

HIGHEST-RATED PLANNING SOLICITORS 2019

TOP THREE SOLICITORS

1. Simon Ricketts, Town Legal

Ricketts claims the number one spot in our rankings for the 10th year running. "Simon's considered thinking, allied to his planning knowledge, is a great help to clients facing difficult and risky commercial decisions," says one developer. His instructions range from advising the promoters of the proposed Penzance Heliport to acting for Led Zeppelin guitarist Jimmy Page in opposition to a basement development next to his grade I listed home. "There's an ease to working with Simon that makes him so popular," says one consultant. "But there's weighty substance behind his client face. Top of my list for legal advice."

2. Iain Gilbey, Pinsent Masons

Gilbey offers advice that is "always concise and spot-on", says one consultant. His instructions include acting for developer Lendlease on the regeneration of Elephant & Castle, advising biomedical research charity Wellcome on an application to expand its Genome Campus, and acting for Hammonds Estate on its plans for 5,000 homes on land to the east of Chelmsford. "I find it impressive that he says what needs to be said and does not over-complicate," added the consultant. "This makes his advice so much more effective, as he makes complicated situations appear straightforward and easy to understand."

3. Neil Baker, Clarke Willmott

Baker is described by one consultant as "a consummate and highly experienced professional with a commercial and practical focus on the matters in hand." His recent instructions include acting for the University of Bath to secure planning permission for its school of management building. Baker advised developer LinkCity on its successful application for a 26-storey tower which, if completed as planned, will be Bristol's tallest residential building. Another consultant commended his "persistence and tenacity" and "precise and straightforward advice that allow projects to move forward quickly and efficiently".

| RANK 2019 | RANK 2018 | SOLICITOR | FIRM |
|-----------|-----------|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 | 1 | Simon Ricketts | Town Legal |
| 2 | 4= | Iain Gilbey | Pinsent Masons |
| 3 | 2= | Neil Baker | Clarke Willmott |
| 4= | 20= | Stuart Andrews | Eversheds Sutherland |
| | 20= | Chris Charlton | Clarke Willmott |
| | 15= | Duncan Field | Norton Rose Fulbright |
| | 4= | Richard Ford | Pinsent Masons |
| | 11= | Michael Gallimore | Hogan Lovells |
| | | Trevor Ivory | DLA Piper |
| | 7= | Richard Sagar | Walker Morris |
| | 20= | Tim Smith | Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner |
| | 15= | Caroline Waller | Clarke Willmott |
| 13= | 2 | Stephen Ashworth | Dentons |
| | 7= | Claire Fielding | Town Legal |
| | | Beverley Firth | Mills & Reeve |
| | | Trevor Goode | Ashurst |
| | | Karen Jones | Blandy & Blandy |
| | 15= | Robbie Owen | Pinsent Masons |
| | | Simon Stanion | Shakespeare Martineau |
| | | Andrew Thomas | Gowling WLG |
| | 7= | Angus Walker | BDB Pitmans |