

Sean Gates is named world's leading aviation lawyer for the second consecutive year

Sean Gates of Gates and Partners has been named the leading aviation lawyer in the world at the 2006 Who's Who Legal Awards. This award follows similar recognition in the inaugural awards last year.

Following on from the success of the 2005 awards, Who's Who Legal has used the thousands of nominations received from clients and private practice professionals in the course of an ongoing research process to identify the pre-eminent lawyer and firm in each of the 27 practice areas covered in *The International Who's Who of Business Lawyers 2006*, published in March.

Managing editor Callum Campbell said: "Once again, we are delighted to recognise Sean Gates as the winner of the *Who's Who Legal; The International Who's Who of Business Lawyers* Aviation Lawyer of the Year Award. This is the second year running he has achieved this distinction, and he again received more recommendations than any other practitioner in our research. He remains the world's leading lawyer for aviation expertise."

The awards are based on a number of factors, including the feedback received in the ongoing research process, past performance in the research and the overall aggregate number of weighted votes cast in their favour. The awards are announced in the *The International Who's Who of Business Lawyers*, and identify the pre-eminent lawyer and firm in each of the 27 practice areas covered by the Who's Who Legal series. For the first time this year, the awards also recognise the overall leading firm in 46 countries around the world.

The International Who's Who of Business Lawyers 2006 is a compendium volume of the practice areas covered by Who's Who Legal's separate single volume publications. It is the result of ten years of independent research incorporating feedback from thousands of lawyers, and covering over 7,000 practitioners across 27 separate practice areas and over 100 countries. The book is distributed free of charge to thousands of corporate counsel and private-practice lawyers who have requested it from around the world.

According to Callum Campbell: "It is impossible to buy entry into this publication, only lawyers who have met independent international research criteria are listed. This book represents an accurate and impartial picture of the global private practice marketplace."

The information is also available without charge on www.WhosWhoLegal.com, and is updated on a daily basis. Who's Who Legal is the official research partner of the International Bar Association.

-ENDS-

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Notes to Editors:

- Research for each practice area publication is conducted through conversations with private practice lawyers of repute in the practice area in question and in related fields, as well as with general counsel.
- Subsequent telephone and face-to-face interviews are conducted internationally to permit the refining of the listing to a selection of between 100 and 500 lawyers who, by general agreement, are considered the pre-eminent lawyers in the field
- The International Who's Who of Business Lawyers 2006 acts as a reference source for purchasers of legal services seeking to corroborate the reputations of expert lawyers recommended to them by another party
- Who's Who Legal aims to reduce the short-term costs incurred in finding a lawyer, but more significantly, to minimise the transactional expense and risk of receiving poor counsel

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