

Lateral Partner Moves in London

 May - June 2021
Issue no. 63

Welcome to the 63rd edition 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.

If there was any doubt that recruitment activity has roared back to life, at the half year mark there were **253** partner hires in the London market - up **30%** on the **195** we saw last year. In terms of laterals (partner-to-partner hires) the figures are **188** vs **140** respectively (a **34%** rise on last year).

Year to date **Kirkland & Ellis** enjoys the dubious distinction of being both the most prolific hirer of partners (8) and the firm with highest partner attrition rate (9). In terms of number of hires, last year’s most acquisitive partner recruiter, **Addleshaw Goddard**, comes a close second with 7 hires.

✦ **Top partner recruiters in London 2021 (inclusive of moves from non-partnership) ***

- **Kirkland & Ellis** 8
- **Addleshaw Goddard** 7
- **Dentons** 6
- **DWF** 6

✦ **Firms with largest attrition in London 2021 (partnership to partnership moves only) ***

- **Kirkland & Ellis** 9
- **White & Case** 6
- **McDermott Will & Emery** 5
- **Stephenson Harwood** 5

*To 30 June 2021

In addition: **Edwin Coe; Fladgate; Goodwin Procter; Hogan Lovells; JMW Solicitors; McDermott Will & Emery; Paul Hastings; Shearman & Sterling; Simmons & Simmons; and Squire Patton Boggs** have each nabbed five partners a-piece so far this year.

✦ **May - June 2021**

This bi-monthly round-up contains **80** partner moves – up **31%** on the **61** we saw last year and **11 %** up on the cumulative five-year average for the same period. Arguably the most significant move this edition was a rare magic circle team switch - **Allen & Overy’s** swiping of leveraged finance duo **Annette Kurdian** and **Robert Burt** from rival Linklaters.

✓ **Top partner recruiters in London May – June 2021**

• DWF	6
• Kirkland & Ellis	6
• Fladgate	4
• Addleshaw Goddard	3
• Dechert	3
• Dentons	3
• DLA Piper	3
• Edwin Coe	3
• Paul Hastings	3

✓ **Also of note in this edition**

- Three firms hired partners from in-house: **Browne Jacobson** (Government Legal Department), **Clifford Chance** (General Electric) and **Greenberg Traurig** (Facebook);
- 31% of all moves were non-partners moving into partnership;
- 25% of hires were female.

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**

Last year's most prolific hirer, welcomes three partners this round-up: finance specialist **Jeremy Cross** joins from New York firm Cadwalader; corporate lawyer **Ann Grewar** arrives from Icelandic firm LOGOS, where she was head of corporate; and technology lawyer **David Berry** re-joins from Stephenson Harwood, where he was a senior associate. Cross is a debt finance lawyer with a particular emphasis on fund finance. Prior to Cadwalader, Cross was European head of finance at legacy SJ Berwin/ King & Wood Mallesons. Grewar advises on a range of corporate matters with a particular emphasis on transactions involving the Nordic region. Berry specialises in large technology and outsourcing projects acting on behalf of both purchasers and suppliers of IT products and services.

✓ **Allen & Overy**

In a rare magic circle team switch, Allen & Overy swipes leveraged finance duo **Annette Kurdian** and **Robert Burt** from rival Linklaters. Kurdian advises financial institutions, alternative credit providers, corporates and private equity sponsors in mid-market and large-cap leveraged deals, as well as fund finance transactions. Burt has experience in leveraged and acquisition finance, acting principally for banks on sponsor-backed acquisition finance.

✓ **Avonhurst**

The London firm launches a litigation practice with the hire of corporate crime specialist **Audrey Koh** from Womble Bond Dickinson. Koh specialises in cross-border investigations focused on anti-bribery laws, including the US FCPA and the UK Bribery Act, sanctions, money laundering and financial fraud.

✓ **BDB Pitmans**

The South of England firm welcomes two laterals this edition: tax lawyer **Alex Barnes** arrives from Memery Crystal, where he was head of tax; and litigation lawyer **Jonathan Sachs** joins from Irwin

Mitchell. Barnes specialises in corporate and real estate tax matters, advising on a range of transactions primarily for SME clients. Sachs advises on commercial litigation, fraud and professional negligence.

✓ **Browne Jacobson**

The national firm recruits commercial lawyer **Khalid Ghazi** from the Government Legal Department to join its IT and complex transactions team. Ghazi specialises in projects for government departments, with focus on procurement, technology and outsourcing transactions.

✓ **Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner**

Corporate lawyer **Jinal Shah** joins from US firm Orrick, where he led the India practice group. Shah advises on M&A and private equity deals, with a sector clientele spanning power, mining, media and financial services.

✓ **Capital Law**

Finance lawyer **James Butters** joins the London office of the Cardiff headquartered firm. Butters previously spent over two decades at Clifford Chance, where he was a partner in the firm's London and Paris offices.

✓ **Charles Russell Speechlys**

Two hires this round-up: Canadian qualified private wealth specialist **Robert Reymond** arrives from the London office of Canada's Stikeman Elliott; and funds lawyer, **Edyta Brozyniak**, joins from asset management boutique MJ Hudson. Reymond advises financial institutions and high-net worth families on international wealth structuring. Brozyniak advises alternative funds focusing on family offices and foundations in Europe.

✦ **Clifford Chance**

You win some you lose some ... this edition sees the magic circle firm lose a competition partner to Weil Gotshal (see below) whilst simultaneously gaining one in the form of **Sue Hinchliffe**, from General Electric, where she was global executive counsel for competition law and policy. Hinchliffe, formerly a partner at Arnold & Porter, was based in London and Brussels, advising GE on competition issues, involving merger control and Article 101 and 102 type issues in Europe and globally.

✦ **Crowell & Moring**

The Washington DC headquartered outfit opens its account for 2021 with the hire of competition lawyer **Peter Broadhurst** from Simmons & Simmons. Broadhurst advises companies on competition issues, including merger clearance, cartel investigations, abuse of dominance, distribution arrangements, and the development of compliance programs.

✦ **DAC Beachcroft**

Healthcare lawyer **David Hill** arrives from Hill Dickinson. Hill specialises in advising the health and social care sector on public law projects.

✦ **Dechert**

A leash of laterals for the global firm this issue: two corporate lawyers, **Mark Thompson** and **Sam Whittaker** join from Kirkland & Ellis; and Jones Day lifer **Kay Morley** is appointed to the restructuring team. Thompson's practice focuses on private equity and real estate. Whittaker specialises in private equity, advising on M&A, joint ventures, divestments and co-investments. Morley undertakes cross-border restructurings and European special situation matters involving hedge funds and investors.

✦ **Dentons**

Three laterals for the world's largest law firm this publication: corporate lawyer **Patrick Somers** and finance lawyer **Marc Gilston** join from TLT; and

employment lawyer **Rhodri Thomas** arrives from Keystone Law, where he was a consultant solicitor. Somers has a particular focus on corporate energy transactions. Gilston advises on a range of debt finance matters. Thomas undertakes an eclectic mix of contentious and non-contentious employment matters.

✦ **DLA Piper**

The global firm welcomes a trio of laterals this round-up: leading real estate lawyer **Bonnie Calnan** arrives from Dentons; corporate real estate funds specialist **Jonathan Powling** joins from Addleshaw Goddard; and competition lawyer **Matt Evans** arrives from Jones Day. Calnan focuses on European private equity real estate investment. Powling's practice includes fund establishment and structuring, primary and secondary fund investments and joint ventures. Evans, who was head of UK competition at his previous firm, has a particular focus on merger control matters.

✦ **DWF**

One of the most prolific recruiters of 2020 opens its 2021 account with the hire of a half-dozen new partners: real estate lawyer **Shane Toal** arrives from Osborne Clarke; pensions lawyer **Marcus Fink** joins from Herbert Smith Freehills, where he was an independent consultant; corporate lawyer **Alexis Karim** arrives from BCLP, where he was an associate director; government affairs and public policy services specialist **Maher Ghanma** segues over from DLA Piper; insurance specialist **Jonathan Drake** and finance lawyer **Matthew Williams** both arrive from Womble Bond Dickinson. Toal advises on the real estate aspects of energy, waste and infrastructure. Fink advises trustees, employers, financial institutions and insurers on all aspects of pensions law. Karim specialises in private equity, venture capital and general M&A. Ghanma, who was head of government affairs Middle East at DLA, advises on public policy matters across the Middle East and Africa. Drake, who headed the insurance

practice at his former firm, advises on insurance and reinsurance policy wordings, run off and restructuring, compliance and conduct risk. Williams, a former banker, advises across debt finance.

✦ **Edwin Coe**

After a dormant 2020, Edwin Coe makes three new appointments this round-up: trademark specialist **Claire Lehr** joins from boutique IP firm EIP Europe, finance lawyer **James Walton** arrives from London firm Rosling King, and construction lawyer **Matthew Needham-Lang** is welcomed from US firm Katten. Lehr advises on trademarks across a range of sectors. Walton specialises in real estate finance but also has a niche in the financing of litigation funding. Needham-Lang advises on a mix of non-contentious and contentious construction matters.

✦ **Enyo Law**

Eversheds Sutherland's head of UK contentious insolvency **Jamie Leader** is welcomed by the London litigation boutique. Leader has particular expertise in cross-border and contentious insolvency and financial services restructuring.

✦ **Eversheds Sutherland**

Energy lawyer **Matthew Honeyben** joins from energy boutique Peace Crowell, where he was a managing associate. Honeyben advises clients across the energy and infrastructure sectors, with a particular focus on nuclear.

✦ **Farrer & Co**

Disputes lawyer **Gerrard Heyes** arrives from Simmons & Simmons, where he was a managing associate. Heyes specialises in financial services litigation, disputes and investigations.

✦ **Fieldfisher**

Fieldfisher appoints a new head of funds - **Dale Gabbert** - who arrives from Simmons & Simmons. Gabbert, an alternative funds specialist, advises

on private equity, infrastructure, credit and hedge fund matters.

✦ **Fladgate**

A quadruple lateral bonanza for the London firm this issue: **Kirsty Corkum** from BCLP is appointed head of real estate development; litigation duo **Joel Seager** and **Adam Gross** arrive from Memery Crystal; and corporate lawyer **Howard Watt** joins from Sheridans, where he headed the venture and private capital team. Corkum undertakes a mix of high-end real estate development and investment, predominately on behalf of private equity funds. Seager advises on a range of commercial disputes, including civil fraud, partnership disputes, professional negligence and contentious insolvency. Gross specialises in property litigation, acting for family offices, private investors and developers. Watt advises on venture capital, private equity and private M&A transactions.

✦ **Greenberg Traurig**

The US firm brings in media lawyer **Neil Miller** from Facebook where he was a director and associate general counsel. Miller will launch Greenberg's new media practice, specialising in digital media and technology matters, with a focus on music licensing and social media.

✦ **Harbottle & Lewis**

The West End firm welcomes IP lawyer **Andrew Terry** from Eversheds Sutherland where he headed the IP and media team. Terry's experience includes trademark, copyright and design right disputes, as well as broader brand matters.

✦ **Harrison Clark Rickerbys**

The national firm hires commercial sports and events lawyer **Raj Pahuja** from alternative sports and media law firm Level.

✦ **Howard Kennedy**

Two vertical hires for the London firm this publication. Disputes lawyer **Arish Bharucha** arrives from litigation boutique Cooke, Young & Keidan, where he was a senior associate, and business crime lawyer **Kyle Phillips** returns to the firm from Fieldfisher, where he was a director. Bharucha's experience includes international arbitration, commercial litigation and civil fraud, with a particular focus on India-related disputes. Phillips specialises in bribery, corruption, money laundering and fraud.

✦ **JMW Solicitors**

The Manchester headquartered firm welcomes employment barrister **Suzanne Staunton** from Guildhall Chambers. Staunton is an employment, discrimination and costs specialist.

✦ **King & Spalding**

Finance lawyer **Benoit Lavigne** arrives at the Atlanta headquartered outfit from Morrison & Foerster. Lavigne advises on a wide range of matters including: acquisition finance, corporate lending, asset-based finance and restructurings.

✦ **Kirkland & Ellis**

Six hires for the Chicago-born firm as it entices tax lateral **Peter Abbott** from Macfarlanes and elevates: corporate lawyer **Gregory Scott** and tax lawyer **Robert Sharpe** from Clifford Chance, where they were both senior associates; funds specialist **Alan Skerritt** from Goodwin Procter, where he was an associate; corporate lawyer **Francesca Harris** from Slaughter & May, where she was an associate and tax specialist **Katherine Durkacz** from PWC, where she was a director. Abbott specialises in advising funds on the tax structuring of their private equity and special opportunity investments. Scott primarily advises on private equity transactions. Sharpe works on a range of tax matters including corporate, regulatory and disputes. Skerritt specialises in private equity real estate funds. Harris

undertakes general corporate M&A. Durkacz specialises in real estate tax.

✦ **Latham & Watkins**

The US firm swipes tax lawyer **Helen Leathaby** from Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer. Leathaby specialises in advising on the tax aspects of fund and deal structuring for financial investors and asset managers.

✦ **McDermott Will & Emery**

The Chicago headquartered firm recruits international arbitration lawyer **Michael Darowski** from Gowling WLG. Darowski represents corporates, financial institutions and high net-worth individuals on multi-jurisdictional commercial arbitrations.

✦ **McGuire Woods**

Finance lawyer **Charles Wakiwaka** joins the US firm from Clifford Chance, where he was a senior associate. Wakiwaka advises on derivative transactions across a range of asset classes, including equities, credit and commodities.

✦ **Michelmores**

The Exeter headquartered outfit hires disputes lawyer **Marie-Louise King** from Winckworth Sherwood. King specialises in general commercial litigation and contentious insolvency.

✦ **Ogilvy-Watson**

Corporate M&A veteran **Robert Ogilvy-Watson** launches his own boutique, leaving Macfarlanes after two years. He was previously at Ashurst for over two decades. The focus of the new boutique is advising investors and bidders for UK listed companies.

✦ **Paul Hastings**

The US firm welcomes white-collar crime lawyer **Rebecca Copcutt** from rival White & Case where she was counsel. Copcutt is reunited with her former bosses - corporate crime duo **Jonathan Pickworth** and **Joanna Dimmock** - who also

joined from White & Case earlier this year (see [Partner Moves Jan – Feb 2021](#)).

✦ **Pillsbury**

Asset finance specialist **Antony Single** arrives at the US outfit from Clifford Chance. Single has a particular focus on aviation and defence finance.

✦ **Proskauer Rose**

Corporate Lawyer **Rebecca Villarreal** arrives at the New York headquartered firm from Kirkland & Ellis. Villarreal has experience in structuring private equity deals, leveraged buyouts and securities offerings.

✦ **Schjødt**

Maritime lawyer **Jeremy Biggs** joins the Nordic set-up from Ince. Biggs advises on all aspects of dry and wet shipping matters.

✦ **Seddons**

The West End firm welcomes construction lawyer **John Wevill** as head of construction, from Boodle Hatfield. Wevill's practice spans both contentious and non-contentious construction work, acting for an eclectic range of clients.

✦ **Shakespeare Martineau**

Finance lawyer **Russell Jarvis** joins the national firm from Harrison Clark Rickerbys, where he was head of banking and finance. Jarvis is a corporate banking specialist.

✦ **Shearman & Sterling**

The white-shoe firm lures leveraged finance lawyer **Rahul Chatterji** from fellow New Yorker Milbank, where he was special counsel. Chatterji specialises in acquisition financing and leveraged buyouts, with a particular focus on private credit.

✦ **Shoosmiths**

The national firm welcomes construction lawyer **Ian Reid** from Trowers & Hamlins and tax

specialist **Laura Board** from Bird & Bird, where she was a senior associate. Previously an architect, Reid undertakes a mix of contentious and non-contentious matters and will head up the firm's South of England construction offering. Board focuses on corporate M&A tax.

✦ **Simmons & Simmons**

The City stalwart hires two partners this edition: corporate lawyer **Frances Doherty** joins after 20 years at US firm Dorsey & Whitney, where she was co-chair of the technology group; and **Elliot Beard** arrives from Herbert Smith Freehills, where he was of counsel. Doherty's expertise includes venture capital and private equity, IP protection, public offerings and private placements of equity and debt securities. Beard advises on corporate lending and acquisition finance for a range of clients.

✦ **Squire Patton Boggs**

Two hires this round-up for the international verein: real estate finance lawyer **Jon Lent** joins from Gowling WLG, where he was co-head of real estate finance; and funds lawyer **Steven Ward** arrives from Paul Hastings, where he was a senior associate. Lent advises on structured finance transactions secured on real estate and operational assets. Ward has a particular specialism in alternative funds and associated regulatory matters.

✦ **Stephenson Harwood**

A lateral move for private client lawyer **Michael Rutili**, who joins from Withers. Rutili advises high-net worth individuals and related entities on wealth structuring, trust advice and estate planning.

✦ **Steptoe & Johnson**

Two hires for the US firm this edition: international arbitration and litigation lawyer **Juliya Arbisman**, arrives from the New York office

of US disputes boutique Diamond McCarthy, where she was group head of international disputes; and fellow disputes lawyer **Leigh Mallon** is elevated from Fried Frank, where he was special counsel. Arbisman, who will be based in the London and Washington DC offices, has a particular focus on the natural resources and energy sector. Mallon advises on commercial litigation, international arbitration and regulatory investigations.

✦ **Trowers & Hamlins**

Corporate lawyer **Steven Raize** joins from listed national firm Gateley. Raize specialises in advising on corporate transactions in the TMT and recruitment sectors.

✦ **Watson Farley & Williams**

Asset finance lawyer **Chris Mitchell** joins the international firm from Allen & Overy, where he was a senior associate. Mitchell focuses on the aviation finance and leasing sectors, advising banks, investors, leasing companies and airlines.

✦ **Weil, Gotshal & Manges**

The New York firm swipes competition lawyer and Clifford Chance lifer **Jenine Hulsmann**. Hulsmann advises on merger control and foreign investment proceedings, anti-trust investigations and appeals within the TMT, pharmaceutical, energy and infrastructure sectors.

✦ **White & Case**

Leading real estate finance lawyer **Justin Jowitt** joins from US rival Paul Hastings. Jowitt focuses on real estate finance, including senior mezzanine investment and development facilities, as well as loan sales and distribution, distressed debt, work-outs and restructurings.

Related links:

- ✓ [Edwards Gibson Partner Round-Up - Our Methodology](#)
- ✓ [Previous editions of Lateral Partner Moves in London](#)
- ✓ [Quantifying your following and writing an effective business plan](#)
- ✓ [Specimen partner business plan template](#)
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✓ **The Specialist Partner Team**



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