



HAMILTON BRADSHAW
Investing in people with passion



Press Release

June 12, 2012

Hamilton Bradshaw agrees landmark deal with Knights Solicitors

The first private investment into a commercial law firm

Hamilton Bradshaw, James Caan's Private Equity company, has announced a landmark agreement with the equity partners of Knights Solicitors to invest capital subject to approval from the Solicitors Regulation Authority. The deal is unique in the sector, being the first private investment into a commercial law firm.

Following the investment, Knights aims to position itself in the top 100 commercial law firms in the UK within three years. In response to a much more price-conscious market, the business's core focus is to be a credible cost solution to London institutions by providing competitive priced commercial services from its regional centres in addition to the full service offering Knights provides to its existing corporate client base.



James Caan, CEO Hamilton Bradshaw and David Beech, Managing Partner Knights

Knights, one of the largest law firms outside Manchester & Birmingham, was established in 1759 and has 23 partners and 150 staff operating from offices in Staffordshire Cheshire and Gloucestershire. In 1996 the firm made an important and strategic move away from the high street to specialise in commercial work and wealth management.

David Beech who has been leading the business since October 2011, will be developing the firm's strategy for growth. Once the SRA have approved HB's investment, James Caan will join the board.

Commenting on the investment James Caan, CEO of Hamilton Bradshaw said: "This is a very exciting business for HB to invest in. David has an excellent track record in law firm management as well as a unique understanding of private equity, having managed a fund himself. HB backs talented management and I am confident David will execute his strategy for growth."

James added: "The legal sector is undergoing significant change and consolidation. Knights is an excellent firm which has proven management and financial backing to scale its business and position itself in the top 100 UK law firms. I am very focused on people-based businesses and Knights stood out as a business with a highly talented team. It's great to see a firm benefit from staff who have been with the company for over 20 years, it speaks volumes about the quality of the business that Knights have built. One of the things that also impressed me about Knights, is the fact that some of their clients have been with the firm for generations, that is testament to a business who understands the importance of exceptional customer service."

David commented: "This is an exciting time for Knights and our people, who are passionate about their clients. We met with several investors to work with us on our future expansion. What stood out about HB was the fact that they don't just bring capital, they also bring an incredibly talented team on board who will support our business to achieve its ambition to become a leading regional law firm and cost solution to London."

Ends.

For more information:

Hayley Pointon, PA to Managing Partner, Knights
+44 (0) 1782 619225 hayley.pointon@knightsllp.co.uk

About Hamilton Bradshaw:

Founded and chaired by James Caan, Hamilton Bradshaw Private Equity launched in 2004. Its portfolio focuses primarily on the service sector, in particular recruitment, and currently invests in over 30 businesses. Today, HB is one of the world's Top 30 Recruitment companies, active in 28 market sectors, with over 800 staff and a turnover in excess of £500 million. Under the guidance of Caan, HB has won a reputation for investing in people with passion, operating with the utmost integrity and adding real value to every business they invest in.