



Conveyancing firm scoops Winner of Winners award



The Convey Law team, with TV presenter Gethin Jones (far left), picking up the overall award at the Welsh Business Awards.

Sion Barry
Business Editor

FAST-EXPANDING legal conveyancing firm Convey Law has scooped the overall winner in the Welsh Business Awards.

Newport-based Convey Law won the Commitment to Skills and People Development category, before being named as the overall winner.

The annual awards, from the South Wales Chamber of Commerce, were in association with the University of South Wales.

Convey Law, which employs 80 people, aims to expand this number by 30% in 2016.

Over the past three years, the business has earned record profits, with the £5m turnover achieved in 2015 seen as a direct result of its focus on team development.

Last year, Convey Law became the first conveyancing company to enter the Sunday Times Top 100 Companies to work for, as well as the first company of its kind to achieve Gold Investors in People accreditation.

Lloyd Davies, at Convey Law, said:

WELSH BUSINESS AWARDS WINNERS

- President's Award:** Dr Mark Boulcott, Herbrandston Dental Health Practice.
- Winner of Winners:** Convey Law, Newport.
- Growth Business of the Year, sponsored by Freshwate:** Sharp Clinical Services, Powys.
- Success through Innovation, sponsored by Port of Milford Haven:** Arriva Trains Wales, Cardiff.
- Start-up Business of the Year, sponsored by Royal Bank of Scotland:** Boss Brewing Company, Swansea.
- Success through Overseas Trade, sponsored by Atradius:** Welsh Hills Bakery, Aberdare, and Spear Europe, Cwmbran.
- Excellence in Marketing and Communications:** Jamjar PR, Cowbridge.
- Excellence in Environmental Management:** Eurobond Laminates, Cardiff.
- Commitment to Customer Service, sponsored by Centurion VAT:** Giltar Hotel, Pembrokeshire.
- Commitment to Skills and People Development:** Convey Law, Newport.
- Young Entrepreneur of the Year, sponsored by Western Power Distribution:** Sarah John, Boss Brewing Company, Swansea.
- Excellence in Community Relations, sponsored by Royal Bank of Scotland:** TSW Training, Bridgend.

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Cambria top of the class in challenge



Cambria team with head judge Richard Thomas.

ENTERPRISING students from Cambria have been crowned off-shore 100 other students in the Wales Youth of the Global Entrepreneurship Challenge (GEC).

In total 112 students from 17 higher education colleges in Wales took part in an online Cardiff City Stadium.

Cambria's winning entry, Ultimate Edge, is a web platform for amateur photographers to showcase their skills in the hopes of gaining scholarships or sponsorships.

Judges were impressed at the thoroughness of the team's business plan, the enthusiasm and creativity of the pitch, and their plan for heavily integrating social media into the business.

But their biggest test was the challenge laid out as individual college competitors in each handful of students from throughout Wales took part.

Now in 15th year, the objective of the annual GEC competition is to provide 100 students with the opportunity to develop entrepreneurial skills by competing against their peers.

For many participants, GEC Centre is their first opportunity to develop a business idea in an international life challenge.

Part of the Big Ideas Wales campaign, the Global Entrepreneurship Challenge is funded by the Welsh Government and European Regional Development Fund to provide an entrepreneurial opportunity for young people in Wales.

The 17 teams of students were asked to develop a business plan to develop an online business for the youth creative industries sector.

The business model needed to be different to existing mobile apps, social media or other digital means and should challenge an existing way of doing business.

All competitors were given 24 hours to develop a business plan and a cash flow proposal, in order to give a detailed proposition as a part of expert judges the following day.

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"We are absolutely thrilled to have been acknowledged as the 'Winner of Winners' at the Welsh Business Awards.

"Our mantra is to give every individual the opportunity to fulfil their potential, and our increased profits prove that creating a supportive culture for staff is key to

commercial growth.

"It is a true honour to have received this prestigious accolade, and our win will show businesses across Wales that investing in people is crucial for success."

Keith Palmer, chief executive of the South Wales Chamber of Commerce, said: "All of the winners,

including Convey Law and Dr Mark Boulcott, have shown an unflinching commitment to driving their businesses successfully over the last year.

"All of the 36 businesses that made the shortlist, as well as those who have been crowned winners, should be proud of their achievements in 2015, as they have not only strengthened the local economic landscape, but demonstrated that Wales is a true contender in a global marketplace.

"I would like to thank the University of South Wales for supporting this event for another year, all of the category sponsors and everyone who has worked tirelessly to make these awards one of our best ever."

All winners will now be encouraged to submit entries to the British Chamber of Commerce Awards in spring this year.

Welsh businesses have traditionally performed well against UK-wide competition and a number have successfully secured a share of the prize money which has been as much as £50,000.