

Underwoods Solicitors

79 MARLOWES
HEMEL HEMPSTEAD HP1 1LF
 Phone **01442 430900**
 Email **info@underwoods-solicitors.co.uk**
 Website **www.underwoods-solicitors.co.uk**

Breakdown of work	%
Employment	25
Commercial	15
Family	10
Local government/administrative and public law	5
Personal injury	15
Wills and probate	15
Property	15

Contacts

Senior partner Kerry Underwood
Managing partner Robert Males

Administrative/public law Kerry Underwood
Commercial John Bartholomew
Costs law Kerry Underwood, Robert Males
Employment Kerry Underwood
Family Robert Males
Personal injury Adam Shute
Private client Robert Males
Property Ruth Rush

Number of UK partners 2
Number of other UK fee-earners 7

This highly ranked and innovative firm is prominent in a number of areas, including employment law, family law, civil litigation and personal injury, as well as commercial services and consultancy work. It also handles probate and tax and wills and conveyancing. By offshoring work to South Africa, the firm has maintained extremely high standards, both in terms of client care and legal advice, while cutting fees sharply. In particular, its fixed fee of £499 for any conveyancing, whatever the value of the property, is proving to be very attractive to clients. The firm's service standards are widely recognised to be unmatched by any other firm. Overall, it is one of the very best law firms and its glowing reputation is fully deserved.

The firm: Underwoods Solicitors has a significant sub-Saharan Africa-based practice and acts as consultant to a number of Commonwealth countries. It has an especially strong South African practice and, through its sister company, Law Abroad plc, is the market leader in offshoring English legal work to South Africa.

Types of work undertaken: Employment law is a core specialisation of the firm, which acts for companies of all types and sizes, as well as individuals. It acts for employers and employees in all aspects of employment law, including tribunal work, litigation, dismissal, discrimination and transfers of undertakings. Kerry Underwood is widely recognised as one of the country's leading employment lawyers.

The firm has vast experience of work and advocacy in all tribunals and courts.

Costs is a particular specialism of the firm, with Robert Males and Kerry Underwood being acknowledged experts and authors of books on costs. Kerry Underwood currently writes and edits the costs, funding and referrals section of *Butterworth's Personal Injury Litigation Service*.

Litigation is covered comprehensively, including all aspects of commercial, business, contractual and property disputes, as well as negligence, judicial review, debt and enforcement. The firm acts for claimants and defendants.

Clinical negligence and personal injury are specialities of the firm. Robert Males is recognised as one of the country's leading experts in relation to stress claims, and represented the successful claimant in the leading Court of Appeal case of *Dickens v O2*.

Property work in all forms is covered, with Ruth Rush specialising in residential property and John Bartholomew in commercial property. The firm's groundbreaking concept of charging the same fee of £499 for conveyancing, whatever the value of the property, is proving very popular with clients and other law firms.

Probate is covered, and wills and powers of attorney are dealt with under the fixed fee scheme. Inheritance tax advice is provided.

Commercial work covered includes management buy-outs and buy-ins, shareholder agreements, joint ventures, new business ventures, and mergers and acquisitions.

Family law services include pre-marital agreements and trusts, cohabitation agreements and pension arrangements, as well as divorce, separation, maintenance, and children's residence and contact.

Other offices: Wellington (South Africa), Durban (South Africa)

UNDERWOODS
 SOLICITORS