part of Rachel's team, director of Local Legal Services **Helen Ruelle** enters the Guernsey rankings as a key lawyer, having expanded her practice across the Channel Islands.

In Private Client, Trusts and Tax, "absolutely first-class" partner **Matt Guthrie** is ranked as a leading partner and described as "truly valued for his commercialism, pragmatism and market knowledge", with a "*very keen mind*". Partner **Gavin Ferguson** is ranked in the Hall of Fame and **Catherine Moore** is recognised as a next generation partner, described as the "go-to contact for initial advice and to act as a sensible local sounding board for any issue". **Chris Hards**, who was recently promoted to partner at Ogier, is "*excellent and surely destined for great things*". He is named as a key lawyer along with a new entry into the rankings, managing associate **Sophie Denman**.

In Commercial Property, partner **Martyn Baudains** is ranked in the Legal 500 Hall of Fame. Senior associates **Piers Dereham** and **Martín Casas**, who is "*professional and thorough*", have both had their statuses enhanced from risings stars to leading associates. "Personal, a lateral thinker and easy to deal with" counsel **Jonathan Anderson** is named as a key lawyer.

About Ogier

Ogier is a professional services firm with the knowledge and expertise to handle the most

demanding and complex transactions and provide expert, efficient and cost-effective services to all our clients. We regularly win awards for the quality of our client service, our work and our people.

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This client briefing has been prepared for clients and professional associates of Ogier. The information and expressions of opinion which it contains are not intended to be a comprehensive study or to provide legal advice and should not be treated as a substitute for specific advice concerning individual situations.

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