



QualitySolicitors
Forshaws Davies Ridgway

News Release

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Cheshire solicitor elected to serve North West on national STEP council

Cheshire solicitor Stephen Lawson has been elected to represent North West solicitors, accountants, financial advisers and will-writers on the national council of The Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (STEP).

He beat off stiff competition to be selected to serve on the national professional body which provides accreditation for anyone involved in will-writing or estate planning, as well as professional development training, publications and events.



Stephen Lawson, who is based in Frodsham as a partner at QualitySolicitors Forshaws Davies Ridgway, is a specialist in inheritance disputes and the only solicitor practising in the Warrington and Chester area who is a member of both STEP and the Association of Contentious Trust and Probate Specialists (ACTAPS).

Two years ago he was invited to launch a new Cheshire branch of STEP. As chairman, he has overseen the formation and expansion of the group, which is now flourishing with a membership of more than 60 professionals from across the county.

Stephen said he was delighted to be elected to serve the five counties of the North West region at national level. "There are many issues facing estate planning and probate specialists, not least the problem of unregulated practitioners offering sub-standard services.

"We have a mission to improve the quality of will-writing and financial planning across the whole of the North West. Currently will-writers do not have to possess any qualifications in this field but hopefully STEP can help everyone to raise their game.

Certainly for the public, choosing an accredited STEP member takes the lottery factor out of tracking down an appropriately qualified person.”

STEP is a worldwide network of more than 17,500 members, with branches in North and South America, Europe, Asia, Africa and Australasia.

EDITOR'S NOTES:

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About QualitySolicitors Forshaws Davies Ridgway

- FDR is a full service legal practice with offices in Warrington, Stockton Heath and Frodsham, divided into Quality Solicitors Forshaws Davies Ridgway and a separate FDR Commercial Department at 21 Bold Street, Warrington.
- 18 Partners
- Over 120 staff
- Top 15 practice in NW
- Top 200 practice in England & Wales
- Mortgage Strategy Awards 2009 & 2010 'Best Conveyancer' Runner Up
- Services include: Commercial Law, Conveyancing, Criminal, Family, Litigation, Wills & Probate.

Issued by

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On behalf of Quality Solicitors Forshaws Davies Ridgway