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Pictured with the award, from left, Wace Morgan business manager Carolyn Freeman, director Chris Detheridge and managing director Diana Packwood.

Quality accolade from Law Society

The firm has achieved Lexcel accreditation after a three-day independent audit.

Lexcel is the Law Society's quality mark for practice management and client care, setting standards in different operational areas.

Managing director Diana Packwood said that she and her fellow directors were delighted to have met and exceeded the required standards.

"The Lexcel practice management standard is only awarded to solicitors who meet the highest levels of management and customer care," she explained. "Accredited practices undergo rigorous independent assessment to ensure they reach the required height of excellence.

"During the audit our staff were required to demonstrate 25 areas of good practice but assessors

actually identified 48 so we are very proud of the findings.

"We believe that clients will benefit significantly as this accreditation ensures high quality care and services.

"It will also improve our risk management and assist in the development and implementation of the firm's business strategy," she added.

Lexcel sets the required standard in seven different areas: structure and strategy, financial management, information management, people management, risk management, client care, file and case management.

Wace Morgan has been presented with a certificate and a plaque has been displayed in the reception area of its head office in St Mary's Street, Shrewsbury.



In this issue... Lizzie is new Law Society president. Private client team strengthened. Five promotions are announced. Trio join litigation department. Law clinic for the military. Come and meet staff at shows. Commitment to Alzheimer's continues.....

Five promotions are announced



Pictured from left, Diana Packwood, managing director of Wace Morgan, with Claire Jenkins, Andrew Oxenham, Zoe Detheridge, Rachel Wierzbinski and Karen Ashton

It has been announced that five members of staff have been promoted.

Karen Ashton, who qualified as a licensed conveyancer in 2001 and joined Wace Morgan nine years ago, becomes an associate. She carries out all aspects of residential property work, including sales and purchases, re-mortgages, registration of property at the Land Registry, transfers of equity and boundary and adverse possession queries.

Rachel Wierzbinski, who has been with the firm for four years as a solicitor and has a range of commercial clients, including developers and private and commercial property investors, is also promoted to associate.

She regularly deals with commercial property leases, sales and purchases of continuing businesses as well as commercial and agricultural property issues, whether funded privately or with the benefit of lender funding and pension funds.

Zoe Detheridge joined the commercial team here three years ago and now becomes a partner at the firm. She qualified as a solicitor in 2008 with a top tier Birmingham firm where she gained a vast amount of experience working alongside large commercial developers, private and commercial investors, commercial lenders and pension schemes.

She now works for both developers and landowners on transactions involving mostly residential development but also has experience in dealing with landlord and tenant matters.

Andrew Oxenham started with Wace Morgan in 2013 as a solicitor and now moves up to the position of partner.

Having previously worked in Shropshire and London, he is a registered trust and estates practitioner and is also a member of the Law Society and Solicitors For The Elderly and on the board of trustees of Oriel Davies Gallery in Newtown.

His specialist knowledge is in the administration of deceased's estates and affairs of disabled people and he also specialises in the preparation and administration of trusts, inheritance tax planning, wills and powers of attorney, Court of Protection deputyship cases and associated tax issues.

Claire Jenkins, also made a partner, qualified as a solicitor in 2010 and initially carried out work in a broad range of areas. However, she has since specialised in property work, dealing in both residential and commercial sectors acting for clients all over the country.

Diana Packwood, managing director of Wace Morgan, said that she was pleased to see members of her team progressing through the ranks.

“They will help to guide and inspire Wace Morgan as the business expands even further”

“As we grow and evolve as a business I am delighted to see colleagues promoted to positions of responsibility – they will help to guide and inspire Wace Morgan as the business expands even further,” she said.

Lizzie is new Law Society president



Family solicitor Lizzie Hughes is the new president of the Shropshire Law Society, which represents the interests of all solicitors in the county.

“I am very pleased to be stepping up to the position of president of the Shropshire Law Society,” said Lizzie.

“We have a number of events planned throughout the year which we hope will be enjoyable and beneficial for our members, including training sessions covering public and private family law.

“The society has chosen to support a national and local charity in 2018 - Dementia UK and Severn Hospice – and we will be fund raising for them with a range of activities,” she said.

Lizzie specialises in cases involving children, including intervention by social services, adoption and custody disputes.

She appears regularly on the West Midland, Shropshire and mid Wales court circuit before all levels of judges from magistrates to circuit judges.

After completing her law conversion and legal practice course at The College of Law in Birmingham she was employed at a specialist family firm in Telford, becoming a director in 2015.

An expert equestrian in her spare time, Lizzie represented England in dressage two years ago and has now qualified for the summer regional championships and is aiming for selection for the home international competition this year.

Trio of legal experts recruited

We have recruited a trio of legal experts to our litigation team.



From left, Chartered legal executive Victoria Clements, solicitor Paul Nicholas and litigation assistant Valentina Biuso.

Solicitor **Paul Nicholas**, who specialises in employment and military cases, graduated from Aberystwyth University, later qualifying in the litigation department of a regional firm specialising in criminal law.

"After many years of representing clients in court it has become quite apparent that people must have their case fully prepared and their voice heard. It is this commitment that makes my work so vital and enjoyable," he said.

His role is now to utilise these skills and value of case preparation and advocacy to assist people experiencing employment difficulties and he also has experience in helping service personnel from initial advice through to court martial.

Victoria Clements comes on board as a chartered legal executive specialising in personal injury. A law graduate of Cardiff University, she has worked in the catastrophic personal injury field for five years at a top defendant insurance law firm based in Liverpool and more recently in the serious injury team for a large claimant firm on the Wirral.

She commented: "I have experience and valuable insight into both sides of the claimant/defendant divide. When dealing with cases my ethos is to develop a collaborative working relationship with my opponent in order to achieve the best results for clients.

I particularly enjoy working as part of a multi-disciplinary team with claimants who are seriously injured and require a multi-disciplinary team approach in order to achieve the best possible outcomes – both in terms of rehabilitation and their legal case."

Valentina Biuso, who completed a law and criminology degree at Keele University, joins as a litigation assistant. She has experience working at HM Land Registry as well as for a niche law firm specialising in road traffic accident claims, specifically via the Ministry of Justice claims portal.

"I am enjoying the variety of work at Wace Morgan and am looking forward to developing my skills within broader areas of personal injury," she said.

Esther now an associate

One of our family mediation specialists, Esther Evans, has been made an associate.



After graduating with a law degree from Wolverhampton University, Esther qualified as a chartered legal executive in 2002 and has worked in family law since then, joining us seven years ago.

In 2012 she completed training as a family mediator at Wace Morgan and three years later undertook further training to enable her to directly consult with children as part of the mediation process.

"I am delighted to be promoted to the role of associate at such a well-regarded firm as Wace Morgan," said Esther, who is also a member of both the Family Mediator's Association and Resolution.

She continues to work as a lawyer and family mediator in Shropshire and Mid Wales as Wace Morgan has outreach posts at its office in Market Street, Newtown, as well as in Welshpool, Telford, Oswestry and Church Stretton.

Private client team strengthened



From left: Sinead Rickard, David Lane and Alana Graham

Our private client team has been strengthened with the addition of three new members, bringing the total number of employees at the business up to almost 100.

Alana Graham is our new private client barrister. After being called to the Bar of England and Wales and completing her training, she worked for a firm of accountants, an inheritance tax planning company and then a legal firm before returning to independent practice. She now has her own chambers but under new rules is allowed to work for Wace Morgan.

"I will be advising companies on tax and tax planning and private individuals on tax, wills and trusts, acting under the public access scheme. I also regularly appear before courts and tribunals representing clients," she said.

Sinead Rickard joins as a new senior private client solicitor. Her first job in the legal profession was at the firm's Shrewsbury 'law shop' in 2001 as a legal executive before moving to Kent where she worked for a large Legal 500 company, qualifying as a solicitor.

Since her return to Shropshire in 2009 she has been employed by several large firms, always specialising in private client work, particularly agricultural land and businesses issues where she advises farmers and company owners on tax planning and the administration of estates. "It is really lovely to be back at Wace Morgan and to see so many friendly and familiar faces here," Sinead commented.

David Lane, who specialises in wills, trusts and probate, has been recruited as a chartered legal executive, moving from a Staffordshire law firm. He said: "With Wace Morgan's solid reputation in Shrewsbury and the surrounding area, I am extremely proud to join their highly regarded private client department and look forward to being part of a team that is clearly focussed on delivering outstanding service."



From left: Senior partner Jeremy Taylor, director Keir Hirst, chartered legal executive Victoria Clements, solicitor Clare Dalby, litigation assistant Valentina Biuso, solicitor Paul Nicholas, solicitor Jemma Gilligan and director Chris Detheridge.

Law clinic for the military

We showed our support for the armed forces by hosting a special celebration.

As part of the week leading up to national Armed Forces Day on June 30 we ran a clinic at the St Mary's Street office for current and former military personnel and their families.

"We have a range of legal experts who specialise in armed forces issues and they were on hand to talk to people about relevant matters," said Keir Hirst, Wace Morgan's employment director and secretary of legal organisation Forces Law.

"In addition there was a cake sale in reception supporting the armed forces charity SSAFA, and we also attended an armed forces event at Shrewsbury Sports Village."



Pictured from left, organiser Liz Holdsworth, Heather Evans of Wace Morgan, attendees Ian Holmes and Clive Rogers and speaker Richard Bifield.

Wace Morgan has given its backing to a new group as part of its on-going campaign to support people living with Alzheimer's Disease.

PALZ-UK has just been launched by former partner Liz Holdsworth, who is also regional co-ordinator for Shropshire Solicitors for the Elderly.

The group, which stands for Professionals with Alzheimer's, aims to provide a social environment and intellectual stimulation for

people who are living with Alzheimer's or a similar disease and who previously had demanding careers.

It meets every two months at the RSH Shropshire Conference Centre and includes talks by high calibre speakers. Wace Morgan sponsored the May event.

Come and meet staff at shows

Wace Morgan will be out and about at two popular agricultural events later this summer.

The firm will have a marquee at **Minsterley Show** in south Shropshire on **August 18**, which is the county's oldest show.



"We hope as many of our clients will come along to meet us there – we will have promotional goodies to give away and staff will be on hand to answer questions," said operations executive Sam Briggs.

Also on offer at our marquee will be refreshments, a quiz and children's colouring competition with prizes.

In addition staff will be attending **Cruckton Ploughing Match**, near Conover, on **September 29**.

We have a gazebo where give-aways will include literature and merchandise and some of our partners will be on hand to chat to visitors. And there is usually lots of cake to be eaten!



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