

Lateral
Partner
Moves
in
London

 March - April 2019

Welcome to the latest round-up of lateral partner moves in the legal market from Edwards Gibson; where we look back at announced partner-level recruitment activity in London over the past two months and give you a ‘who’s moved where’ update.

There are a total of 76 lateral partner moves in this edition – a 19% increase on last year and 10% up on the statistical average (69) for the same period over the past 5 years. The single largest team move was a raid by **Fieldfisher** on **RPC** of a three-partner construction/construction disputes team. In addition, four firms: **Akin Gump** (in funds), **Gateley** (in private client), **Mayer Brown** (in restructuring/insolvency) and **Mills & Reeve** (in insurance) each hired two partner teams.

As a sector, *energy*-focused laterals appeared to be the most in demand, constituting 11% of all hires. Also, in particularly high demand were *private equity funds* partners (8% of all laterals) as well as a similar proportion - the highest we have ever recorded - of *restructuring/insolvency partners*; **Allen & Overy**, **Goodwin Procter**, **Macfarlanes**, **Mayer Brown** and **Reed Smith** all recruited restructuring partners in this round-up. It is too soon to say if this elevation, long prophesied by hopeful restructuring lawyers, is a statistical spike (arising from firms hedging against a bumpier post-Brexit economy and rising global interest rates) or a gloomier portent of things to come.

Top partner recruiters in London March – April 2019

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Also of note in this edition

- ◆ 3 firms – **Allen & Overy**, **Clifford Chance** and **Hogan Lovells** – hired partners from in-house;
- ◆ 22% of all laterals were non-partners moving into partnership;
- ◆ 25% of the total moves we recorded were female partners.

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like to discuss this article or any other aspect of the market in more depth.

Many thanks,
The Edwards Gibson Team

✓ **Addleshaw Goddard**

Energy lawyer **Rory Connor** has joined Addleshaw Goddard from King & Spalding where he was a senior associate. His UK and international experience covers project development, construction, and financial transactions in the energy sector.

✓ **Allen & Overy**

Allen & Overy has welcomed back **Tim Watson** as a restructuring partner. He was previously a senior associate in the firm's restructuring team, before leaving to become legal counsel for Davidson Kempner European Partners, a global institutional investment management firm.

✓ **Akin Gump**

Akin Gump has hired private equity funds duo **Aleksander Bakic** and **Daniel Quinn** from O'Melveny & Myers. Bakic specialises in real estate, credit and infrastructure funds, whilst Quinn focuses on secondaries transactions and private equity fund formation work.

✓ **BLM**

BLM has hired three new recruits: **Stuart Evans** from DMH Stallard, **Sarah Drury**, a former Clyde & Co insurance lawyer and **Gary Thwaites**, from Plexus Law. Evans joins as head of the firm's Commercial Litigation practice and advises on a range of commercial disputes. Drury joins BLM's London Markets group and has experience in energy, engineering, marine, and construction insurance matters. Thwaites has experience advising insurers on coverage issues and disputes.

✓ **Brown Rudnick**

Brown Rudnick has hired corporate and finance lawyers **James Cole** – until 2017 a partner at Paul Hastings – and **Iden Asl** from US high yield distressed debt trading boutique Mandel Katz & Brosnan. Cole advises on capital markets and hedge fund related transactions, while Asl specialises in secondary loan trading markets.

✓ **CMS**

CMS has welcomed **Steven Cochrane** from Pinsent Masons to the firm's Employment team. Cochrane advises on the full range of employment law, including whistleblowing, disciplinary issues, and discrimination claims, particularly within the financial services sector.

✓ **Cooley**

Claire Keast-Butler has joined Cooley's Capital Markets practice from Latham & Watkins. Keast-Butler advises issuers, investment banks, and listed companies on IPOs and secondary offerings, as well as corporate and securities law.

✓ **DAC Beachcroft**

DAC Beachcroft has appointed **Liam O'Connell** to head its global insurance practice. He joins from Norton Rose Fulbright, where he was head of the EMEA insurance claim team. O'Connell advises on contentious insurance matters, policy coverage analysis, and domestic and international dispute resolution.

✓ **Dechert**

Dechert has made two hires, both from Akin Gump: **Thiha Tun** and **Sarah Smith**. Tun's practice focuses on private equity investment and alternative asset funds, as well as fund reorganisations and reconstructions. Smith advises on finance matters, specialising in structured finance and restructuring.

✓ **Dentons**

Dentons has acquired a quartet of new partners: leading real estate lawyer **Bonnie Calnan** from Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner, Eversheds Sutherland's international head of oil and gas, **Greg Hammond**, MJ Hudson's head of private funds **Ted Craig**, and **Roger Matthews**, who joins as a partner from Dechert, where he was a senior director. Calnan advises on the full range of both upstream and downstream corporate real estate

transactions, with a particular focus on the real estate private equity and investment sectors. Hammond acts for parties in major international corporate finance transactions across the energy sector, including M&A, private equity, capital markets and joint ventures. Craig advises in private equity, secondary transactions, fund formation and fund investments. Matthews joins the firm's International Trade practice, focusing on international trade and regulatory work, international sanctions, and import/export controls.

◆ **Capsticks**

Finance lawyer **Laurence Gorley** has joined Capsticks from Dechert, where he was a senior associate.

◆ **DLA Piper**

Energy project finance lawyer **Nacim Bounouara** has joined DLA Piper from Ashurst. Bounouara has advised clients on the development and financing of power and oil & gas projects across Europe, the Middle East and Asia.

◆ **DWF**

In its first lateral partner hire post IPO, DWF has welcomed real estate finance specialist **Brendan Slack** from Dentons. Slack advises institutional and alternative lenders, funds, and private equity sponsors on a range of real estate, asset, and leveraged finance transactions.

◆ **Eversheds Sutherland**

Eversheds Sutherland has hired **Thekla Fellas** from Fladgate, where she was head of real estate litigation, and **Tony Anderson** from Pinsent Masons, where he was head of financial products and payments. Fellas advises on real estate litigation and will form a team at Eversheds that specialises in "Telecoms Code" disputes. Anderson specialises in payment services, settlement and clearing structures, and portfolio reviews and remediation.

◆ **Fieldfisher**

Fieldfisher has hired four lawyers in this round-up. A trio of construction and projects partners have joined from RPC: head of construction and projects **Dan Preston**, construction disputes specialist **David Thorne**, and senior associate **Jamie Key**, who joins as a partner. Preston joins as head of the construction & projects team and handles both contentious and non-contentious construction matters. Thorne advises contractors and employers on construction-related litigation, whilst Key advises on construction contracts and bespoke documentation, in addition to litigation and adjudication. The firm has also recruited energy lawyer **Elisabeth Blunsdon** from Orrick, where she was counsel. Blunsdon's experience includes UK and European energy regulation, power purchase and gas sales agreements, project development, and wider energy infrastructure matters.

◆ **Fox Williams**

Fox Williams has welcomed two new hires: **Rhys Griffiths** from Fieldfisher, where he was head of travel, and **Andrew Hill** from Stewarts Law. Griffiths joins as head of travel and specialises in travel regulation and litigation. Hill advises financial institutions and institutional investors on a range of matters, with a particular focus on securities litigation and class actions.

◆ **Gateley**

Gateley has strengthened its private client offering with the hire of Irwin Mitchell duo **Richard Jordan** and **Mark Pearce**. Jordan, who was head of the private client team at his previous firm, has experience in tax, successions, trusts, and asset protection matters, whilst Pearce advises high-net-worth individuals, families, and trustees on capital gains, inheritance tax planning, and asset structuring.

✔ **Goodwin Procter**

Goodwin Procter has recruited financial restructuring specialist **Simon Thomas** from Addleshaw Goddard. Thomas has experience in restructuring and insolvency matters across a variety of sectors, including aviation, energy, infrastructure, real estate, and tele communications.

✔ **Hogan Lovells**

Arwen Handley has left UBS to join Hogan Lovells' Global Financial Services Litigation practice. At UBS, Handley was managing director and global head of group investigations governance. She specialises in financial investigations, litigation, and regulation.

✔ **Hill Dickinson**

Hill Dickinson has recruited Clyde & Co maritime lawyer **Beth Bradley**. Bradley has international maritime experience with a specific focus on the Korean maritime market.

✔ **Howard Kennedy**

Howard Kennedy has appointed two new partners: **James Kaufmann**, a legal director at RPC who joins the firm as a partner and head of financial regulation practice; and **Duncan Bagshaw**, counsel in the Africa team at Stephenson Harwood, who joins as a partner in the firm's Dispute Resolution team. Kaufmann mainly advises investment funds clients and advises on cryptocurrencies and blockchain related issues. Bagshaw specialises in disputes within the oil and gas, renewable energy, and projects sectors, with a focus on Africa and the Middle East.

✔ **King & Spalding**

King & Spalding has made two new hires: Ashurst energy lawyer **Nikhil Markanday** and litigation lawyer **Giorgio Mandelli** from specialist public international law firm Volterra Fietta. Markanday

advises on project development and financing of energy and infrastructure projects. Mandelli specialises in international investment arbitrations.

✔ **Kirkland & Ellis**

Kirkland & Ellis has welcomed private equity funds specialist **Andrew Shore** from Proskauer Rose. Shore advises asset managers, institutional investors and investment advisors on a range of investment fund matters, including secondary transactions, fund restructuring and co-investment structures.

✔ **Latham & Watkins**

Latham & Watkins has hired corporate insurance specialist **Victoria Sander** from Linklaters. Sander advises on demutualisations, reinsurance, and distribution arrangements, and has a particular focus on pension scheme de-risking matters.

✔ **Macfarlanes**

Peter Baldwin is set to join Macfarlanes in June, having left Ropes & Gray last year. Baldwin is a restructuring lawyer who specialises in special situations and distressed transactions.

✔ **Mayer Brown**

Mayer Brown has bolstered its Restructuring practice with two new hires from DLA Piper: co-chair of global restructuring, **Michael Fiddy**, and UK restructuring head, **Amy Jacks**. Fiddy, who specialises in portfolio and distressed real estate restructuring, joins as co-head of the global restructuring team at the firm. Jacks joins as co-head of the UK restructuring team and focuses on multi-jurisdictional restructurings and large portfolio sales across a variety of sectors.

✔ **Mishcon de Reya**

Mishcon de Reya has nabbed two new hires: **Neil Baylis** from K&L Gates, where he was head of the firm's antitrust and regulation group, and real estate finance lawyer **Omega Poole** from Brown

Rudnick. Baylis advises on UK and EU competition law across a range of sectors, including sports, manufacturing, and transport. Poole focuses on private capital investing or financing in pan-European real estate.

◆ **Mills & Reeve**

Mills & Reeve's Insurance team have secured a double hire from US firm Cozen O'Connor: **Andrew Tobin** and **Paul Dowsey**. Tobin and Dowsey advise insurers and reinsurers in litigation and arbitration matters.

◆ **Norton Rose Fulbright**

Norton Rose has made two new partner hires: **Simon Gwynne** from Hogan Lovells, where he was co-head of rail and shipping, and **Michael Alliston** from Herbert Smith Freehills, where he was a senior associate. Gwynne has expertise in big-ticket asset finance across various sectors, particularly rail rolling stock, aircraft, shipping, and industrial plant and machinery. Alliston joins the firm's Tax team and advises on international and domestic corporate tax matters, including corporate reorganisations, mergers and acquisitions, and capital market transactions.

◆ **Osborne Clarke**

Osborne Clarke has hired **Ian Hyde** from Pinsent Masons to lead the firm's Tax Disputes practice, and patent lawyer **Will James** from Marks & Clerk. Hyde advises banks, national retailers, and individuals on direct and indirect tax disputes, in addition to managing tax risk. James focuses on high-value patent litigation in sectors such as biotechnology, pharma and TMT.

◆ **Paul Hastings**

Paul Hastings has recruited corporate lawyer **Steven Bryan** from Hogan Lovells. Bryan specialises in corporate finance and M&A matters across the energy, natural resources, and infrastructure sectors.

◆ **Pinsent Masons**

Pinsent Masons has welcomed **Lucy Thomas** from Ashurst to its Planning & Environment team. Thomas focuses on development planning and compulsory purchase matters and will be based across the firm's Birmingham and London offices.

◆ **Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan**

Quinn Emanuel bolsters its Competition group with the recruitment of **Elaine Whiteford** from fellow US outfit Covington & Burling. Whiteford has experience in follow-on damages litigation, cartels, and regulatory investigations.

◆ **Reed Smith**

Restructuring lawyer **Mandip Englund** has joined Reed Smith from Linklaters where she was counsel. Englund specialises in corporate/financial restructurings, distressed M&A and formal insolvency.

◆ **Rosenblatt**

Disputes lawyer **Danielle Carr** has joined Rosenblatt's dispute resolution team as a partner from SCA Ontier, where she was a senior associate.

◆ **Ropes & Gray**

Financial services regulatory lawyer **Eve Ellis** has joined Ropes & Gray from O'Melveny & Myers. Ellis is a regulatory lawyer who specialises in fund formation matters, including private equity, real estate private equity, real estate, emerging markets, and clean tech.

◆ **Seyfarth Shaw**

Employment lawyer **Ana Cid Velasco** has joined US firm Seyfarth Shaw as a partner from Eversheds Sutherlands' Madrid office where she was counsel. Velasco advises on various aspects of employment law, including company restructuring, terminations, modification of employment contracts, and TUPE related matters.

✔ **Shoosmiths**

Shoosmiths has made its first pensions hire in London, recruiting **Julian Richards** from BDB Pitmans. Richards advises employer, trustee, and trade union clients.

✔ **Sidley Austin**

Sidley Austin has recruited white collar crime partner **Sara George** from Stephenson Harwood. A former prosecutor for the Financial Services Authority, George specialises in domestic and international regulatory and criminal investigations.

✔ **Stewarts Law**

Boutique disputes outfit Stewarts Law has made two partner hires: tax litigation lawyer **James Le Gallais** from Peters & Peters and international arbitration lawyer **Daniel Wilmot** from White & Case, where he was a senior associate. Le Gallais specialises in commercial tax litigation, tax mis-selling claims, group actions, and corporate fraud matters. Wilmot focuses on oil & gas and technology sector disputes within the African and Middle Eastern region.

✔ **Taylor Wessing**

Financial services lawyer **Charlotte Hill** has joined Taylor Wessing from Covington & Burling. Hill advises financial institutions on commercial and regulatory matters.

✔ **Town Legal**

Boutique planning firm Town Legal has recruited **Duncan Field** from Norton Rose Fulbright, where he was head of planning. Field advises on major infrastructure projects, regeneration schemes and large-scale developments.

✔ **Trowers & Hamlins**

Trowers & Hamlins has recruited real estate lawyer **Neil Biswas** from Norton Rose Fulbright. Biswas specialises in development and

investment work with an emphasis on the funding of major schemes.

✔ **Watson Farley & Williams**

Watson Farley & Williams has announced the hire of Fladgate construction lawyer **Barry Hembling** to its real estate practice, and Clifford Chance's Director of Africa Group **Titus Edjua** to its energy practice as a partner. Hembling specialises in contentious and non-contentious construction issues, spanning across sectors such as real estate, energy and infrastructure, hotel and leisure. Edjua mainly advises on corporate and finance matters in energy, mining, and infrastructure sectors in Africa.

✔ **White & Case**

White & Case has made two new hires: King & Spalding finance lawyer **Fergus Wheeler** and Norton Rose Fulbright construction lawyer **Richard Hill**. Wheeler advises private client funds, asset managers, and sovereign wealth funds on debt finance and alternative financing and investment matters. Hill advises on commercial contracts within construction, energy, and infrastructure projects.

✔ **Willkie Farr & Gallagher**

Willkie Farr & Gallagher has hired tax lawyer **Jane Scobie** from Dechert. Scobie specialises in private equity transactions, including investments, private and public company takeovers, private fund formation, and restructurings.

✔ **Winston & Strawn**

Winston & Strawn has recruited corporate energy partner **Anthony Riley** from Orrick. Riley advises on corporate finance, mergers and acquisitions, and private equity transactions.

✔ **Withers**

Tax lawyer **Rachel Hawkins** has joined Withers as a partner from O'Melveny & Myers where she

was counsel. Her focus includes private client, restructurings, mergers & acquisitions, corporate finance, and investment funds.

✔ **Womble Bond Dickinson**

Womble Bond Dickinson has announced the hire of **Audrey Koh**, a counsel at Sidley Austin who joins the firm as partner. A white-collar crime lawyer, Koh specialises in anti-bribery, anti-corruption, and sanctions and corporate governance compliance.

Related links:

- ✔ [Previous editions of Lateral Partner Moves in London](#)
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- ✔ [Specimen partner business plan template](#)
- ✔ [The Partnership Track and Moving for Immediate Partnership](#)
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✔ **The Specialist Partner Team**



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