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Fledgling legal eagles scoop industry accolade



WH Law partners Sarah Pugh and Mike Rogers

A fledgling firm of Black Country solicitors has celebrated an impressive milestone not even a year into trading by securing a rare and much sought after qualification.

WH Law in King Street, Dudley, is a niche legal firm specialising in Employment and Health & Safety law, and business partners Sarah Pugh and Michael Rogers already have prestigious clients and are handling multi-million pound accounts.

After seeking start-up support from Business Link in the West Midlands, the 10-strong firm - which started trading in December 2007 – clinched the Lexcel qualification in six short months.

Accredited by the Law Society, the accolade is a quality mark letting existing and prospective clients know that a company's internal systems adhere to the top industry standard and that it treats its clients impeccably.

Mike Rogers explained: "When we began, we were determined that the accreditation would be one of the first things we would get in place, so we worked hard to achieve it from February until August and have just been presented with the certificate. The benefits of working to the Lexcel standards are immeasurable and the hard work has certainly paid off.

“Only 10 per cent of all solicitors in England and Wales have the Lexcel qualification, and only five per cent of private sector lawyers do, so it’s quite a coup for such a young company to have achieved this, so quickly.

“Clients have deliberately sought us out not only because we specialise in employment and health and safety law but also because we have this accreditation.

“We have clients that the big firms would really wish to have and we can attract them because we are niche and yet also offer a holistic service to businesses.

“Our team includes medical practitioners, HR Consultants, Conflict Management experts and IT Security Consultants.

“I specialise in high value personal injury cases for claimants and defendants and have significant experience in covering clinical negligence cases, Health & Safety prosecutions and environmental matters.”

Sarah Pugh specialises in employment law both contentious and non-contentious, with particular experience in diversity issues, and a strong focus on risk management strategies for employers.

Business Link adviser, Neil Young, visited the firm and advised how to drive the business forward and how to facilitate funding to bring in external consultants to check the company’s systems before the audit and the all-important Lexcel stamp of approval.

Mike continued: “Sarah and I have both worked in national firms of lawyers with more than 100 partners but I knew I wanted to work for a smaller firm so I came back to Dudley to return to my roots.

“Sarah and I had previously worked together in Dudley so when the opportunity came along to start up on our own, it was just right. We have a solid client base already which we are steadily growing through other clients’ recommendations and word of mouth generally.”

Next year Michael and Sarah hope to move to larger premises, increase the resources as the client base develops and the business grows.

Anyone wanting to find out more about starting up a new company can contact Business Link on 0845 113 1234 or visit www.businesslinkwm.co.uk