

Best Law Firms 2022



New kid on the block is a force to be reckoned with

This fledgling firm has financial backing, experienced lawyers and has already played a role in a £450m divorce case

PCB Byrne

Lawyers 31
Turnover Undisclosed
Offices 1

PCB Byrne was formed in April through the merger of PCB Litigation, a disputes specialist part-owned by the litigation funder Burford Capital, and the fraud expert Byrne and Partners. The new firm plans to handle all forms of dispute resolution and specialises in areas such as banking and financial services, asset recovery, fraud defence and white collar crime and investigations.

PCB Byrne's clients include extremely wealthy individuals, multinationals, financial institutions and governments. It works with a network of international law firms and has access to extensive experience in foreign courts. It intends to attract instructions from Asia, the Middle East, Russia and elsewhere.

Leading figures at the firm, based in Fleet Street in London, include the

former PCB senior partners Anthony Riem and Trevor Mascarenhas, as well as Byrne & Partners' one-time senior partner Michael Potts and managing partner Sara Teasdale. Speaking in March, Riem said: "We are in discussions with several financial institutions about running portfolios of cases. The strength in depth and financing options that the merged firm brings will enable us to roll this out more."

High-profile former cases include representing a businessman against allegations of bribery involving hundreds of millions of pounds brought by the Libyan Investment Authority; advising on a \$200 million dispute between two Russian banks; acting for a global pharmaceutical company in a fraud action; and working on fraudulent misrepresentation claims with a leading insurance company.

The firm has been focusing on the enforcement of the £450 million Akhmedov divorce case of 2016 across courts in multiple jurisdictions. In April Tatiana Akhmedova, the former wife of the Russian oligarch

Tatiana Akhmedova was the victim of "a series of schemes" involving her son and former husband. They wanted to deny her a divorce payout



Farkhad Akhmedov, won her High Court battle with her eldest son, the City trader Temur Akhmedov. Handing down her judgment, Mrs Justice Knowles stated that Akhmedova had been the "victim of a series of schemes designed to put every penny of the husband's wealth beyond her reach". Rejecting Temur Akhmedov's case, she said he had "done and said all he could to prevent his mother receiving a penny of the matrimonial assets".

Paraphrasing the Russian writer Leo Tolstoy's novel *Anna Karenina*, the judge said: "Each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way... the Akhmedov family is one of the unhappiest ever to have appeared in my courtroom."

Burford Capital, which had funded Akhmedova's case, received \$103 million in the wake of the High Court judgment.

Commended for commercial dispute resolution; financial crime & fraud & regulatory

pcb-byrne.com