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Penny Gilbert,
Powell Gilbert

If a project is only considered a success when the clients say so, then the new five-partner IP boutique Powell Gilbert can consider itself truly triumphant.

The firm split from Bristows in March and has been taking life sciences clients ever since.

One half of the firm name belongs to Penny Gilbert, who has worked on some of 2007's key patent cases in the High Court. One of the most groundbreaking was the fight between Human Genome Sciences and US pharmaceuticals giant Eli Lilly, which will decide whether it is possible to patent the human genome.

Either way, if Gilbert could patent her methods for a successful IP practice, there would be a great many people clamouring for licences.