



PRO BONO TEAM OF THE YEAR



Oury Clark Solicitors

In a campaign that has continued for almost two years, Oury Clark has represented a core group of 26 survivors and relatives in a challenge to the Government to hold a public inquiry into the 7 July London bombings.

The background to the challenge is that, during the course of a trial of five men involved in terrorist activity, it emerged that at least two

of the suicide bombers had already been under surveillance by the Security Service but had never been questioned.

The emergence of the evidence has cast doubt on the Home Secretary's assertion that the bombers were not known to the Security Service, as well as questioning the accuracy of a May 2006 report by the House of Commons

Intelligence and Security Committee.

The legal team has also continued to deal with individuals who remain mentally and physically vulnerable from the attacks in a litigation, political and media arena. The firm has also helped in the preparation of press releases and the provision of press conferences and statements for victims.

2 TAYLOR WESSING

In October 2008 Taylor Wessing's pro bono team secured a landmark judgment that saw the widow of a British engineer, who was found hanged in a Congo hotel room while on a mission for the UN, be awarded £143,000 in compensation for his death.

The firm has also introduced a community initiative committee that brings together members from across the firm to work on specific projects, including the Blackfriars Legal Advice Clinic and clients taken on by the firm through LawWorks.

Taylor Wessing also works with the National Portrait Gallery to deliver community programmes, such as outreach photography workshops in deprived areas throughout London.

3 MISHCON DE REYA

Mishcon's most notable pro bono campaign in 2008 was its involvement with Team Darfur and its right to protest at the Beijing Olympics.

The firm's public advocacy group advised Team Darfur in relation to the legal restrictions placed on its right to protest at the Games in a bid to highlight the genocide occurring in Darfur.

In addition, the firm has launched 'Pink Law', which aims to provide impartial legal advice on issues affecting the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community.

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