

# Lateral Partner Moves in London

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 March - April 2021  
Issue no. 62

Welcome to the 62<sup>nd</sup> 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.

There are a total of 83 lateral partner moves in this edition – a 54% increase on last year and 11% up on the statistical average (75) for the same period over the past 5 years. The objectively high number of moves was buoyed by seven firms hiring three or more laterals a-piece. The largest single move was **Taylor Wessing’s** snatching of a corporate trio from **Stephenson Harwood**. Although **Goodwin Procter** also took three laterals from **Kirkland & Ellis** (two in tax and one in finance), it is probably unlikely that all three were part of a single co-ordinated team move.

#### Top partner recruiters in London March – April 2021

✓ Goodwin Procter	4
✓ JMW Solicitors	4
✓ K&L Gates	4
✓ Shearman & Sterling	4
✓ Simmons & Simmons	3
✓ Taylor Wessing	3
✓ White & Case	3

After commercial disputes, which constituted a fifth of all hires, real estate made up the next highest contingent of laterals (12%). In view of the sharp GDP reduction in 2020, and the Covid-induced collapse of the commercial property office investment market, the high proportion of real estate moves is perhaps surprising in a sector traditionally so closely tied to the real economy. The figures belie a complex unfolding narrative; many real estate laterals represent ejected émigrés, pressured to leave their former homes, arriving at new outfits - sometimes after months of searching. Others represent bold bets by firms opportunistically looking to snap-up top talent by brandishing their real estate credentials to partners whose own firms’ post-Covid commitment to the sector has often been ambiguous.

#### Also of note in this edition

- ✓ 5 firms hired partners from in-house
- ✓ 22% of all hires were non-partners moving into partnership
- ✓ 27% of the total moves we recorded 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.**

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

- ✓ **Addleshaw Goddard**  
Private equity real estate lawyer **Daniel Woolston** arrives from US firm Greenberg Traurig. Woolston focuses on structured corporate transactions for real estate investors, including joint ventures, structured acquisitions and disposals.
- ✓ **Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld**  
Restructuring lawyer **Clare Cottle** joins from US rival Weil Gotshal & Manges. Cottle specialises in cross-border and domestic debt restructurings representing private equity houses and financial institutions.
- ✓ **Alston & Bird**  
Finance lawyer **Paul Simcock** arrives from fellow US firm Vinson & Elkins. Simcock advises private equity sponsors, alternative credit providers, banks and corporations on a range of matters including leveraged finance and debt restructurings.
- ✓ **Ashfords**  
Energy and waste lawyer, **Kim Hawkins** joins the Exeter headquartered firm from environmental fund manager, Earthworm, where he was general counsel. His practice encompasses corporate and commercial transactions in the energy, infrastructure, technology and renewables sectors.
- ✓ **Ashurst**  
Financial services lawyer **Etay Katz** arrives from Allen & Overy. Katz advises financial services providers on UK and international regulatory regimes, as well as strategic corporate transactions, in the regulated financial services sector.
- ✓ **Baker Botts**  
The Houston-born firm welcomes energy and infrastructure lawyer **Shashank Krishna** from McDermott Will & Emery. Krishna's practice focuses on private M&A, joint ventures, project development and financing across Europe, Asia and Africa.
- ✓ **Baker McKenzie**  
Leveraged and debt finance lawyer **Ben Wilkinson** joins the global verein after 17 years at White & Case. Wilkinson advises investment banks and private credit funds on cross-border acquisition finance transactions.
- ✓ **BDB Pitmans**  
Real estate lawyer **Dennis Ko** joins the regional firm from Boodle Hatfield. Ko specialises in both commercial and residential real estate, with particular expertise in the prime London market.
- ✓ **Bird & Bird**  
Disputes lawyer **Nick Peacock** joins from Herbert Smith Freehills. Peacock specialises in international arbitration and litigation across the TMT, financial services and energy and utilities sectors.
- ✓ **Blaser Mills**  
Disputes lawyer **Nick Scott** arrives at the south east firm from Greenwoods GRM. Scott acts for a variety of international and domestic clients on an eclectic range of matters.
- ✓ **Bracewell**  
The US energy finance and technology boutique welcomes projects lawyer **Ronen Lazarovitch** from Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, where he was a senior associate. Lazarovitch advises sponsors, project companies, lenders and governments on all aspects of projects in the energy, mining, infrastructure and power sectors.
- ✓ **Browne Jacobson**  
The regional firm welcomes IT disputes lawyer **Sophie Ashcroft** from Clyde & Co, where she was a senior associate. Ashcroft has particular expertise in disputes arising from IT projects,

digital transformation, outsourcing and managed services.

✦ **Child & Child**

The west end firm hires two lawyers this round-up; disputes lawyer **James Gordon**, who was formerly head of disputes at Gowling WLG, and international private client specialist, **Shahrazad Atai**, who arrives from Alvarium Investments, where she was managing director. Gordon undertakes commercial litigation, arbitration and mediation, whilst Atai's eclectic practice encompasses finance, regulatory, transactions and disputes.

✦ **Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton**

A rare promotion hire for the New York firm which sees it welcoming competition lawyer **Jackie Holland** into its all equity partnership from Slaughter and May, where she was a special advisor. Holland specialises in antitrust enforcement, merger control, state aid, competition litigation and sectoral regulation.

✦ **CM Murray**

Employment specialist **Emma Bartlett** arrives at the employment boutique from Charles Russell Speechlys. Bartlett has expertise in contentious disputes, equal pay, discrimination, whistleblowing, restrictive covenants, and board room disputes.

✦ **CMS**

Public international arbitration specialist, **Sarah Vasani**, joins the international firm as its co-head of arbitration. Vasani departs from Addleshaw Goddard, where she led the investor state dispute resolution practice.

✦ **Dentons**

The international firm re-hires disputes lawyer **Thomas Leyland** after a stint in Dublin at offshore firm Walkers. Leyland has particular expertise in High Court disputes across a range of industries

with a specialism in acting for banks and financial institutions.

✦ **Devonshires**

The City firm welcomes real estate lawyer **Katie Fung** from Winckworth Sherwood, where she was a senior associate. Fung focuses on site acquisitions, development and regeneration work.

✦ **Doyle Clayton**

Employment lawyer **Peter Daly** arrives at the London-based employment boutique from Slater & Gordon. Daly undertakes all areas of employment law, with a particular expertise in whistleblowing and discrimination claims.

✦ **Euclid Law**

The competition law boutique hires **Michael Reiss** from Macfarlanes, where he was a senior solicitor. Reiss advises clients on a broad range of antitrust matters, including cartels, abuse of dominance, merger control, state aid and litigation.

✦ **Fladgate**

Insurance and commercial disputes lawyer, **Garbhan Shanks**, arrives at the London firm from Exeter Headquartered Michelmores, where he was head of contentious insurance/re-insurance. Shanks specialises in policy holder insurance disputes.

✦ **Fox Williams**

Aviation projects lawyer **Lucy England** joins after almost a decade at Bird & Bird. England advises businesses across the aviation and travel industries on commercial and regulatory matters.

✦ **Gateley Legal**

IT Lawyer **Toni Vitale** arrives at the national firm from JMW Solicitors, where he was head of data protection. Vitale specialises in data protection, privacy and related regulations.

✓ **Goodwin Procter**

Four hires this round-up for the highly acquisitive US firm. Three laterals arrive from Kirkland & Ellis in the form of finance specialist **Hugh O’Sullivan** and tax duo **David Irvine** and **Dulcie Daly**. The Kirkland trio are joined by disputes lawyer **Hannah Field-Lowes** from White & Case. O’Sullivan focuses on advising sponsors, corporates, funds and financial institutions on a range of multi-jurisdictional financing transactions. Irvine and Daly advise on tax matters around fund structuring and investments, cross-border private equity, M&A transactions and restructurings. Field-Lowes handles contentious matters for private equity firms, corporates, financial institutions and the TMT industry.

✓ **Hamlin**

The London firm welcomes real estate lawyer **Victoria Camfield** from the Birmingham office of Squire Patton Boggs. Camfield advises on a wide range of commercial property matters.

✓ **Harbottle & Lewis**

Private client lawyer **Marcus Parker** arrives from Genesis Trust & Corporate Services where he was acting as a professional trustee in the Cayman Islands. His practice will focus on international tax planning structures and contentious trust matters.

✓ **HFW**

Structured trade and commodity finance lawyer **Matthew Cox** joins from the Singapore office of Simmons & Simmons. Cox advises banks, funds, commodity producers and traders on all forms of structured trade and commodity finance.

✓ **Hodge Jones & Allen**

The London-based firm welcomes employment lawyer **Neil Emery** from Bindmans, where he was an associate. Emery advises both employees and employers on all aspects of contentious and non-contentious employment law.

✓ **Ince**

White collar crime specialist **Colette Kelly** joins the regulatory team at the listed law firm from London criminal boutique Shearman Bowen & Co. Kelly advises on a range of matters including fraud, proceeds of crime and asset forfeiture.

✓ **Irwin Mitchell**

Claimant employment specialist **Danielle Parsons** arrives from Slater and Gordon. Parsons advises on employment disputes, severance packages and restrictive covenants.

✓ **Howard Kennedy**

Intellectual property and commercial lawyer **Alex Watt** joins the west end firm from Browne Jacobson to lead its advertising and marketing team. Watt’s practice focuses on IP-centric businesses.

✓ **JMW Solicitors**

Four hires this edition for the Manchester headquartered firm. **Petar Orlic** joins from Watson Farley & Williams alongside fellow real estate lawyer **Greg Thwaites** from Dentons, where he was a consultant. Joining them is white collar crime specialist **Daniel Martin**, from Blaser Mills, and corporate lawyer **John Andrews** from Morrisons. Orlic and Thwaites undertake a wide variety of commercial property transactions, Martin specialises in corporate and financial crime, and Andrews undertakes M&A across a range of sectors.

✓ **K&L Gates**

Four appointments for the international firm this round-up. Energy disputes lawyer **Ben Holland** joins from Squire Patton Boggs, funds and financial services specialist **Daniel Greenaway** arrives from Mishcon de Reya, white collar crime specialist **Michael Ruck** joins from TLT, and energy lawyer **James Douglass** joins from Baker Botts. Holland specialises on handling multi-jurisdictional dispute resolution matters for energy-sector clients. Greenaway, who was head

of funds and financial services at his former firm, assists institutional and boutique fund managers across private equity and real estate. Ruck specialises in financial services criminal and regulatory investigations, and Douglass focuses on conventional and renewable power, oil & gas, infrastructure, and resources.

✦ **King & Spalding**

International arbitration specialist, **Kenneth Beale**, joins from US disputes boutique Boies Schiller Flexner. Beale, whose practice encompasses both commercial and investor-state arbitrations, will work between the London and Washington DC offices of the Atlanta headquartered firm.

✦ **Kingsley Napley**

Construction lawyer **Peter Metcalfe** arrives at the London firm from commercial property developer **HB Reavis**. Metcalfe advises on construction and engineering projects, including procurement and mitigation of disputes.

✦ **Kirkland & Ellis**

Funds lawyer **Edward Prestwich** joins from Macfarlanes, where he was a senior associate. Prestwich advises investment fund sponsors on the establishment and operation of credit funds, including special situation funds.

✦ **Mayer Brown**

The global firm nabs real estate specialist **Joe Conder** from Goodwin Procter. Conder, a former Linklaters partner, undertakes a mix of investment, development and corporate real estate transactions.

✦ **McDermott Will & Emery**

The Chicago headquartered outfit makes two new hires this round-up: energy lawyer **Ignatius Hwang** joins from Squire Patton Boggs, where he was managing partner of the Singapore office; and white collar crime lawyer, **Simon Airey**, arrives from Paul Hastings. Hwang's practice

focuses on Asia Pacific and Middle East energy, infrastructure and resources projects. Airey specialises in global investigations, financial crime, corporate compliance, tax and fraud inquiries.

✦ **Milbank**

**David Dixter** joins from fellow New Yorker Shearman & Sterling, where he was EMEA head of capital markets. Dixter advises on corporate finance transactions, IPOs, secondary offerings, emerging markets and bond offerings.

✦ **Mischon de Reya**

The soon to be listed London firm adds two hires to its newly formed innovation department. Data and fintech lawyer **Ashley Winton** joins from McDermott Will & Emery, and IP disputes specialist, **Helen Colnan**, arrives from Bird & Bird. Winton advises on financial regulation, encryption, export control, privacy and cyber security matters. Colnan has expertise in multi-jurisdictional patent litigation and disputes relating to trade secrets.

✦ **Norton Rose Fulbright**

Funds lawyer **Josh Tod** arrives from Gibson Dunn & Crutcher, where he was of counsel. Tod focuses on fund formation for private equity, credit, infrastructure and real estate fund sponsors.

✦ **Osborne Clarke**

Real estate lawyer Richard Wilkinson joins from DLA Piper. Wilkinson advises on UK and pan-European transactions, with experience in investment, development, landlord and tenant, joint ventures, real estate finance and structured real estate transactions.

✦ **Paul Hastings**

The west coast firm welcomes capital markets/high yield lawyer **Max Kirchner** from Proskauer Rose. Kirchner's practice spans US capital markets, direct lending and leveraged finance transactions.

✦ **Payne Hicks Beach**

Disputes lawyer **Georgina Bayley** joins the Lincoln's Inn firm from Withers, where she was special counsel. Bayley advises on a range of commercial litigation, including contractual disputes, fraud and contentious insolvency.

✦ **Quinn Emanuel**

International arbitration lawyer **Dominic Roughton** arrives from fellow US disputes specialist, Boies Schiller Flexner. Roughton has a particular focus on disputes involving natural resources, energy and mining.

✦ **Reed Smith**

The US firm welcomes energy lawyer **Daniel Birch** from Allen & Overy, where he was counsel. Birch advises on structured finance transactions with expertise in structured commodity and strategic equity transactions.

✦ **Ropes & Gray**

Two hires for the Boston born firm this edition. Life sciences specialist **Lincoln Tsang** joins from Arnold & Porter, and funds lawyer **Emily Brown** arrives from Schulte Roth & Zabel. Tsang, who is appointed head of a new European life sciences practice, advises on research and development, risk, policy and product life cycle management. Brown advises institutional investors and sponsors on a range of matters, including fund investments, co-investments and fund formations.

✦ **Royds Withy King**

Property litigation lawyer **Angela Gregson** joins the national firm from west end firm Child & Child. Gregson acts for property developers, owners and private clients.

✦ **Shearman & Sterling**

Four hires for the New York firm this round-up: corporate and equity capital markets lawyer **Philip Cheveley**, joins from Travers Smith;

leveraged finance specialist, **Sanjeev Dhuna**, arrives from Allen & Overy; financial restructuring specialist, **Sam Brodie**, joins from Akin Gump and restructuring lawyer, **Helena Potts**, arrives from Latham & Watkins. Cheveley, who was Travers Smith's head of corporate and equity capital markets, joins as co-head of corporate M&A and equity capital markets. Dhuna, whose practice has a particular focus on leveraged and acquisition finance, will co-head Shearman's European finance team. Brodie advises on a variety of restructuring matters, including structured finance and direct lending. Potts has a focus on restructurings involving defined benefit pension schemes across the automotive, financial services and manufacturing sectors.

✦ **Shoosmiths**

Technology lawyer **Prakesh Kerai** arrives at the national firm from DAC Beachcroft, where he was head of fintech. Kerai's clients include fintech scale-ups, financial services and technology companies.

✦ **Simmons & Simmons**

The international firm snaps up three laterals this edition welcoming restructuring lawyer **Ben Jones**, from BCLP, renewable energy specialist, **Marc Fèvre**, from Baker McKenzie and employment lawyer, **Mandy Perry**, from Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe. Jones, who was EMEA head of restructuring and co-head of special situations at his former firm, undertakes all aspects of non-contentious restructuring. Fèvre, who specialises in energy transition, sustainability and decarbonisation, was global co-head of renewable energy at his former firm. Perry's practice focuses on contentious and non-contentious employment within the TMT sector.

✦ **Simpson Thacher & Bartlett**

The New York headquartered firm continues its London hiring spree with two additions this round-up. Private equity lawyer **Geoffrey**

**Bailhache** arrives from Blackstone, where he was EMEA general counsel, and private funds lawyer, **James Board**, joins from Kirkland & Ellis. Bailhache focuses on transactional and related support for the private equity group. Board predominately advises on the establishment and operation of credit funds.

#### Stephenson Harwood

Shipping lawyer **Kirsty MacHardy** arrives from maritime boutique Campbell Johnston Clark, where she was a senior associate. MacHardy undertakes a wide range of shipping litigation matters, acting for owners, charterers, P&I clubs, banks and ship managers.

#### Stewarts Law

**Alex Jay** joins the disputes boutique from Gowling WLG as head of its insolvency and recovery practice. Jay primarily advises on disputes arising from distressed or insolvent situations.

#### Taylor Wessing

The international firm snatches a corporate trio from Stephenson Harwood. Former head of corporate, **Andrew Edge**, is joined by co-head of energy, **Andrew Mclean**, and head of healthcare, **Karima Hudson**. Edge advises corporate and financial clients on public and private M&A, joint ventures, IPOs and secondary fundraisings. Mclean's experience includes international energy and infrastructure projects, whilst Hudson specialises in M&A and general corporate advice with a focus on healthcare.

#### TLT

The Bristol headquartered firm welcomes real estate lawyer **Ranjeev Kumar**, from Watson Farley & Williams. Kumar specialises in commercial property and real estate finance.

#### Trowers & Hamlins

The real estate focused international firm makes two hires this round-up. Real estate lawyer **Tom Calnan** arrives from McDermott, Will & Emery and corporate lawyer, **Mark Churchman**, joins from Vinson & Elkins, where he was a senior associate. Calnan specialises in real estate investment with a private equity sector focus. Churchman advises on private equity, real estate and infrastructure led M&A and joint ventures.

#### Withers

White collar crime specialist **Carl Newman** arrives from BDB Pitmans to head up the international firm's white collar defence, regulatory and fraud group.

#### White & Case

Three hires this edition for the New York firm. Infrastructure duo **Tim Sheddick** and **Katie Hicks** join from Shearman & Sterling alongside M&A lawyer **Ferdinand Mason** from Jones Day. Sheddick and Hicks respectively advise on the corporate and financing aspects of infrastructure transactions. Mason has a range of corporate experience with a focus on special purpose acquisition companies (SPACs).

**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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