

18th January 2005

**Leading Midlands Employment Lawyer Joins Specialist Employment Practice-
Averta Employment Lawyers.**

Alan Jones joins employment lawyer David Sykes in Averta Employment Lawyers, a specialist practice focusing on senior executives and professionals.

Jones was partner and head of employment at the Birmingham office of DLA for many years, where Sykes was a partner until he left to establish Averta in February 2004.

Sykes says:- “My experience has shown that there is a gap in the market for our service. Issues faced by senior executives cannot always be handled by the high street solicitor and often the big practices are unable to help in these situations for a variety of reasons.”

“Now Alan and I have joined together with the aim to be the obvious choice for senior executives who need individual employment advice and partner-led expertise.”

Jones continues- “With over 30 years experience between us, we offer practical down-to-earth support, focusing on issues which affect directors, consultants, professional and senior staff. We aim to match the quality of advice clients would get from the largest law firms, coupled with a flexible and competitive charging structure.”

In fact Jones believes that other lawyers will be a primary work source, where they are unable to act for the individual because of conflict, lack of expertise in the particular area involved or because the law firm primarily acts in the corporate market.

Jones adds: “Because we do not compete with the major law firms, we are finding that they are happy to refer key executives to us. And our background with a major commercial law practice gives us the experience to look after the interests of the director and senior executive.”

Issues that Averta Employment Lawyers will handle include, negotiating severance terms, advising on boardroom disputes, compromise agreements, contractual problems, drafting service agreements or consultancy agreements, restrictive covenants, notice and garden leave, unfair dismissal, whistle blowing and discrimination issues.

Averta Employment Lawyers are based at Birmingham International Park, close to junction 6 M42, Birmingham International Station and Birmingham International Airport.

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For further information please contact Suzanne Orsler, SOPR, Tel 07813 131350, email suzanneorsler@my.intervivo.com or

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