

Law
Firm
Partner
Moves
in
London

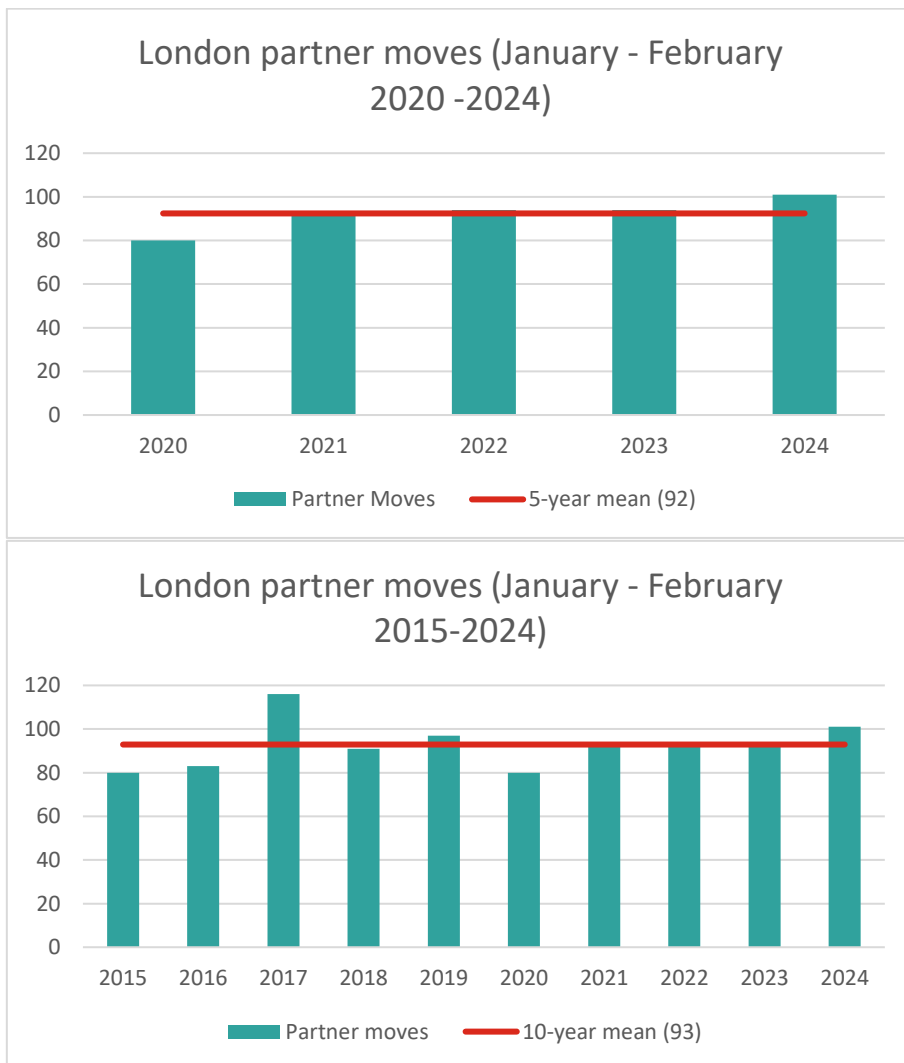


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Welcome to the 79th edition of Law Firm Partner Moves in London, from the specialist partner team at Edwards Gibson, where we look back at announced partner-level recruitment activity in London over the past two months and give you a ‘who’s moved where’ update.

This bi-monthly round-up contains **101** partner moves – an increase of **7%** on the number of hires we saw during the same period last year (**94**), and up **9%** on the cumulative five-year and ten-year averages - **92** and **93** respectively. Indeed, the rate of hiring is the second highest on record – bettered only by 2017, when the figures were artificially inflated following the collapse of KWM’s European verein.

As reported in [our last edition](#), despite a relatively soft market for transactional legal services, 2023 was a record year for law firm partner moves which were in large part driven by countercyclical investments by US law firms in private equity related hires. In the first two months of this year, that same dynamic has continued to fuel the red-hot law firm partner hire market.



The most coveted firm this edition was **Pinsent Masons**, which hired five partners, followed by: **Charles Russell Speechlys**, **DLA Piper**, **Fried Frank**, **Kirkland & Ellis** and **White & Case**, which hired four partners apiece.

◆ **Team hires**

The largest multi-partner team move this round-up was **Fried Frank's** addition of a peripatetic private equity trio, led by Christian Iwasko, which arrived from **Goodwin Procter** after previous joint stints at **Sidley Austin** and **Kirkland & Ellis**.

Five other firms hired two-partner teams: **Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner** (corporate energy and energy finance from Locke Lord); **DLA** (energy and infrastructure from Paul Hastings); **Hunton Andrews Kurth** (energy and infrastructure from EY Law); **Paul Hastings** (disputes and corporate crime from Latham & Watkins); and **Pinsent Masons** (TMT from Deloitte Legal).

◆ **Top partner recruiters in London January-February 2024**

• Pinsent Masons	5	(3 laterals)
• Charles Russell Speechlys	4	(4 laterals)
• DLA Piper	4	(4 laterals)
• Fried Frank	4	(3 laterals)
• Kirkland & Ellis	4	(1 lateral)
• White & Case	4	(3 laterals)
• Bird & Bird	3	(1 lateral)
• Mishcon de Reya	3	(2 laterals)
• Paul Weiss	3	(3 laterals)
• Simmons & Simmons	3	(2 laterals)

Paul Hastings saw the highest attrition – losing a half dozen laterals in the first two months of 2024, followed by **Deloitte Legal**, **Goodwin Procter** and **Pinsent Masons**, which each lost **3** London partners.

◆ **Firms with highest attrition in London (laterals only) January – February 2024**

• Paul Hastings	6*
• Deloitte Legal	3
• Goodwin Procter	3
• Pinsent Masons	3

* Includes a partner who retired from the partnership in 2023

✦ **All Weiss then, let's continue ...**

The fiery re-launch of **Paul Weiss's** London office continued apace with the New York firm indulging its twin passions of moving fast and breaking things, whilst at the same time adding to its collection of Kirkland & Ellis and Linklaters *alumni*; last year's top partner hirer in the London market kicked off the new year by ripping three more laterals from: **Linklaters, Ropes & Gray** (albeit a former Kirkland & Ellis partner) and, according to Law.com, a private funds partner from **Kirkland & Ellis**.

The additional hires mean that the London market's new apex predator has hired no fewer than 17 laterals since August last year from: Kirkland & Ellis (11); Linklaters (3); Clifford Chance (2) and Ropes & Gray (1).

✦ **(Magic) circling the wagons ...**

As we mentioned in [our last edition](#), last year Linklaters lost a dozen partners to rivals in London (of whom it would probably have preferred to have kept nine). The first two months of 2024 have seen the Magic Circle firm lose two more "keepers" both to US firms - **Gibson Dunn** and **Paul Weiss**.

In January it came to light that **Linklaters** was seriously considering changing its compensation structure so as to enable it to effectively "lock-in" partners who want to defect to competitors by withholding their retained profits. The idea, mooted as a direct response to the high number of lateral partner departures Linklaters has suffered at the hands of US rivals, is indicative of just how threatened one member of the Magic Circle has become in its home market; see [Linklaters – Welcome to the "Hotel California" of Big Law; "You can check out anytime you like but you can never leave"](#).



Aside from looking extremely weak – an unhelpful image for a firm desperately trying to break into the US market – should Linklaters’ proposal be implemented, it would put the firm at a considerable disadvantage when hiring laterals from US law firms. This is because most elite US law firms pay final profit distributions very shortly after the end of the financial year in which it was earned; in contrast, most UK law firms generally withhold profits and distribute them in aliquots over the following 12 months (i.e. in arrears). So, even where headline compensation is the same, the cashflow for new equity partners at UK firms is always worse ... if one adds in the concept that those (already delayed) distributions can be negated altogether, you have something akin to a recruitment Chernobyl!

Whilst we are (fairly) certain that the 16th century Court of Chancery justices who developed the concept of “equity” probably didn’t have Linklaters equity partnership foremost in mind, a jurisprudential maxim from that forum which every law student should know is, “*he who comes to equity must come with clean hands*”.

Lastly, it seems passing strange that a firm which is itself highly active in the lateral market is even discussing distribution lock-ins for its own partners. Last year Linklaters hired six partners in London, three of whom were laterals from US rivals - **Kirkland & Ellis**, **Latham & Watkins** and **Shearman & Sterling**. Moreover, the Magic Circle firm has recently trumpeted the breaking of its once sacrosanct lockstep precisely in order to facilitate the poaching of laterals in the US market. Whilst we are (fairly) certain that the 16th century Court of Chancery justices who developed the concept of “equity” probably didn’t have Linklaters equity partnership foremost in mind, a jurisprudential maxim from that forum which every law student should know is, “he who comes to equity must come with clean hands”.

Overall, this edition sees the Magic Circle come out flat against its US rivals. The two departures from **Linklaters** (to Gibson Dunn and Paul Weiss), and one from **Freshfields** (also to Gibson Dunn) are offset by: **Allen & Overy**, **Clifford Chance** and **Freshfields** hiring from Milbank, Paul Hastings and Akin respectively.

◆ **Also of note in this edition**

- **38%** (38) of all hires were female.
- **29%** (29) of all hires were non-partners moving into partnership.
- **6** firms hired from in-house this edition: **Addleshaw Goddard** (from the Bank of England), **Bracewell** (from BP), **Morrison & Foerster** (from Deutsche Bank), **Pinsent Masons** (from Royal London), **RPC** (from Associated Newspapers Ltd.), and **Stephenson Harwood** (from Natixis Investment Managers).

✦ **Market outlook**

The red-hot Biglaw partner hire market that we have seen in the first two months of 2024 is, in large part, simply a continuation of the record year we saw in 2023 when law firms bet heavily on the expectation that inflation, and therefore global interest rate hikes, would prove temporary and that their inevitable fall would presage a return to private equity led deal making. These counter-cyclical partner-led investment hires, whereby law firms essentially bought future books of business, remain in stark contrast to the recruitment market for junior lawyers which more accurately reflects the softer “real time” demand for transactional legal services relative to the “post-Covid bounce”.

Most of the 101 hires detailed in this report would have been finalised, or at least at very advanced stages, at the end of last year. This time-lag between acceptance of offer and start date is due to a combination of UK firms having long notice periods, and partners at US law firms (with calendar year ends and short notice periods), waiting for final distribution payments / year-end bonuses before resigning.

For this reason, whilst our January-February “the transfer season” edition always tends to record the highest number of moves in any given year, because these hires are often made months in advance, it is often not a particularly reliable barometer for the actual “real time” demand for partners. Nevertheless, at the time of writing, the partner hire market remains very robust, and not just in transactional areas linked to private equity led investment, but also in disputes and restructuring where, thanks to a UK economy which is now technically in recession, the partner recruitment market is probably more reflective of the actual real time demand for legal services.

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.

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Please click [here](#) to understand our methodology for compiling Partner Moves

◆ **Addleshaw Goddard**

Two new faces for the international firm which welcomes: high profile financial services regulatory lawyer **Tess Kelly** from the Bank of England, where she was deputy general counsel; and finance lawyer **Laura Uberoi** from Macfarlanes, where she was a senior counsel. Kelly's expertise in prudential regulation encompasses capital adequacy, liquidity, recovery, clearing, payments, digital currencies and sanctions. Uberoi, who launches a private wealth finance team at her new firm, advises family offices, high net worth individuals, and banks on cross-border finance transactions.

◆ **Akin**

The Texan-born firm hires financial restructuring lateral **Jacqueline Ingram** from Milbank. Ingram advises on cross-border restructurings, special situations financings and direct lending; her client base includes banks, distressed investors, CLOs, creditor committees and corporates.

◆ **Allen & Overy**

The soon to be A&O Shearman bags a brace of laterals this edition: leading structured finance lawyer **John Goldfinch** decamps from New York headquartered outfit Milbank; and patent specialist **Gemma Barrett** arrives from IP boutique Bristows. Goldfinch advises on a range of derivative products and securitisation asset classes, with a particular focus on the CLO and related markets. Barrett handles cross-border patent litigation within Europe, India and China, on behalf of life science and chemical companies.

◆ **Arc Pensions**

Pension disputes lateral and litigation specialist **Ben Fairhead** joins the pensions boutique from Pinsent Masons. Fairhead advises on pensions-related disputes involving: professional negligence, proceedings by trustees to recover scheme assets, and actions involving the Pensions Regulator.

◆ **Ashurst**

Corporate lawyer **Gavin Weir** arrives at the international firm from Akin as its new UK head of financial institutions M&A. Weir advises on domestic and cross-border M&A and corporate finance, with a particular angle on financial institutions, technology and life sciences.

◆ **Bates Wells**

Joining the "socially responsible" London firm is corporate lateral **Scott Leonard** from Russell Cooke. Leonard advises on an eclectic range of corporate transactions for family and owner managed businesses, property developers, investors, and professional services clients.

◆ **BDB Pitmans**

Corporate tax lawyer **Philip Alfandary** defects to the south of England firm from Memery Crystal. Alfandary's practice covers a range of direct and indirect tax including acquisitions, disposals, tax structuring, and planning across the corporate, PE and real estate sectors.

◆ **Bevan Brittan**

Affordable housing specialist **Katie Dyer** makes the switch to the national firm from Trowers & Hamblins. Dyer advises registered providers, banks, institutional investors and security trustees on the property aspects of large-scale residential property funding projects.

◆ **Bird & Bird**

The avian eponym makes three hires (one lateral and two verticals) this edition: real estate émigré **John Danahy** from (now defunct) KWM Europe; non-contentious IP specialist **Mario Subramaniam** from Pinsent Masons, where he was a legal director; and corporate lawyer **Jane Brassington** from Howard Kennedy, where she was a senior associate. Danahy advises on both traditional real estate and energy and infrastructure related real estate transactions. Subramaniam specialises in IP licensing,

transactional support and regulatory advice to life science entities. Brassington's practice covers corporate transactions across a range of sectors with a particular niche in corporate real estate and energy.

✦ **Bracewell**

An in-house hire for the US energy, finance, and technology firm which welcomes corporate crime and investigations specialist **Mark Hunting** from oil major BP, where he was a managing counsel. Hunting, a solicitor-advocate, advises on investigations, contentious and non-contentious criminal and regulatory matters and associated civil litigation.

✦ **Brown Rudnick**

Corporate crime lateral **Paul Feldberg** decamps to the Boston headquartered outfit from Jenner & Block, where he was co-chair of the national security sanctions and export control group. Feldberg, who joins as head of UK white collar defence investigations and compliance, advises corporates and individuals on investigations and regulatory issues relating to money laundering, sanctions, bribery and fraud.

✦ **Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner**

A two-partner energy and infrastructure team, comprising corporate energy lawyer **Kevin Atkins** and energy finance specialist **Matthew Daffurn**, join the Anglo-American firm from Locke Lord. The duo, who were both co-heads of energy at their previous firm, advise on corporate energy, project financings and project development, with a focus on Africa and other emerging markets.

✦ **Charles Russell Speechlys**

A quartet of lateral hires for the UK firm which welcomes: corporate lawyer **Giles Dennison** from Eversheds Sutherland; financial services specialist **Richard Ellis** from McDonnell Ellis; corporate lateral **Alexis Karim** from DWF; and finance lawyer **James Walton** from Edwin Coe. Dennison,

former head of Eversheds Sutherland's TMT M&A group, advises on public and private M&A, joint ventures, restructurings and corporate advisory with a focus on the technology sector. Ellis, a non-contentious financial services regulatory specialist with a niche in fintech, returns to the firm where he was an associate until 2022. Karim focuses on corporate private M&A, along with private equity and venture capital work. Walton predominantly specialises in real estate finance with a sub-specialism in litigation funding.

✦ **Clifford Chance**

The magic circle firm recruits structured products lateral **Blake Jones** from Paul Hastings. Jones advises on structured finance, securitisation and asset backed lending, with a particular focus on CLOs and fund leverage facilities.

✦ **CMS**

Commercial property lawyer **Rebecca Moore** arrives at the international firm from BCLP. Moore, whose client base spans residential funds, institutional clients, and developers, focuses on real estate development in the private rented and affordable living sectors.

✦ **Covington & Burling**

Adrian Chiodo makes the switch from Paul Hastings to join the Washington DC spawned outfit, as its head of European leveraged finance. Chiodo, who joined Paul Hastings from Latham & Watkins as a lateral just over [two years ago](#), advises financiers, banks and PE sponsors on cross-border leveraged finance, private credit, general banking and corporate finance.

✦ **Cripps**

A vertical hire for the south of England firm which elevates technology and privacy lawyer **Matthew Holman** from EMW Law, where he was a principal. Holman advises on commercial contracts, data protection, information rights, AI laws, governance, and regulation.

✔ **Crowell & Moring**

TMT and data specialist **Rafi Azim-Khan** decamps from fellow US firm Pillsbury, where he was head of data privacy and marketing. Azim-khan, who will split his time between London and San Francisco, advises across the finance, electronics, and tech sectors primarily on data privacy, protection, and cybersecurity matters.

✔ **DLA Piper**

A quartet of laterals for the global leviathan as it welcomes three energy and infrastructure focused partners comprising: Paul Hastings duo **Steven Bryan** and **Derwin Jenkinson**, along with **Paul Doris** from Brown Rudnick; and white-collar fraud and investigations lawyer **Andrew Sackey** from Pinsent Masons, where he was the head of the London office. Bryan, who prior to leaving Paul Hastings in October, led his former firm's energy natural resources and infrastructure group, largely advises on M&A transactions for investment funds and private equity clients. Jenkinson's finance practice covers infrastructure M&A, refinancings, project finance, structured debt and special situations. Dorris advises on private M&A and private equity, with a particular angle on the energy infrastructure and natural resources sectors. Sackey, who held various senior roles at HMRC before heading up the global investigations team at Pinsent Masons, covers a mix of investigations, corporate crime and tax litigation.

✔ **Fladgate**

The London firm expands its real estate team with the addition of lateral **Simon Chadowitz** from Mishcon de Reya. Chadowitz advises corporates, property companies, family offices and entrepreneurs on a mix of commercial and residential real estate matters.

✔ **Fox Williams**

The City firm snags technology & fintech lateral **Chris Hill** from Deloitte Legal. Hill, a former

partner at TMT boutique Kemp Little which was acquired by Deloitte Legal in 2021, advises fintechs and institutions on technology contracting, payments, software, data, IP licensing, AI, and open banking.

✔ **Freshfields**

The magic circle firm welcomes private funds specialist **Mary Lavelle** from Akin as its new global co-head of private funds & secondaries. Lavelle advises investment managers on fund formation, asset management and related co-investment structures as well as a wide range of secondary transactions including portfolio sales and GP-led continuation fund deals.

✔ **Fried Frank**

A quartet of new partners for the New York spawned outfit as it welcomes: a three-partner private equity team comprising **Christian Iwasko**, **Michelle Tong** and **Priya Rupal** from Goodwin Procter; and structured finance lawyer **Cameron Mitcham** from the Sydney office of Australian firm Corrs Chambers Westgarth, where he was a special counsel. Iwasko, Tong and Rupal all advise private equity sponsors on transactions, including leveraged buy-outs, structured equity and distressed investments, restructurings, management incentive plans and fund formations. Mitcham, who prior to joining Corrs was a finance partner at Dechert in London, advises on securitization, structured finance, CLOs asset-backed lending and credit funds.

✔ **Gibson Dunn**

Two magic circle laterals make the switch to the California firm this edition as it welcomes: finance lawyer **David Irvine** from Linklaters, where he was co-head of the leveraged finance team; and restructuring and special situations specialist **Lisa Stevens** from Freshfields. Irvine, who re-joined Linklaters from Kirkland & Ellis just over [three years ago](#), advises private equity sponsors and private credit funds on cross-border leveraged

and acquisition financing transactions, along with special situations financings and restructurings. Stevens, who only [joined Freshfields in 2022](#) from Kirkland & Ellis, where she was also a partner, advises investment funds, financial institutions and corporate borrowers on private credit/special situations and cross-border restructurings.

◆ **Goodwin Procter**

The Boston born firm elevates private funds specialist **John Anderson** from Debevoise & Plimpton, where he was an international counsel. Anderson, who is New York qualified, advises on fund formations primarily for senior and subordinated debt, venture debt, and other credit fund strategies.

◆ **Gowling WLG**

A brace of laterals for the Anglo-Canadian outfit which bags: corporate lawyer **Rebecca Burford** from Charles Russel Speechlys, and corporate insurance specialist **Madhu Jain** from Pinsent Masons. Burford, who joins as head of tech venture capital, specialises in VC and private equity investments with a particular angle on the technology, digital media and video gaming space. Jain advises UK and international insurers, reinsurers and intermediaries on corporate transactions, including M&A and reinsurance deals.

◆ **Hamblins**

The London firm elevates employment lawyer **Penny Hunt** from Bird & Bird, where she was a legal director. Hunt, who joins her new firm as head of employment, advises employers and senior executives on a range of contentious and non-contentious matters.

◆ **Hill Dickinson**

In a vertical hire the maritime flavoured outfit welcomes debt capital markets lawyer **James Harmer** from Addleshaw Goddard, where he was

a managing associate. Harmer, who joins the corporate team, covers private placements and debt issuances in the public markets.

◆ **Holland & Knight**

Asset finance specialist **Debra Erni** joins the Atlanta spawned set-up from fellow US firm Pillsbury, where she was the London managing partner. Erni's practice covers asset finance and leasing, with a particular emphasis on the aviation industry.

◆ **Holman Fenwick Willan**

Corporate crime and investigations lateral **David Savage** arrives from disputes boutique Stewarts, where he was head of financial crime. Savage advises on internal and regulatory investigations into corporate and individual criminal/regulatory wrongdoings with a particular niche in international sanctions.

◆ **Howard Kennedy**

Commercial property lawyer **Beth Myers** joins the London firm from Cripps. Myers advises an eclectic range of clients on a mix of commercial landlord and tenant and real estate investment matters.

◆ **Hunton Andrews Kurth**

Project finance duo **Charles Morrison** and **Dimitri Papaefstatiou** make the switch to the Virginia-spawned set-up from EY Law, where Morrison was the energy sector lead. The pair advise a range of market participants on energy and infrastructure projects across the EMEIA region, with Papaefstatiou having a particular angle on hydrogen, renewable energy, and thermal and gas-fired power projects.

◆ **King & Spalding**

The Atlanta spawned set-up bags a brace of laterals from fellow US firms as it welcomes: high yield specialist **Peter Schwartz** from Paul Hastings, where he was global head of high yield

capital markets; and employment lateral **Tessa Cranfield** from Chicago headquartered Seyfarth Shaw. Schwartz, who is New York and English qualified, advises on high-yield debt offerings, equity offerings, restructurings and acquisition financings. Cranfield advises public and private clients on UK and international employment law issues with a geographical focus which encompasses Europe, the Middle East and Asia.

◆ **Kingsley Napley**

The London firm snags private wealth specialist **Sophie Voelcker** from private client boutique New Quadrant Partners. Voelcker advises on wealth structuring, succession planning and trusts with a particular angle on related cross-border taxation.

◆ **Kirkland & Ellis**

A quartet of new faces join Illinois' finest this edition: credit funds specialist **Alex Amos**, remerges a year after resigning from the partnership at Macfarlanes; debt finance lawyer **Harriet Cottrell**, and financial services regulatory specialist **Ramya Juwadi** join from Simpson Thatcher where both were (non-partner) knowledge management specialists; and funds finance vertical **Jack Bodkin** arrives from Macfarlanes, where he was a senior counsel. Amos, who stayed on as a senior adviser at his former firm until April 2023, advises asset managers and investors on the structuring and establishment of alternative funds, investment management arrangements and team incentive schemes. Cottrell advises on acquisition and leverage finance transactions. Juwadi's practice covers non-contentious financial services regulatory matters. Bodkin advises sponsors and borrowers on fund finance matters.

◆ **Mayer Brown**

Real estate tax specialist **Ben Eaton** makes the switch from fellow US firm Greenberg Traurig. Eaton, who joins as head of real estate tax,

advises on the tax aspects of real estate investment, financing, development, and leasing, as well as the structuring of funds and joint ventures investing in real estate and real estate debt.

◆ **McDermott Will & Emery**

The Chicago headquartered firm expands its corporate offering with the addition of lateral **Michal Berkner** from Cooley. Berkner, who is New York and English qualified, specialises in cross-border M&A with a particular angle in the life sciences, healthcare and technology sectors.

◆ **Michelmores**

Employment lateral **Robert Forsyth** decamps to the Exeter headquartered firm from Shoosmiths. Forsyth advises on contentious and non-contentious employment law in the banking, manufacturing, retail, hospitality and leisure sectors.

◆ **Mishcon de Reya**

Three hires (two laterals and one vertical) for the London firm as it welcomes: contentious insolvency specialist **Radford Goodman** from Norton Rose Fulbright; private client lawyer **Marianne Kafena** from Harbottle & Lewis; and private client/ real estate lawyer **Idina Glyn** from Forsters, where she was a senior associate. Goodman advises on contentious insolvency, finance disputes, civil fraud, enforcement, and asset recovery. Kafena assists family offices and high net worths, particularly those with a Middle East angle, on private client matters. Glyn has a mixed practice which incorporates transactional and advisory property matters alongside onshore tax, trust, succession, charity, and art law.

◆ **Morrison & Foerster**

National security specialist **Chloe Cina** joins the west coast firm from Deutsche Bank, where she was head of global sanctions advisory. Cina

advises on national security, financial sanctions export control and regulatory matters.

✦ **Osborne Clarke**

In a vertical move the Bristol headquartered firm elevates tax disputes specialist **Jack Prytherch** from CMS, where he was of counsel. Prytherch advises on direct and indirect contentious tax matters, including: commercial tax disputes, HMRC enquiries and civil information powers, tax offences and investigations.

✦ **Paul Hastings**

Double tap ... a two partner disputes team makes the switch from fellow Los Angeles spawned outfit Latham & Watkins: white collar crime specialist **Stuart Alford KC** arrives alongside **Oliver Browne**, who served as co-chair of the London litigation and trial department at his former firm. Alford, a former SFO prosecutor, focuses on internal and government investigations, as well as regulatory and criminal issues related to directors' duties and shareholder disputes. Browne's practice spans international arbitration across a range of fora as well as high court commercial litigation.

✦ **Paul Weiss**

Indulging its twin passions of moving fast and breaking things, whilst at the same time adding to its collection of Kirkland & Ellis and Linklaters *alumni*, last year's top partner hirer in the London market kicks off the new year by adding three more laterals: corporate insurance specialist **Dan Schuster-Woldan** from Linklaters; anti-trust lawyer **Annie Herdman** from Ropes & Gray; and (according to Law.com), likely, private fund lateral **James King** from Kirkland & Ellis. Schuster-Woldan, who was global co-head of the insurance group at Linklaters, advises on public and private M&A, demergers, joint ventures, corporate restructurings and equity capital markets. Herdman, a former Kirkland & Ellis partner, advises on all aspects of EU and UK competition

law, with a particular focus on multi-jurisdictional merger control. King covers fund transactional mandates including LP-portfolio sales, GP-led transactions, tender offers and direct co-investments.

✦ **Pinsent Masons**

A quintet of hires for the national firm this round-up: TMT duo **Paul Hinton** and **Edwin Baker** arrive from Deloitte Legal; corporate real-estate specialist **Jon Blackburn** joins from Maples Teesdale; corporate insurance lawyer **Peter McCusker** arrives from Royal London, where he was group deputy general counsel; and lastly, pensions litigation lawyer **Charlotte Scholes** returns to the firm as a partner after four years at Gowling WLG where she was a legal director. Hinton and Baker, who were both former partners at TMT boutique Kemp Little which was acquired by Deloitte Legal in 2021, undertake a mix of technology, data and sourcing matters. Blackburn specialises in indirect real estate M&A, property joint ventures and related asset management. McCusker, who joins the corporate financial services team, advises on insurance transactions, reorganisations, and transfers. Scholes acts for trustees, representative beneficiaries, and employers in pensions related rectification and construction proceedings together with related professional negligence matters.

✦ **Proskauer Rose**

A lateral hire for the New York firm as private funds specialist **James Oussedik** joins from Sidley Austin, where he was the London head of investment funds. Oussedik advises sponsors and investors on the establishment of all types of private funds, as well as advising sovereign wealth funds, seed investors, pension funds, family offices, and financial institutions, across a range of private and public market strategies.

✦ **Quinn Emanuel**

In a seemingly atypical move for a disputes boutique, the elite US firm hires non-contentious restructuring and insolvency lateral **David Ereira** from Paul Hastings. Ereira advises debtors, creditors, investors and governments on financial restructuring, insolvency and situations involving financial distress.

✦ **Reed Smith**

The global firm snags private equity lateral **Tom Whelan** from McDermott Will & Emery, where he was head of the private equity and corporate transaction group. Whelan advises private equity sponsors, multi strategy funds, private capital investors and corporates on transactions, including buyouts, co-investments, mergers and acquisitions, restructurings, refinancings, and exits.

✦ **Robertson Pugh Associates**

After retiring from the partnership at Skadden in December last year, high profile corporate crime and investigations lawyer **Elizabeth Robertson** launches her own boutique business crime and investigations outfit alongside a (non-lawyer) management consultant, who will also be a partner in the venture. The new firm will advise on investigations, corporate crime and governance matters.

✦ **Rosenblatt**

The listed firm launches a new practice area by elevating a brace of international arbitration verticals: **Leonardo Carpentieri** from Anglo-Italian outfit LMS Legal, where he was a counsel; and **Sara Paradisi** from BCLP, where she was a senior associate. The duo cover energy, engineering, infrastructure, mining and construction disputes with Carpentieri, who is English and French qualified, advising on both investment treaty and commercial arbitration whilst Paradisi primarily focuses on commercial arbitration and construction disputes.

✦ **RPC**

Prodigal Daughter ... Media litigator **Lindsay Warwick** returns to the firm she trained at from Associated Newspapers Ltd, where she was deputy head of editorial legal services. Warwick will advise on defamation, privacy, data and other media claims.

✦ **Cripps**

The national firm elevates contentious construction vertical **Clare Reed** from EMW Law, where she was a principal. Reed advises building contractors, suppliers, sub-contractors, landlords, property developers and private clients on construction-related disputes.

✦ **Simmons & Simmons**

Three hires (two laterals and one vertical) for the international firm which welcomes: leading private equity real estate specialist **Oliver S'Jacob**, from Morrison & Foerster; commercial real estate lateral **Barry Gross** from BCLP; and debt capital markets lawyer **Rory Renshaw** from Linklaters, where he was a counsel. S'Jacob's practice covers corporate/ private equity transactions (JVs, M&A, fund formations and restructuring) involving real estate assets or real estate-intensive businesses. Gross, who was global lead for data centres and digital infrastructure at his former firm, advises on a range of real estate transactions with a particular angle on data centres. Renshaw's DCM experience includes: institutional and retail bond offerings and transactions for funds.

✦ **Simpson Thacher & Bartlett**

Disputes lateral **David Edwards** joins from fellow New Yorker Skadden. Edwards advises on both High Court litigation and international arbitration across a range of sectors including: energy, telecoms, natural resources, power, crypto pharmaceutical and finance.

✔ **Squire Patton Boggs**

Corporate tax lateral **David Nisbet** joins the global verein from Osborne Clarke, where he was head of the private equity tax team. Nisbet advises on the tax aspects of private equity and corporate transactions, joint ventures, fund formations, reorganisations and finance.

✔ **Stephenson Harwood**

Two new faces for the international firm this edition as it welcomes: private funds lateral **Edyta Broznyiak** from Charles Russell Speechlys; and financial services regulatory lawyer **Christophe Boucherie** from global asset management company Natixis Investment Managers. Broznyiak advises fund managers and investors on alternative investment funds, in particular those related to private equity, venture capital, and infrastructure. Boucherie, who is English and French qualified, advises on non-contentious financial service regulatory, with a particular focus on investment management regulations.

✔ **Taylor Wessing**

Two hires this round-up for the European firm as IP lateral **Giles Crown** joins from Lewis Silkin, and financial services specialist **Charlotte Witherington** is elevated from her role as senior associate at Freshfields. Crown, who predominately advises on contentious matters, covers: IP, media data privacy, reputation management and regulatory matters, with a particular angle in brand protection and enforcement. Witherington, who is English and New York qualified, advises on non-contentious financial services regulatory matters.

✔ **TLT**

The Bristol headquartered outfit elevates energy and infrastructure lawyer **Juliet Stradling** from CMS, where she was a senior counsel. Stradling, who joins the future energy team, provides regulatory and commercial advice to market

participants in the energy, utility and public sector.

✔ **Trowers & Hamlins**

Two hires (one lateral and one vertical) this round-up: international arbitration specialist **Hendrik Puschmann** joins as co-head of international arbitration from Farrer & Co; and clean energy lawyer **Rhianna Wilsher** returns to the firm from Freeths, where she was a director. Puschmann's practice covers a mix of commercial and investor state international arbitration as well as English court litigation. Wilsher advises on energy generation, heat networks, solar and wind projects, energy purchasing, regulation and decarbonisation matters.

✔ **Wedlake Bell**

The City firm bags a brace of laterals this round-up: private client lawyer **Sanjeev Shah** arrives from Taylor Wessing; and IP specialist **Esther Gunaratnam**, joins from Laytons ETL. Shah advises high net worths, family offices and trustees on estate planning, tax planning and trust administration. Gunaratnam's practice covers brand protection, patent licensing and IT contracts.

✔ **White & Case**

Four hires (three lateral and one vertical) for the New York firm this edition: public company corporate lawyer **Patrick Sarch** returns following a three-year stint at Hogan Lovells, where he was head of UK public M&A; high yield specialist **Anthony Tama** arrives from Cahill Gordon & Reindel; environment lawyer **Stephen Shergold** joins from Dentons; and finance lawyer **Lauren Winter** is elevated from Shearman & Sterling, where she was a counsel. Sarch specialises in corporate finance and public company M&A. Tama, who is New York and English qualified, advises underwriters and corporates on high-yield debt finance as well as institutional loans. Shergold, who was head of Denton's UK

environment and societal team, advises on the management of ESG risk and corporate sustainability. Winter predominately focuses on acquisition finance and restructuring.

✦ **Wilkie Farr & Gallagher**

The New York firm elevates IP and data lawyer **Briony E. Pollard** from Weil Gotshal, where she was a counsel. Pollard's practice focuses on the data protection and privacy aspects of corporate, M&A and private equity transactions together with non-contentious IP and commercial agreements.

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