

Size isn't everything, Chambers listings show

2011 RANKINGS

BY JULIUS MELNITZER

When it comes to law firms, size isn't everything. Full service doesn't necessarily mean best service. And variety doesn't always bring quality.

That's what *Legal Post* found when we took a close look at the 2011 *Chambers Global* rankings. Law firms are fond of emphasizing the number of lawyers in the firm who made the rankings. Fair enough.

But there are some other considerations. Like proportion, which is to say the number of lawyers ranked in *Chambers* as a proportion of the firm's total size. And when we did the numbers, we found some interesting differences between overall firm size, the number of Canadian lawyers ranked and the proportion of Canadian lawyers ranked to overall firm size. The charts at right reflect our findings.

In arriving at these numbers, we counted lawyers who were ranked in more than one *Chambers* category only once. And we did not weight our own rankings according to the relative position of a lawyer in one of *Chambers'* four "bands." Our data are current as of the beginning of 2011.

What we discovered is that the firms with the highest proportion of *Chambers*-ranked lawyers were not Canada's largest firms.

Goodmans LLP is Canada's 21st-largest firm, but with only 198 lawyers, ranks solidly first on the proportion scale at over 20.7%; Torys LLP, Canada's 15th-largest firm, ranked second with 17.2% of its 256 lawyers on the *Chambers* list; and Davies Ward Phillips & Vineberg LLP, Canada's 16th-largest firm of 240 lawyers, came a close third at 17.1%.

Also ranked in the top 10 on the proportion scale were Bennett Jones LLP (13th-largest, 352 lawyers, 14.8% ranked), Ogilvy Renault LLP (11, 413, 10.4) and McMillan LLP (12, 395, 7.6).

Indeed, of Canada's 10 largest

firms, only four (Osler, Blakes, McCarthy and Stikeman) ranked in the top 10 from a proportional perspective. Otherwise, Canada's largest firms only constitute six (McCarthy, Blakes, Osler, Stikeman, Borden Lad-

ner, and Faskens) or barely more than half of the top 10 firms by total number of lawyers ranked. These six firms took six of the top seven places on that list. Bennett Jones placed sixth.

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TEN LARGEST FIRMS

	Total firm size
1. Borden Ladner Gervais LLP	781 lawyers
2. Gowling Henderson Lafleur LLP	757 lawyers
3. Fasken Martineau Dumoulin LLP	686 lawyers
4. McCarthy Tétrault LLP	609 lawyers
5. Blake, Cassels & Graydon LLP	595 lawyers
6. Fraser Milner Casgrain LLP	519 lawyers
7. Heenan Blaikie	512 lawyers
8. Stikeman Elliott LLP	509 lawyers
9. Miller Thomson LLP	476 lawyers
10. Osler, Hoskin & Harcourt LLP	460 lawyers

TOTAL CHAMBERS

	Number of ranked lawyers
1. McCarthy	90
2. Blakes	89
3. Osler	70
4. Stikeman Elliott	56
5. Borden Ladner	55
6. Bennett Jones	52
7. Faskens	48
8. Torys LLP	44
9. Ogilvy Renault LLP	43
10. Davies Ward Phillips Vineberg LLP; Goodmans LLP	41

PROPORTION OF CHAMBERS

	Ranked lawyers to overall firm size
1. Goodmans	20.7%
2. Torys	17.2%
3. Davies Ward	17.1%
4. Osler	15.2%
5. Blakes	15.0%
6. Bennett Jones	14.8%
7. McCarthy	14.7%
8. Stikeman Elliott	11.0%
9. Ogilvy Renault	10.4%
10. McMillan LLP	7.6%

SOURCE: CHAMBERS & PARTNERS

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