

# PRESS RELEASE

## STEPHENS & SON SOLICITORS

### TOP PROPERTY EXPERT BECOMES PARTNER

The 215-year old firm of Kent based solicitors, Stephens & Son LLP is among one of the first in the country to appoint a non-solicitor as a partner as well as being the first to appoint a Licensed Conveyancer to this position.

On 31<sup>st</sup> March the new category of legal disciplinary practices (LDPs) was introduced permitting up to 25% of a firm's partners to be made up of non-solicitors.



Alan Johnston, one of the best commercial property lawyers in Kent, is Joint Head of Stephens & Son's Property Department, where he has worked for the past 28 years - since May 5<sup>th</sup> 1981.

"The decision to invite Alan to become a partner was not in question," said Managing Partner Jacqueline Shicluna, "we would have willingly appointed him as a partner many years ago, however we were constrained by Law Society Regulations. Alan's experience and expertise is invaluable – and his clients agree - so we are

delighted that the recent changes within our profession mean can now welcome him on board as a partner."

Alan, who is a member of the Society of Licensed Conveyancers and is governed by the Council for Licensed Conveyancers has, since his first appointment as an office junior in

1969 with Slaughter & May – then one of the largest firms in the City of London - spent all his working life involved in property law.

Alan specialises in the grant, renewal and variation of leases, the sale and purchase of commercial property, the sale and purchase of licensed premises and commercial and residential developments.

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