

# Press Release

For immediate release:  
**June 17 2011**

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## **Top In-house Counsel Recognised at the International Law Office Global Counsel Awards in Association with the Association of Corporate Counsel**

London, United Kingdom – The International Law Office (ILO) and the Association of Corporate Counsel (ACC) hosted the fifth annual Global Counsel Awards in New York’s magnificent Cipriani 42nd Street last night. The gala event celebrated the achievements of in-house counsel recognised by their peers as excelling in their chosen fields. This year’s event was attended by 470 senior lawyers from across the world, including in-house counsel from more than 100 companies.

To identify the winners the ILO team conducted in-depth analysis of in-house lawyers and legal departments worldwide, receiving more than 3,300 individual nominations. Respondents were asked to focus on criteria such as effective communication, legal understanding, commercial awareness, depth and strength of team, and management skills. Awards were presented to both individuals and legal teams working in the following areas: competition, corporate tax, employment, general commercial, intellectual property, litigation, M&A and regulatory services (financial and non-financial). Marc Firestone of Kraft Foods Inc was named General Counsel of the Year after receiving numerous nominations from law firm partners and prominent in-house counsel peers.

**“Marc has an innate ability to bring together his in-house colleagues with multiple external advisers to form a cohesive team, all of whom willingly follow his lead in pursuit of common goals. The dedication of his legal team is second to none and its commitment to its leader is a fantastic testament,”**

enthused one respondent.

In addition to his recent achievements at Kraft, Marc won recognition for his contribution to the formation of the Institute for Inclusion in the Legal Profession (<http://www.theiilp.com>).

The sponsors of this year’s event were Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP; Bennett Jones LLP; Bichara, Barata, Costa & Rocha Advogados; Bingham McCutchen LLP; Cantor Colburn LLP; Clifford Chance LLP; Cravath Swaine & Moore LLP; Dantas, Lee, Brock & Camargo Advogados; DLA Piper LLP; Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner LLP; Fraser Milner Casgrain LLP; Freeman Mathis & Gary LLP; Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer LLP; Gianni, Origoni, Grippo & Partners; Gibson Dunn & Crutcher LLP; Haynes and Boone LLP; Heenan Blaikie LLP; Higgs & Johnson; Ince & Co International LLP; Ivins, Phillips & Barker; Kaye Scholer LLP; Mayer Brown LLP; Morrison & Foerster LLP; Norton Rose; Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP; Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP; Shearman & Sterling LLP; Shook, Hardy & Bacon LLP; Sidley Austin LLP; Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP; Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP; Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP; Winston & Strawn LLP; and Zelle Hofmann.

**For more information and a complete list of winners, visit [www.globalcounselawards.com](http://www.globalcounselawards.com)**



### **About the International Law Office**

Launched in 1998, ILO is the nexus where global corporate counsel engage with the world's pre-eminent law firms, and each other.

#### **The ILO brand encompasses:**

- A multifaceted online resource for senior international corporate counsel, which provides tailored, quality-assured updates on global legal developments, a database of the world's major deals and the legal advisers involved, and a comprehensive directory of firms and partners. [www.InternationalLawOffice.com](http://www.InternationalLawOffice.com)
- An awards programme recognising and rewarding those law firms and partners that have been commended exclusively by corporate counsel for their client service. [www.ClientChoiceAwards.com](http://www.ClientChoiceAwards.com)
- A global awards programme that identifies in-house corporate counsel, both teams and individuals, who excel in their specific roles. The awards culminate each year in three of the largest annual gatherings of senior corporate counsel, with prestigious ceremonies in London, Buenos Aires and New York. [www.GlobalCounselAwards.com](http://www.GlobalCounselAwards.com)

In recognition of its unique relationship with global corporate counsel, ILO became an International Online Media Partner to the ACC in 2005. Many other leading legal associations around the world have also chosen to partner with ILO. [www.InternationalLawOffice.com/Associations](http://www.InternationalLawOffice.com/Associations).

### **About the ACC**

The ACC is the world's largest organisation serving the professional and business interests of attorneys who practise in the legal departments of corporations, associations and other private-sector organisations around the globe. The ACC promotes the common interests of its members, provides resources to help save time, money and effort, contributes to their continuing education and provides a voice on issues of global importance. With more than 25,000 members in over 70 countries, employed by over 10,000 organisations, the ACC's community connects its members to the people and resources necessary for both personal and professional growth. By in-house counsel, for in-house counsel. © For more information, visit the ACC website at [www.acc.com](http://www.acc.com).

### **About the Global Counsel Awards**

In January 2007 ILO, in association with the ACC, launched the Global Counsel Awards to uniquely recognise the excellent work done by corporate in-house legal teams and individuals. The primary aim is to reward lawyers for demonstrable achievements across the full spectrum of in-house responsibility, and not simply those who have acted on high-profile transactions. Winners have performed above and beyond the usual requirements of their profession and position. The ILO research team focused on criteria such as effective communication, legal understanding, commercial awareness, depth and strength of team, and management skills, in addition to any significant projects or transactions. While based on thorough and coherent research, the results remain the subjective views of the ILO team.