

FREETHS LLP OPENS LIVERPOOL BRANCH

National Law Firm Moves North



**By Georgina
Rylance**

Associate

T: 0161 828 5417
M: 07795 027 895
georginarylance
@chadwicknott.co.uk

Chadwick Nott

Chadwick Nott sits down with Freeths' new partners to talk about the opening of the Liverpool office and all it has in store.

Andrew Nichol (left) and Luke Hopkins (right) are partners at Freeths LLP Liverpool.

You moved to Freeths in April this year to open the new Liverpool office, how have the last few months been?

Exciting and non-stop. From meeting with prospective clients and prospective colleagues, attending various networking/profile-raising events and, in between all that, trying to be a 2 man team servicing the work that comes in, every day has been different and been busy!

Was it a tough decision to move away from a firm you have worked at for such a long time?

It was difficult to leave behind so many great friends and colleagues but the opportunity to establish and grow the Liverpool office for a National law firm of the calibre of Freeths had a once in a lifetime feel to it.

FREETHS

"Neither of us was actively looking for a move, but the excitement of the challenge offered by Freeths' arrival into the Liverpool market was something that we could not help but be drawn to!"

-ANDREW NICHOL AND LUKE HOPKINS

What first attracted you to Freeths?

As a firm Freeths has an old fashioned culture of putting its people and its clients first, relationships are paramount. The reward system is centred around one very simple principle: fairness.

The firm is a long established national heavyweight but has been on an incredible growth journey in recent years, establishing and growing offices in Birmingham, London, Manchester, Leeds and Sheffield, all whilst retaining its culture. The firm's excitement for Liverpool was tangible (it has been looking to come to the city for 3 or 4 years) and its commitment to supporting us to grow in Liverpool is best demonstrated by what has been achieved in the aforementioned locations.

What are your plans for the Liverpool office in the next 5 - 10 years?

To become a full service commercial office. There have not been many opportunities to move within the Liverpool legal market in recent times, certainly not to anything that feels particularly new and different to the status quo, and we are hopeful that the rather unique opportunity that Freeths presents will enable us to attract the real top quality lawyers from within the Liverpool legal market (and perhaps some of those currently outside it) to want to all come and work under the same roof. We have already been able to recruit at senior level into employment, real estate (investment and development) and construction and are keen to continue this momentum.

What type of lawyers are you interested in hearing from as part of your growth strategy?

Freeths is a firm that is fiercely protective of its culture and we will not compromise on the type of person that we are looking for at the expense of adding revenue. A team ethic and hard-working nature are essential. Beyond that, we are looking for people that would consider themselves to be entrepreneurial and anyone that feels that they have something to offer in terms of growing a team or a service line, no matter how big or how small.

What do you like about working at Freeths so far?

It is a truly collaborative environment and we have received great support from our new colleagues from the other 11 offices. The absence of bureaucracy has been a welcome relief. The systems and processes at Freeths are refreshingly simple and everything is geared towards the lawyer, making our lives easier and giving us maximum time to be spending servicing our clients or looking after our people. Everybody is given autonomy, which allows us to play to our strengths, there is no micro management.

How have your clients reacted to your move?

Clients and contacts have been very supportive. A top quality, relationship driven service resonates particularly with the Liverpool market. Freeths is a very (deliberately) modest firm, but a glance at the legal directories will demonstrate its quality and clients have all been more than happy with the strength in depth that sits behind us nationally.



Above: Albert Dock, Liverpool UK

What do you like about Liverpool, what would you say to someone considering a move here?

Liverpool is the best city in the world! The waterfront is a world heritage site, it has more museums, galleries and listed buildings than anywhere in the UK outside London, it is the "Capital of Pop" (check the Guinness Book of Records), and the most successful footballing city in England. The city centre is beautiful and vibrant and there are parks and beaches within a stone's throw.

On an economic front, the Liverpool economy grew more between 1998 and 2016 than any other major British city except London, Edinburgh and Cardiff. And a National law firm opened offices in the city in April, so there hasn't been a better time to come and live and work in Liverpool!

Who has been your biggest inspiration in your career?

Jim Davies and Guy Wallis, founding partners of DWF. We are both very privileged to have worked alongside two great men, who established DWF in Liverpool in 1977. Their energy and passion was contagious and they showed us that you can achieve great things and have a lot of fun along the way too. Jim taught us to "make friends your clients and clients your friends" and that certainly forms an integral part of the Freeths strategy for growth in Liverpool.



For more information and a confidential chat about Freeths and any current opportunities for legal roles in the North West please contact Georgina Rylance.

T: 0161 828 5417
M: 07795 027 895

Chadwick Nott

www.chadwicknott.co.uk