



Chambers UK

Leading Set 2012

11 Stone Buildings is a set on the move, as evidenced by its hire of two silks in the past year or so. It continues to impress with its offering across the full range of restructuring and insolvency matters, but proves particularly effective at the personal insolvency end of the market. The set is a firm favourite with solicitors, who wax lyrical about a clerking team that is "always friendly, approachable and helpful," and which importantly "maintains an astute commercial relationship" with clients.

Raquel Agnello QC continues to impress market sources, who say that "she is tireless on her feet" and "firm, effective and persistent" in her addresses to the Bench. Not only is she "extremely bright," but those who work with her say she is "great company and brilliant with clients." She recently acted on behalf of the pensions regulator in the Nortel and Lehman Brothers litigation. A new arrival at 11 Stone Buildings, **Lexa Hilliard QC** is hailed by sources as an excellent advocate and a tough opponent. She also earns praise for being "highly responsive and an astute strategist." Commentators are in no doubt that the set's secular of her services represents a notable feather in its cap. She joins chambers that include **Jane Giret QC**, a lawyer with extensive experience in both personal and corporate insolvency. She advised the LPC Group in relation to the UK government's freezing of Landsbanki.

Marcia Shekerdemian is admired by sources who say they use her for "more intellectually heavyweight legal matters." She is an impressive advocate, and "a real fighter in court." Her recent high-profile instructions include acting for the liquidators of Miss Sixty UK. **Tina Kyriakides** "is very commercial and always gets straight to the point." "Very accessible, friendly and always willing to help," she has considerable experience in both corporate and personal insolvency. Sources praise **Christopher Boardman** as a barrister "who has the whole package of skills." His "strategic judgement in court is excellent, as is his written work and drafting." His recent matters include acting for the liquidators of the Super Aguri Formula One team. **Iain Pester** impresses as being "fantastic on intellectually gritty matters." His wide-ranging practice caters to all aspects of corporate and personal insolvency.

Adam Deacock is "very diligent and fantastic when dealing with all of his many clients." He excels at winning the Bench's trust and is a barrister "you would prefer to have on your side." **Jonathan Lopian** is admired by market sources as he is highly technically skilled. He recently

acted for Lloyds TSB Bank in applying for an administration order for Powercorp International. **Jamie Riley** has established a strong reputation in the market as "a very assured advocate." He frequently acts in both domestic and international insolvency matters. Finally at the set, **Thomas Robinson** is hailed as an up-and-coming star of the future. His votaries say that "he offers a very supportive service," has an excellent work rate and is "very good at handling a massive caseload."

Leading Set 2011

11 Stone Buildings acts for office holders, directors and debtors in all aspects of contentious and non-contentious personal and corporate insolvency. The set is home to "approachable and committed" barristers who are "fantastic team players and incredibly easy to work with." Sources are keen to praise the clerks, led by Michael Couling, who will "bend over backwards to find the right person for the job."

Jane Giret QC is a "technically gifted and approachable lawyer, who shows a genuine passion for her work." She excels in matters of directors' misfeasance, but also focuses on general chancery and commercial litigation. **Raquel Agnello QC** is "talented, articulate and enthusiastic." She is praised for her "immediate understanding of the important issues in a case" and the clear direction she gives clients. She acted for the administrators of Sports Betting Media, and has also represented the Pensions Regulator with regard to insolvency-related issues.

Marcia Shekerdemian is a thorough and robust litigator who "cuts through complex issues to give clear, pragmatic advice." She has been representing the administrator of Bahrain Bank in the collapse of the Saad Group of companies, both in the High Court and in the Grand Court of the Cayman Islands. **Tina Kyriakides** excels in directors' disqualification cases, and has acted as an inspector for BERR to investigate insider dealing. In addition, she has also advised a liquidator on the sale of a ship, and acted in the liquidation of Oakland Finance Limited. Clients admire her advocacy style: "She doesn't rant and there is no hyperbole. She just puts her arguments across lucidly and effectively." **Christopher Boardman** is a tenacious advocate, who puts up a tremendous fight for his clients. He wins praise along with **Adam Deacock**, a lawyer who is "extremely bright and sees the bigger picture quickly." He has good management skills and provides "detailed and commercial advice." Also praised for his attention to detail is **Jonathan Lopian**. He is defending the Ministry of Justice against an allegation brought by the trustee of the estate of Louise St John Poulton of breach of statutory duty and/or common law negligence. **Jamie Riley** is a commercial litigator who has "a solid understanding of the insolvency landscape." He recently advised the administrator of Innovate Logistics, and is acting for the directors of Aqua Design & Play International in a wrongful trading claim brought by that company's liquidator. **Iain Pester** is praised for his "complicated forensic investigation work." He is "very approachable and grasps the important issues quickly." He is currently acting for the administrators of Checkprice (UK) in relation to allegations of excise duty fraud. Also winning the market's approval, **Thomas Robinson** is "an excellent advocate with a fine academic mind." Clients like his "detailed and thoughtful opinions" and his "friendly, approachable manner."

Leading Set 2010

This "flexible and commercial" set offers "an excellent service at competitive rates," according to impressed clients. It may not have some of the big names sported by its rivals but it does handle a large volume of insolvency to a high standard and possesses clerks who are noted for being extremely helpful and approachable. **Jane Giret QC** stands out here

due to her excellent cross-examination skills and "calm, measured style." She is "incredibly impressive at swiftly getting to grips with complex cases." Giret handles corporate and personal insolvency and has particular expertise dealing with company directors and their conduct, including directors' fraud and disqualification proceedings. Her recent cases include acting for the trustee in bankruptcy in a long-running piece of substantial fraud-related litigation.

The set now has a second QC in the rankings due to the recent appointment of **Raquel Agnello QC**. A worthy addition to silk, she has "fantastic knowledge and an approachable manner." Peers respect her courtroom skills, revealing: "She is always prepared to argue a point and to do so with gusto." Although especially strong on pensions specialist bankruptcy work, she also advises on insolvencies in the sports sector and recently acted for the administrators of Sports Betting Media.

On the junior side, **Marcia Shekerdemian** "brings enormous intelligence to matters." Her "calm assurance" comes highly praised by peers, who insist: "You couldn't meet someone more charming." Shekerdemian is "robust and able to grasp very complex situations quickly and reduce them down to the crucial points." She specialises in company law and handles all aspects of personal and corporate insolvency. Superb strategist **Tina Kyriakides** is "prompt, proactive and thorough," according to interviewees. Clients appreciate her approachable manner and note that "she is great at demystifying the law and providing clear written advice." In 2008 she acted in connection with the liquidation of Oakland Finance. A "confident and relaxed advocate," **Christopher Boardman** is highly regarded for his "incisive advice and sound analysis of complicated situations." His outstanding courtroom abilities are highlighted and he is recommended for "difficult struggles that require real fighting skills." Commercial litigator **Adam Deacock** has a broad practice that includes strong insolvency expertise. Notable recent work for him includes acting for the administrators of Travelscope Holidays on various technical applications. Sources describe him as "very clever and able to spot unique angles to pursue." **Jonathan Lopian** is another at the set who is "extremely approachable and user-friendly." He expertly handles corporate and personal insolvency issues, as well as director disqualification matters. In 2009 he continued to act for HMRC on the high-profile Farepak Food & Gifts case concerning the administration and subsequent liquidation of the Christmas hampers company. Also recommended, **Jamie Riley** is a tenacious advocate who provides a commercial viewpoint when handling both domestic and international disputes. His recent experience includes *Haskew v Adams*. Finally, **Iain Pester** continues to impress interviewees as "industrious and multitalented." He has particular experience advising on the intersection of fraud and insolvency.

Leading Set 2009

This "modern, client-focused" set is appreciated for offering "a fantastic service and great value for money." With its competitive fees and "approachable, unstuffy" staff, it proves a popular alternative to some of the longer-established sets in the market. The barristers here are "all refreshingly good at appreciating tight deadlines" and have a particularly strong profile in the mid-market, whilst also taking on the larger matters. They offer "a very broad range of choices to their clients," agree sources, many of whom took the time to also applaud the "very fine clerks who put themselves out for you." The set recently welcomed Michael Couling, who joined as chambers director in January 2008. Heading up the company and insolvency group, **Jane Giret QC** "brings a wealth of experience to the table." An "approachable and client-friendly" silk, she is congratulated for "exploring the issues and working around problems, rather than just focusing on what she's been asked to do." Much of her time recently has been spent acting for the trustee in the bankruptcy of a dishonest accountant. Leading the way amongst the juniors, **Marcia Shekerdemian** is "an incredibly

hard-working and tenacious advocate who lives and breathes her cases.” According to clients, her skills combine to make her “almost the perfect junior,” and “she’s definitely someone you want on your team.” As well as being “excellent on her feet,” her paperwork is highly rated and her turnaround fast, due to the fact that she “can seemingly juggle hundreds of balls at the same time.” Shekerdemian is further praised for her “ability to identify the central issues quickly and put forward a sensible solution.” **Raquel Agnello** is another “personable and forceful” junior who “comes across extremely well,” agree commentators. Pre-eminent in corporate and personal insolvency, she recently acted for the Pensions Regulator in Sea Containers. Her technical knowledge is “second to none,” and she is known for being “quick to understand the client and where they’re coming from.” Garnering much positive feedback this year, **Chris Boardman** is many people’s number-one barrister. Viewed as “almost faultless,” he impresses as “a bullish advocate who’s superb on his feet.” Peers describe him as “bright, commercial and focused on what needs to be done in order to get a result.” He is especially popular with clients, who find him “unstuffy and excellent when it comes to technical knowledge, with the ability to run a complicated case.” **Tina Kyriakides** “has a steady practice and is always fair,” agree sources. “Clever, but not in a pompous way,” she “gets deeply involved in her cases” and has “first-class knowledge.” Sally Barber is recommended for property disputes arising in an insolvency context. A “clued-up and approachable” junior, she “has a strong analytical brain and is robust in court,” note clients. **Jamie Riley** is making progress as “an excellent strategist and advocate.” Clients value his responsiveness, describing him as “practical and easy to work with.” They also admire his commercial approach, saying: “He gives good, straight answers with a sensible rationale.” A new entry to the tables this year, **Iain Pester** is “bright and thorough.” “Firm but not flashy,” he is an engaging performer who is applauded for presenting his cases attractively. Pester has particular experience of the private international law aspects of insolvency, including the application of the EU Regulation on insolvency Proceedings. He is joined in the tables by Jonathan Lopian “a clear and compelling advocate who always arrives at court raring to go.” His recent cases have included Ahmed and Andronikou v TradIndex, and he has also had a role in the Farepak affair.

Leading Set 2008

This client-friendly chambers wins plaudits for being “unstuffy and cost-effective,” with “strong all-round” lawyers who show “excellent practical skills.” The set offers expertise in many practice areas, including insolvency, commercial disputes and property. **Jane Giret QC** is “very energetic and determined.” According to peers, she has “solid technical skills and great experience.” She has been acting for the trustee in a long-running bankruptcy litigation case and was also involved in the Polestar and Safe Solutions restructurings. **Marcia Shekerdemian** is a highly rated junior who gives “authoritative and direct advice which is always very practical,” report clients. She is noted as being particularly good at getting down to the job and “picks things up promptly, demonstrating that she is always sensitive to the needs of her clients.” Of late, she has appeared in Re Top Marques Car Rental. “Feisty and experienced” junior **Raquel Agnello** stands out in court, agree peers. “A strong advocate with articulate, factual-based arguments,” she is said to be especially skilled at managing the court and witnesses, and recently appeared in the Premier World insolvency. **Tina Kyriakides** moves up the ranks this year and is viewed as “sensible, realistic, easy to deal with and an effective advocate in court.” She recently appeared in Re Balham Club Limited. ... According to peers, **Christopher Boardman** is “very bright and likeable,” and such is his advocacy style that peers also find him “all too easy to listen to - he has the ear of the court.” His skills were recently demonstrated in DaimlerChrysler Services UK v Burke. The “pleasant and very capable” **Jamie Riley** is recommended for his depth of experience and personable client-friendly manner.

Leading Set 2007

Regional solicitors use this set widely when they have cases based in London. Much of the reason for this comes from the fact that it “provides an excellent service at a cost-effective price.” **Jane Giret QC** is “excellent with the client and easy to work with.” This “very bright performer picks up the details quickly” and recently represented the debtor before the Court of Appeal in *Shierson v Vlieland-Boddy*. **Marcia Shekerdemian** is valued for being “particularly alive to the needs of clients.” She “consistently provides advice in a way that is straightforward and easy to understand” and, in court, proves a “real scrapper.” **Raquel Agnello** excels in the field of voluntary arrangements. Such is her reputation she is sometimes referred to as “the queen of IVAs and CVAs.” ... In a set of fine advocates, **Christopher Boardman** is another who is “excellent on his feet.” He has had “some amazing victories,” one example being his successful opposition of an administration application made by the directors of *Re Southern Cross Limited*. “Bright and approachable,” **Tina Kyriakides** is “thorough and thoughtful.” She is “sensible and tells you what you need to know in a way that everyone can understand.” Finally at this set, **Jamie Riley** acted for the administrative receivers in *Feetum v Levy*, a case concerning the circumstances in which the holder of a floating charge can validly appoint an administrative receiver over a project company.

Leading Set 2006

Having received numerous endorsements for being “unbelievably commercial, very approachable and technically able,” this set moves up the rankings this year. Interviewees commented that they can find the expertise they want here without the expense of going to other leading sets. **Jane Giret QC** is a “straight talking” silk who has the ability to “charm the pants off judges.” She is very active in both the insolvency and company spheres and is “many people’s first choice when you need someone to argue hard.” “What you see is what you get” with **Marcia Shekerdemian**. She offers “consistently clear, concise and practical advice to clients” and is a formidable advocate who is “superb in a scrap.” **Raquel Agnello** is the “voluntary arrangement guru – whether individual or commercial.” One her feet she is said to be very impressive: “a real street fighter.” ... One interviewee viewed Christopher Boardman’s entry into a case as “akin to the cavalry arriving.” He has “good analytical skills” and is “excellent on his feet.” **Tina Kyriakides** is a “very good lawyer who really knows her stuff” and is “willing to stick the knife in when she has to.” Others recommended include the “flexible and responsive” **Birgitta Meyer** who “always goes the extra mile for her client” ...

Legal 500

Leading Set 2011

Leading Silk: **Jane Giret QC**, **Lexa Hilliard QC**, **Raquel Agnello QC**, **Alan Gourgey QC**
Leading Juniors: **Marcia Shekerdemian**, **Christopher Boardman**, **Tina Kyriakides**, **Adam Deacock**, **Jonathan Lopian**, **Birgitta Meyer**, **Reuben Comiskey**, **Iain Pester**, **Jamie Riley**

11 Stone Buildings is able to “turn work around quickly”, “offers excellent value for money” and benefits from “very efficient” clerks. **Jane Giret QC** has “excellent technical knowledge, is great in complex cases, and is very thorough”, recently appearing in *Alfa Laval Tumba AB & Another v Mark Pacy*. “Popular, charming and exceptionally gifted” silk **Raquel Agnello QC** is also recommended. Among the leading juniors, **Christopher Boardman** is exceptional at

cross-examination'; **Marcia Shekerdemian** has "great technical knowledge" and "goes out of her way for clients"; **David Peters** is "very commercial and always makes the right call"; **Thomas Robinson** has "great attention to detail"; **Jamie Riley** is a "very competent barrister"; **Tina Kyriakides** is "extremely strong"; and **Adam Deacock** has a "good, sound commercial approach".

Leading Set 2010

Leading Silk: Jane Giret QC, Raquel Agnello QC

Leading Juniors: Marcia Shekerdemian, Christopher Boardman, Tina Kyriakides, Jonathan Lopian, Adam Deacock, Birgitta Meyer, Reuben Comisky, Jamie Riley.

Clients "highly rate and look for opportunities to instruct" the "responsive" 11 Stone Buildings. The "very good" **Jane Giret QC** was involved in the high-profile Thakrar case and also acted on LPC Group Plc - Re Landsbanki Commercial Finance. **Raquel Agnello QC** is "very commercially focused and well respected by the Insolvency Court". **Marcia Shekerdemian** is "absolutely tip-top" and advised on Re Awal Bank BSC in the High Court. **Tina Kyriakides** is "very good on theory" and "great to work with". **Christopher Boardman** is recommended "if you have a difficult corner to fight" and the "up-and-coming" **Birgitta Meyer** is also recommended.

Leading Set 2009

Leading Silks: Jane Giret QC, Alan Gourgey QC

Leading Juniors: Tina Kyriakides, Raquel Agnello, Marcia Shekerdemian, Adam Deacock, Birgitta Meyer, Jonathan Lopian, Christopher Boardman, Jamie Riley, Iain Pester, Reuben Comiskey

11 Stone Buildings receives clamorous client praise for "responsiveness, enthusiasm and the direct availability of counsel". "Impressive, practical and reliable" **Jane Giret QC** acted on matters relating to the Icelandic banking insolvencies, and "quick and clever advocate" **Alan Gourgey QC** is highly recommended. **Marcia Shekerdemian** "combines exceptional legal knowledge with superb communication skills". She acted for the administrators in Re Airbase International and for Honda GP, the major creditor in the administration of Super Aguri F1. **Tina Kyriakides** stands out for "excellent analytical ability, immense procedural knowledge, and disarming, decisive, and effective advocacy". **Christopher Boardman** is "a really safe pair of hands" and **Adam Deacock** is "equally good at drafting and advocacy".

Leading Set 2008

Leading Silk: Jane Giret QC, Alan Gourgey QC

Leading Juniors: Marcia Shekerdemian, Raquel Agnello, Tina Kyriakides, Christopher Boardman, Jonathan Lopian, Birgitta Meyer, Reuben Comiskey, Adam Deacock, Jamie Riley

11 Stone Buildings moves up this year, "the wide range of experience in this specialist area, combined with the responsiveness of the clerks and individual members of chambers" making the set the "top choice (for insolvency)" for many instructing solicitors. "Excellent, both on paper and in court", the "absolutely exceptional junior" **Marcia Shekerdemian** receives numerous plaudits as being "very bright, user-friendly, and particularly alive to the needs of clients". An "excellent communicator, technically very adept", **Jane Giret QC** has

been acting on the Thakrar litigation for the trustee in bankruptcy. Rated for providing “pragmatic and clear advice”, as well as for being “very responsive”, **Tina Kyriakides** moves up to join **Raquel Agnello** in the upper echelons of the rankings. Agnello is considered “terrifically good” by clients, and acted in the Court of Appeal in *Hickling v Baker* last year. The “extremely impressive” **Christopher Boardman** is ‘seen as up-and-coming’ here.

Leading Set 2007

Leading Silk: Jane Giret QC

Leading Juniors: Raquel Agnello, Marcia Shekerdemian, Christopher Boardman, Tina Kyriakides, Jonathan Lopian, Birgitta Meyer

11 Stone Buildings continues to receive a significant volume of instructions in the insolvency field. Solicitors find the set “approachable” and “remarkably good value”. **Jane Giret QC** heads an 11 strong team of various levels of seniority, and is credited with being “able to digest tons of material, and pick the issues in no time”. From an impressive set of juniors we recommend in particular **Tina Kyriakides** who is “tenacious and good on her feet”; **Marcia Shekerdemian**, considered “extremely competent and thorough”; and **Christopher Boardman** who is “technically excellent and good on his feet”. We also recommend ... and **Raquel Agnello**.

Leading Set 2006

Leading Silk: Jane Giret QC

Leading Juniors: Raquel Agnello, Marcia Shekerdemian, Christopher Boardman, Tina Kyriakides, Birgitta Meyer, Jonathan Lopian

An approachable chancery set, 11 Stone Buildings fields a strong complement of insolvency specialists, headed by **Jane Giret QC**. She remains busy, with recent appeal court work in *Re Huddersfield Fine Worsteds* and cross-border case *Shielson v Vleiland-Boddy*. Other key individuals are **Raquel Agnello** who specialises in voluntary arrangements and is said to be “very good in court and user-friendly to work with”, **Christopher Boardman** and **Marcia Shekerdemian** who provides ‘strong advocacy and excellent client service, often at short notice’. In the past year she has acted in *Re Modern Jet Support Centre* and *Re ML Design Group*.

Leading Set 2005

Leading Silk: Jane Giret QC

Leading Juniors: Raquel Agnello, Christopher Boardman, Marcia Shekerdemian, Tina Kyriakides, Jonathan Lopian, Birgitta Meyer

Another good commercial Chancery set, 11 Stone Buildings maintains a strong focus on insolvency. **Jane Giret QC** is a popular choice for resisting applications to remove liquidators, while top junior **Raquel Agnello** specialises in voluntary arrangements and is ‘very thorough and really knows her stuff’. Other highly rated practitioners are **Tina Kyriakides**, who recently appeared in *Harlow v Loveday*, concerning unlawful financial assistance, **Marcia Shekerdemian** and **Christopher Boardman**, who is considered ‘technically excellent and good on his feet’.

Leading Set 2004

Leading Silk: Jane Giret QC

Leading Juniors: Raquel Agnello, Chris Boardman, Marcia Shekerdemian, Tina Kyriakides, Jonathan Lopian, Birgitta Meyer

“Very good technical experience and advocates; generally user-friendly” sums up the market’s view of 11 Stone Buildings. The set is said to be “flexible to the needs of instructing solicitors” and to provide a cost-effective service. **Jane Giret QC** has developed a particular specialism in resisting applications to remove liquidators, as in *Re Buildlead Ltd*, while **Raquel Agnello** is renowned for her expertise in relation to voluntary arrangements, a recent example being *Re Trident Fashions plc*.

Leading Set 2003

Leading Silk: Jane Giret QC

Leading Juniors: Raquel Agnello, Marcia Shekerdemian, Chris Boardman, Tina Kyriakides, Birgitta Meyer

11 Stone Buildings' company and insolvency group continues to flourish, covering a substantial amount of personal as well as corporate insolvency work. It is led by the sensible and reliable **Jane Giret QC**; last year she successfully resisted an application to remove liquidators in *AMP Enterprises Ltd v Hoffman*. Solicitors who use them also recommend **Marcia Shekerdemian** and **Raquel Agnello** for their high success rate. A new addition to our list is **Tina Kyriakides**.