

[GIR Awards 2017 – The Winners – Global Investigations Review – GIR](http://globalinvestigationsreview.com/article/1149374/gir-awards-2017-%E2%80%93-the-winners)

<http://globalinvestigationsreview.com/article/1149374/gir-awards-2017-%E2%80%93-the-winners>

27-10-2017 08.11.40

GIR Awards 2017 – The Winners

Waithera Junghae
27 October 2017

Buy now



GIR Awards 2016

The winners from last night's ceremony revealed, including Most Impressive Investigations Practice 2017, Enforcement Agency 2017, the GIR Outstanding Career Award – and more.

Investigations specialists from law and consultancy firms around the world gathered at the Four Seasons Hotel in Washington, DC, for the third annual GIR Awards, which proved to be a glamorous affair.

Paul Hastings was the winner of the Most Impressive Investigations Practice 2017 award, fending off competition from a number of leading firms, including Baker McKenzie, Debevoise & Plimpton, Hogan Lovells and last year's winner, WilmerHale.

Paul Hastings has had a particularly impressive year, helping medical device company Orthofix secure its FCPA settlement in the US

(<http://globalinvestigationsreview.com/article/1080180/sec-secures-admission-from-orthofix-after-repeat-fcpa-violations>) and Braskem with its landmark trilateral

(<http://globalinvestigationsreview.com/article/1079191/brazilian-companies-pay-ususd35-billion-in-largest-ever-global-foreign-bribery-settlement>) settlement. The firm also helped construction company CDM Smith secure an FCPA Pilot Programme declination

(<http://globalinvestigationsreview.com/article/1143826/boston-company-receives-seventh-fcpa-pilot-programme-declination>) in June.

The Boutique or Regional Investigations Practice 2017 award went to Swiss firm Schellenberg Wittmer. The Swiss firm has had a particularly strong year, advising on major matters including [Odebrecht and Braskem's Swiss settlement](http://globalinvestigationsreview.com/article/1079191/brazilian-companies-pay-ususd35-billion-in-largest-ever-global-foreign-bribery-settlement) (<http://globalinvestigationsreview.com/article/1079191/brazilian-companies-pay-ususd35-billion-in-largest-ever-global-foreign-bribery-settlement>) and individuals in the US-led Fifa corruption investigation.

For the second year in a row, Forensic Risk Alliance (FRA) won the Investigations Consultancy 2017 award. Although BDO and K2 have had impressive years, FRA stood out for the hand it played in the year's most high-profile cases, including [UK engineering company Rolls-Royce's landmark trilateral settlement](http://globalinvestigationsreview.com/article/1080140/doj-penalises-rolls-royces-self-report-failure-in-ususd800-million-multilateral-resolution) (<http://globalinvestigationsreview.com/article/1080140/doj-penalises-rolls-royces-self-report-failure-in-ususd800-million-multilateral-resolution>) in January and Swedish company [Telia's first-of-its-kind settlement](http://globalinvestigationsreview.com/article/1147559/telia%20settles-uzbek-bribery-allegations) (<http://globalinvestigationsreview.com/article/1147559/telia%20settles-uzbek-bribery-allegations>) with Swedish, Dutch and US authorities in September.

Brazil's Federal Prosecution Service (MPF) won the Enforcement Agency 2017 award. MPF beat off competition from last year's winner, the UK Serious Fraud Office, to win the coveted award. The Brazilian prosecutors continue to impress with their relentless prosecution of companies and individuals in Operation Car Wash. MPF has entered into a number of settlements in the past year, including the [landmark settlement with Odebrecht and its subsidiary Braskem in December](http://globalinvestigationsreview.com/article/1079191/brazilian-companies-pay-ususd35-billion-in-largest-ever-global-foreign-bribery-settlement) (<http://globalinvestigationsreview.com/article/1079191/brazilian-companies-pay-ususd35-billion-in-largest-ever-global-foreign-bribery-settlement>).

The Emerging Enforcer 2017 award went to South Korea's Public Prosecutor's Office. With echoes of Brazil's Operation Car Wash, Korean prosecutors have relentlessly investigated corruption cases in the past 12 months. The office's investigations have so far led to the [impeachment and prosecution of former South Korean president Park Geun-hye](http://globalinvestigationsreview.com/short-cut/2017/may/23#1141950) and the conviction of [Samsung chairman Lee Jae-yong](http://globalinvestigationsreview.com/article/1146786/samsung-heir-sentenced-to-five-years-in-prison-for-corruption) (<http://globalinvestigationsreview.com/article/1146786/samsung-heir-sentenced-to-five-years-in-prison-for-corruption>).

GIR's first-ever Innovation of the Year 2017 award went to Brazilian firm Levy & Salomão Advogados for launching an internal employee amnesty programme within Brazilian construction company Camargo Corrêa in 2016. Under the programme, Camargo Corrêa employees are encouraged to report potential corruption matters and matters during internal investigations related to Operation Car Wash. The programme is now being rolled out to other companies in Brazil with the support of the Brazilian prosecutors.

The award for Most Important Development in Investigations 2017 went to the landmark case of *US v Anthony Allen and Anthony Conti*. In the July 2017 decision, the US Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit ruled that the Fifth Amendment's prohibition on the use of compelled testimony in US criminal proceedings applies even when a foreign sovereign (in this case the UK) has compelled the testimony. The decision cuts through the very heart of global investigations and directly affects US/UK cooperation (<http://globalinvestigationsreview.com/article/1145238/united-states-v-allen-and-privilege-against-self-incrimination>). The award was jointly handed to Allen's counsel in the case, Willkie Farr & Gallagher partner Michael Schachter and Conti's lawyers, Tor Bernhard Ekeland and Aaron Kyle Williamson at Tor Ekeland PC and Karen Todner at Kaim Todner.

An equally important ruling – the SFO wins the ENRC privilege argument – won the Most Important Court Case 2017. The SFO won a high-profile battle with Eurasian Natural Resources Corporation (ENRC) on 8 May, after a UK judge ordered the mining company to hand over documents, including interview notes, to the authority as part of its corruption investigation. In doing so, the judge ruled that litigation privilege, which attaches to documents made in reasonable contemplation of litigation, did not apply to communications made by ENRC even though the company anticipated SFO dawn raids and a subsequent criminal investigation. Practitioners have said that this narrow definition litigation privilege will have a chilling effect on internal investigations (<http://globalinvestigationsreview.com/article/1141411/enrc-judgment-sets-out-narrow-scope-for-litigation-privilege>). The award will go to the SFO counsel in the case, Eversheds Sutherland partner Peter Jones, James Seagan of Blackstone Chambers and John Fisher QC at Bright Line Law.

On 2 October, the UK Court of Appeal granted ENRC leave to appeal against the May decision. In granting the appeal, Justice Floyd wrote that leave for appeal was granted because the company has "a real prospect of success" (<http://globalinvestigationsreview.com/article/1148757/enrc-granted-leave-to-appeal-in-landmark-privilege-case>).

Deborah D'Aubney, chief counsel at UK engineering company Rolls-Royce, is the winner of GIR's new Outstanding In-house Counsel 2017 award. D'Aubney helped UK engineering company Rolls-Royce land a trilateral foreign settlement with UK, US and Brazilian authorities in January (<http://globalinvestigationsreview.com/article/1080140/doj-penalises-rolls-royces-self-report-failure-in-ususd800-million-multilateral-resolution>). D'Aubney's ability to manage external advisers well, and to challenge the UK Serious Fraud Office when appropriate, resulted in a great outcome for the company. D'Aubney was commended by prosecutors and lawyers alike.

She fended off competition from the likes of Scott Dresser, group general counsel at Veon (formerly VimpelCom), who helped the Dutch-based telecommunications company secure its settlement [with the DOJ, SEC and Dutch Public Prosecutor's Office in February 2016](http://globalinvestigationsreview.com/article/1025116/vimpelcom-reaches-usd795-million-settlement-with-us-dutch-authorities) (<http://globalinvestigationsreview.com/article/1025116/vimpelcom-reaches-usd795-million-settlement-with-us-dutch-authorities>).

The night's festivities concluded with the GIR Outstanding Career Award, which went to Steptoe & Johnson partner Lucinda Low.

In a male-dominated field, Low has been a pioneer for women in white-collar investigations. In 2015, GIR named her in our [Women in Investigations](http://globalinvestigationsreview.com/benchmarking/women-in-investigations-2015/1018806/lucinda-low) (<http://globalinvestigationsreview.com/benchmarking/women-in-investigations-2015/1018806/lucinda-low>) **Survey**.

Low is a notable authority on FCPA matters, with a wealth of experience advising companies on internal investigations and enforcement proceedings. She is an expert on international bribery conventions from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Organization of American States, United Nations and European Union.

The GIR and GIR Just Anti-Corruption editorial teams presented the awards.

On the same night, GIR revealed the top 30 investigations practices.

The event was held in aid of Swawou Layout Girl's School in Kenema, Sierra Leone, a school that helps disadvantaged girls in the region.

GIR would like to thank silver sponsor FRA, whose generous sponsorship helped make the 2017 awards possible.

Community