



## News Release

10 July 2009

### **STEP Award nominations take on a strong Guernsey flavour**

Several firms either headquartered or with a significant presence in Guernsey have received nominations for the [STEP Awards 2009/10](#).

At last year's STEP Awards Guernsey was named International Finance Centre of the Year and has followed this success with a raft of nominations this year for its practitioners.

In the International section [Turcan Connell](#) is in the race for the Family Office Team of the Year Award; [Bedell Trust](#) and [Ogier](#) has been nominated as Independent Trust Company Team of the Year; the Institutional Trust Company Team of the Year award nominations include [Butterfield](#), [HSBC Private Bank](#) and [Kleinwort Benson](#); and HSBC Private Bank is also up for Philanthropy Team of Year as well as Private Bank of the Year, where it will face competition from another firm with a Guernsey operation in [Rothschild](#).

The regional categories see Ogier taking its second nomination, this time for IFC Legal Team of the Year. Within the UK and Ireland categories [Ozannes](#) has been nominated for the Contentious Trusts and Estates Team of the Year.

Ozannes is highlighting how this is a significant achievement given that the category is not restricted to offshore entrants but is open to applications from across the UK and Ireland. The quality of the other firms which have been shortlisted, [Farrer and Co](#), [Mishcon de Reya](#) and [Withers LLP](#) is an indication of the esteemed company with which Ozannes has been placed.

Christopher Edwards, a partner within the Ozannes Litigation practice, said: "Ozannes is proud to be the only offshore firm shortlisted and pleased that its strength and depth in conducting complex trust litigation has been recognised by such a respected body as STEP."

Managing Director of Butterfield in Guernsey, Bob Moore, was delighted by his firm's nomination for Institutional Trust Company Team of the Year, saying: "To be nominated for a STEP award is a reflection of the dedication and hard work of the trust team around the globe. STEP is widely recognised as the world's most significant professional body for trustees, so this nomination is a great achievement, and one which we are extremely proud of."

STEP was founded in 1991 and now has over 14,000 members in over 60 countries worldwide. The STEP professional qualification has become the international standard for trust professionals.

"We are delighted to be shortlisted for such a prestigious award," said Chris Burton, the Head of Private Wealth Management, International at Kleinwort Benson.

"It is testament to the hard work that the teams across Guernsey and Jersey, as well as London, have put in over the last 12 months. It has not been the easiest of times for a number of reasons. However, the team has worked extremely hard and really pulled together, to see us through the challenges and ensure we continue to deliver a high level of service to our clients."

STEP Awards Secretary, Keith Johnston, said: "I congratulate those who have been shortlisted. They have demonstrated that their peers consider them among the best and most innovative companies in the profession."

Nominations for the Private Client Awards are assessed by a panel of 14 judges supported by experts from each field.

**Release Ends**