

Team England signs for Halebury following hat trick of senior hires



Halebury, the alternative law firm that acts for some of the biggest names in business and sport, has added three more heavyweight solicitors to its team, one of whom is bringing the England Football Team as a client. The firm is also expanding its management board amid plans to double in size this year.

Joining Halebury are:

- Kingsley Napley corporate partner **Michelle Harris**, who brings with her the England Football Team as a client. Michelle has been the team's retained legal advisor since 2006 in relation to various commercial and contractual matters, including the setting up of the England Footballers Foundation and negotiating Team England's most recent rights deal

with the Football Association and Nike.

At Halebury, Michelle intends to apply her significant corporate and commercial experience in building a client base across her contacts in the sports, media and entertainment fields. Halebury already has a thriving sports law practice, boosted last year by the hire of ex-FIFA lawyer Raj Korla.

- **Alex Stewart**, former head of legal at Arqiva Broadcast & Media, the company behind most of the UK's television, radio, satellite and wireless communications infrastructure. Alex brings a raft of corporate TMT experience from his time leading the legal team at Arqiva and previously at NTL, where he was senior legal advisor. Alex trained at Charles Russell, and like Halebury's co-founder, Denise Nurse, has pursued a broadcasting career, working previously as a journalist for the BBC World Service.

As well as applying his extensive TMT sector experience to his Halebury practice, Alex will also continue his work advising venture capital funds investing in parts of East Africa.

- Former Virgin Media senior legal counsel and seasoned TMT legal consultant, **Paula Jackson**.

After qualifying with Denton Wilde Sapte, Paula has built a career as an in-house commercial lawyer in the TMT sector, having been legal advisor at NTL, associate legal counsel at Telewest and most recently legal consultant at Google UK.

As well as tapping into the increasing demand for work as a result of digital and social media usage, Paula will continue to play a key role as a strategic legal consultant to Royal Mail.

- **Dylan Jones** will join Halebury's board in April 2013. He joins from investment firm Ingenious Investments (for whom he will continue to act as a consultant), where he currently runs the firm's sport and leisure and real estate divisions. He was previously a Director in The Royal Bank of Scotland's global banking and markets division, where he led a structured lending business focused on major international film and television clients.

Prior to joining the commercial world, Dylan practised as a TMT solicitor with Denton Wilde Sapte. He therefore brings a combination of legal, strategic, commercial and investment experience to spearhead the next phase in Halebury's development. This will include progressing Halebury's plans to become an Alternative Business Structure (ABS) in 2013.

The new additions to the Halebury team follows a period at the end of 2012 that saw the firm recruit five lawyers from a range of senior in-house and in-practice positions.

Janvi Patel says: "These latest appointments demonstrate the quality of the solicitors that join Halebury, while welcoming someone of Dylan's experience to our management board signals our

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clear growth intentions. The in-house TMT and sports communities are definitely starting to pay attention to Halebury, either as a place to further develop their career or as a serious alternative to their current legal providers.”

Since its launch in 2007, Halebury has been at the vanguard of a more flexible and collaborative approach to the law than traditional law firms offer. During that time the firm has not only attracted highly experienced former in-house and private practice lawyers, but services an enviable client list, including BSkyB, Informa, FremantleMedia, Ericsson, Royal Mail, and now the England Football Team.

Denise Nurse says: “We prove that one-size does not fit all when it comes to legal services. In particular, we find that general counsel is increasingly looking beyond the standard supplier model in favour of innovative and flexible alternatives, like Halebury, who can meet both their budget and service requirements. Our structure and team of lawyers – the majority of whom have trained at leading law firms and combine hands-on in-house commercial experience – makes Halebury an attractive and viable solution for general counsel.”