

Law Firm Partner Moves in London

May - June 2022Issue no. 69



Welcome to the 69<sup>th</sup> 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 edition marks the midpoint of 2022 and we have included some facts and figures below comparing the partner-level recruitment activity in the first half of 2022 with that over the same period of the past five years.

# A summary of the first half of 2022

January to June 2022 has seen a total of **264** announced partner moves, **12%** up on the five-year average for the same period (**236**) – and a "real terms" half-year record, bettered only by the first half of 2017 when the figure - **287** - was artificially inflated due to scores of laterals being involuntarily dumped onto the market following the insolvent collapse of **King & Wood Mallesons'** European verein. The elevation seen in the first half of 2022 is in large part explained by the continuation of the post-Covid bounce we saw throughout 2021 and the start of the year which saw record law firm profitability on the back of cheap central bank money and a resulting deal bonanza.



The most prolific hirer in the first half of 2022 was **Eversheds Sutherland** which welcomed **10** partners (**7** of whom were laterals), succeeded by **Addleshaw Goddard**, **Mishcon de Reya** and **Pallas Partners**,

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which snapped up no fewer than **7** partners apiece. On the other side of the coin, over the same period, **Norton Rose Fulbright** suffered the highest attrition rate, losing **9** lateral partners.

Top partner recruiters in London 2022 (inclusive of moves from non-partnership)*		<ul> <li>Firms with largest attrition in London 2022 (partnership to partnership moves only)*</li> </ul>	
Eversheds Sutherland	10	Norton Rose Fulbright	9
Addleshaw Goddard	7	BCLP	7
Mishcon de Reya	7	<b>Boies Schiller Flexner</b>	6
Pallas Partners	7	Dentons	6
CMS Cameron McKenna	6	Brown Rudnick	5
Kirkland & Ellis	6	Orrick	4
Stephenson Harwood	6		

\*To 30 June 2022.

- Other fun facts from the first half of 2022
  - Just over 5% of all partner hires (14) were to the magic circle likely a record proportion
  - Nearly a third (32%) of moves so far this year have been female
  - 2% of all moves (6 in all) were in-house lawyers moving into law firm partnerships

#### May – June 2022

This bi-monthly round-up contains **91** partner moves – up 14% on the **80** we saw for the same period in 2021 (and 18% and 22% more than the cumulative five-year and ten-year averages for the same period – both **74**).

In addition to the above, and not recorded in our main report as the destinations of the individuals are yet to be announced, are three partners departing from their firms: Addleshaw Goddard's Leona Ahmed and Lee Sheldon (real estate and corporate real estate respectively) and Allen & Overy international arbitration partner Suzanne Spears, who is set to launch a, as yet unnamed, business and human rights law boutique.







#### Top partner recruiters in London May – June 2022 1

- Addleshaw Goddard (5 laterals) 5 • 3
- Akin Gump •

•

(3 laterals)

- (2 laterals 1 vertical) 3
- **Stephenson Harwood** •

**Eversheds Sutherland** 

3 (3 verticals)

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# Also of note in this edition

- **25%** of all hires were female
- 34% of all moves were non-partners moving into partnership

# Market outlook for the second half of 2022

In our January-February publication we forecast that, despite the continued red hot Big Law recruitment market of the preceding 12 months, economic headwinds – magnified significantly by a major European conflagration - would appreciably cool law firm partner hiring in the second half of this year. At the time of writing there still appears to be plenty of bite left in the market, moreover, due to the often very long lead in times on lateral partner hires, the statistics will in any case lag, nevertheless, unfortunately we stand by our previous assessment.

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

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#### Addleshaw Goddard

The international firm welcomes a quintet of laterals this edition in the form of: asset finance specialist Simon Gwynne from Norton Rose Fulbright; corporate real estate lawyer Simon Pollock from BCLP; tax guru Zoe Fatchen from Gowling WLG; commercial litigation specialist Paul Ferguson from Ontier; and transport lawyer Rachel Scott from Womble Bond Dickinson. Gwynne's practice focuses on transport related asset finance with a particular focus on the rail and aviation sectors. Pollock specialises in real estate M&A, joint-ventures and real asset funds. Fatchen's experience encompasses all aspects of transactional and advisory corporate tax including: funds, private equity, finance, incentives and cross-border tax structuring. Ferguson advises on multi-jurisdictional commercial litigation and arbitration matters, with a focus on claims involving digital assets, cryptocurrencies, online trading platforms and the recovery of assets from cyber-crime. Scott has expertise in the rail sector spanning funding, infrastructure, operations and regulatory.

# 🖊 🖌 Akin Gump

Three laterals make the switch to the Texan born firm this issue; Norton Rose project and project finance duo **Matt Hardwick** and **Daniel Giemajner** join alongside structured finance lawyer **Dasha Sobornova** from Mayer Brown, where she led the collateralised loan obligation (CLO) practice. Hardwick advises on the structuring and financing of infrastructure projects, with an angle on PPP and renewable/ clean energy. Giemajner focuses on cross-border project financings, primarily in the infrastructure, mining and commodities space. Sobornova advises arrangers, investment managers and issuers on structured finance with a particular focus on CLO transactions.

# Ashurst

Two laterals for the international firm this roundup: contentious financial services lawyer **Adam Jamieson** is welcomed from BCLP; and funds tax specialist **Patricia Allen** returns to the

partnership a dozen years after leaving to cofound the eponymous tax advisory boutique, Johnson & Allen Tax, and latterly to work as a consultant for Burges Salmon. Jamieson advises financial institutions and senior management on regulatory issues and investigations. Allen's experience spans corporate tax, particularly in relation to fund structures and private equity.

# Bates Wells

The "values-driven" London firm elevates corporate lawyer **Nirav Patel** from Michelmores, where he was a senior associate. Patel specialises in M&A and private equity, particularly working with businesses looking to focus on ESG in their transactions.

# BCLP

The Anglo-American outfit snatches insolvency and restructuring duo **Richard Obank** and **Colin Ashford** from Brown Rudnick just two years after their arrival at the Boston born firm from DLA Piper in Leeds. Obank, who led the bankruptcy and corporate restructuring practice at his former firm, is best known for his work on retail restructuring and rescue deals. Ashford has particular expertise in contentious insolvency.

# Beale & Co

Professional indemnity lateral **Martin Jensen** is welcomed from fellow insurance boutique BLM, ahead of the latter's pending merger with Clyde & Co. Jensen advises on claims involving solicitors, surveyors, insolvency practitioners, receivers, property agents, accountants and insurance brokers.

# Clifford Chance

Two hires (one lateral and one vertical) for the magic circle firm this roundup: finance lawyer **Matt Dunn** returns to the partnership following a three-year stint at Arthur Cox in Dublin, and IP lawyer **Don McCombie** arrives from Ashurst, where he was counsel. Dunn, onetime project and infrastructure finance head at Arthur Cox, joins the global leveraged finance practice. His experience spans loan and bond financing,

private placements, real estate finance and restructurings. McCombie has experience of both contentious and non-contentious IP matters with a focus on the TMT, software, fintech and life sciences sectors.

# Clyde & Co

The insurance heavy firm welcomes in-house regulatory lawyer **Rowena Lewis** from KPMG, where she was director and associate general counsel. Lewis joins the accountants' liability and regulatory investigations team.

# CMS

The verein-like set-up welcomes two newbies this edition: real estate lawyer **Amit Unadkat** joins from PwC legal, where he was a director and head of the UK legal real estate investment offering; and incentives specialist **Jaspal Pachu** arrives from national firm Freeths. Unadkat specialises in real estate investment transactions across all asset classes supplemented by corporate structuring and restructuring. Pachu advises on cross-border tax and incentives matters relating to private equity transactions and employee ownership trusts.

# Collyer Bristow

A lateral hire for the West End firm as it adds commercial litigation lawyer **David Vaughan** from Shakespeare Martineau, where he was head of the London office. Vaughan, a general commercial litigator, has experience across an eclectic range of sectors.

#### Cooley

The Silicon Valley technology specialist welcomes life sciences lateral **Frances Stocks Allen** from fellow West Coast firm Latham & Watkins. Stocks Allen advises life sciences companies and industry investors on a range of technologybased commercial matters, including regulatory, licenses, collaborations, acquisitions and divestments.

#### Crowell & Moring

The Washington DC headquartered outfit strengthens its corporate practice with the addition of **David Ramm** from Baker Botts, where he was co-chair of private equity and life sciences. Ramm's expertise spans the technology, life sciences, and financial services (particularly fintech) sectors.

#### Curtis, Mallet-Prevost, Colt & Mosle

Corporate tax lawyer **Daniel Lewin** arrives at the New York firm from funds boutique MJ Hudson, where he was formerly head of tax. Lewin advises sponsors, investors and investment funds on tax optimisation and related fund formation and structuring.

# DLA Piper

The global firm bolsters its financial regulation practice with the addition of **Antony Hainsworth**, who joins from Société Générale, where he headed up the UK financial services regulatory team. Hainsworth advises a range of financial market participants on non-contentious markets and regulatory issues, with a focus on trading, clearing and settlement.

#### DWF

Two hires this roundup (one lateral and one vertical) for the listed firm: employment lawyer **Nick Dent** arrives from US firm Locke Lord, where he headed the London employment offering; and commercial real estate specialist **Neal Bhattacharyya** joins from Hogan Lovells, where he was a senior associate. Dent advises on all employment issues with a focus on the professional and financial services sectors. Bhattacharyya acts for a range of clients on real estate investment and development matters.

#### Eversheds Sutherland

A trio of laterals for the Anglo-American firm this edition: IP specialist **David Wilkinson** arrives from Ashurst, where he was head of IP; corporate crime and investigations lawyer **Anupreet Amole** is welcomed from Boston born firm Brown Rudnick; and corporate specialist



Waltter Kulvik makes the switch from Ashurst Singapore. Wilkinson advises on a mix of contentious and non-contentious IP including patents, trademarks and copyright matters. Amole advises corporates and individuals on financial crime as well as compliance, investigations and risk management. Kulvik acts on a variety of cross-border corporate transactions and reorganizations.

#### Fladgate

The storied London firm adds finance duo **Ted Harrison** and **Ed Fuller** from listed firm DWF, where the latter was a senior associate. Both Harrison and Fuller undertake a range of debt finance matters including: acquisition finance, real estate finance, and restructuring, with a particular angle on funds finance.

#### Gibson Dunn & Crutcher

Leading TMT/ data protection duo **Joel Harrison** and **Alison Beal** are welcomed by the LA headquartered firm from Milbank, where Beal was special counsel. The pair advise on an abundance of technology-related matters, including IT and business process outsourcing, transactional support, data protection/cyber, regulatory issues and disputes.

# Goodwin Procter

The Boston born outfit strengthens its private investment funds practice with financial services lateral **Andrew Henderson**, who arrives from Macfarlanes. Henderson advises financial institutions, including asset and investment managers, as well as family offices and technology providers on financial services regulation and risk management.

# Gowling WLG

In a vertical hire, the Anglo-Canadian firm elevates corporate real estate lawyer **Micky Yang** from Herbert Smith Freehills, where she was counsel. Yang advises on a range of corporate matters, including structured investments and joint ventures within the real estate sector.

#### Greenberg Traurig

Corporate crime specialist **Rebecca Meads** arrives at the US firm from Peters & Peters, where she was counsel. Meads, who will chair the white-collar crime & investigations team, advises on fraud, bribery and corruption, money laundering, internal investigations and regulatory matters.

#### Haynes & Boone

Alternative funds specialist **Ben Watford** arrives at the Texas headquartered firm from Eversheds Sutherland to head up its funds offering. Watford, who was head of hedge funds at his previous firm, has experience of a wide range of private fund matters.

#### Ince

The listed firm expands its funds practice with the hire of ex-Slaughter and May partner, **Oliver Storey**, from his 6-month stint as a consultant at White & Case. Storey advises a variety of clients, from financial institutions to private offices, on a range of fundraising transactions.

#### JMW

The Manchester headquartered firm welcomes two laterals this round-up: corporate lawyer **Craig Harrison** from regional firm Tollers, where he headed the corporate team; and disputes lawyer **Karim Oualnan** from LEXLAW Solicitors & Barristers. Harrison counsels corporates and entrepreneurs on an eclectic mix of corporate and commercial matters. Oualnan advises on an equally wide range of commercial litigation.

#### 🔶 Katten

Two hires (one lateral and one vertical) for the Chicago firm this roundup: restructuring lateral **Sonya Van de Graaff** joins from London firm Avonhurst; and corporate lawyer **Oliver Williams** arrives from PwC, where he was a director. Van de Graaff, who predominately advises on noncontentious restructuring, joins the insolvency and restructuring team. Williams focuses on private equity, including acquisitions, disposals and restructurings.

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#### Kingsley Napley

The London firm bolsters its real estate offering with two hires this edition; lateral **Victoria Lowe** joins from Memery Crystal, and **Simon Robinson** is welcomed from Armstrong Teasdale, where he was a consultant. Both Lowe and Robinson advise on a wide range of commercial property matters including investment, development and landlord and tenant.

#### Kirkland & Ellis

Two vertical hires for the Chicago-spawned powerhouse which elevates private equity lawyer **Charles Cooper-Isow** from Fried Frank, where he was an associate, and private funds specialist **Wilson Szet** from Simpson Thacher & Bartlett, where he was also an associate. Cooper-Isow works on transactional private equity matters predominately for fund clients. Szet's practice revolves around fund formation. Both Cooper-Isow and Szet join the investment funds team.

#### Linklaters

The magic circle firm bags a brace of laterals this edition: IP lawyer **Paul Joseph** joins from Norton Rose Fulbright, and real estate finance specialist **Jessica Jenner** arrives from Ashurst. Joseph advises on a range of contentious and noncontentious matters spanning the technology sector, with particular experience in fintech and media. Joseph's move comes just two years after joining Norton Rose Fulbright from RPC. Jenner specializes in all aspects of real estate finance, representing both sponsor and creditor clients on multi-jurisdictional transactions.

# McDermott Will & Emery

The Chicago headquartered outfit elevates projects lawyer **Shah Jahan Khandokar** from Hogan Lovells, where he was a senior associate. Khandokar advises on energy and infrastructure projects with a focus on conventional power, renewables, hydrogen and oil and gas, focussing on international projects in emerging markets.

# Milbank

Project finance lateral **Matthew Brown** arrives at the New York firm from Latham & Watkins. Brown, who joins the projects, energy and infrastructure finance team, acts for both lenders and sponsors and has particular experience in the energy and energy infrastructure space.

# Mishcon de Reya

The London firm welcomes construction duo Marc Hanson and Adriano Amorese from BCLP, where Hanson was head of construction. The pair specialise in non-contentious construction, with a focus on procurement routes for construction and engineering projects.

# Norton Rose Fulbright

The international firm makes two lateral hires this edition: IP dispute resolution specialist **Jonathan Ball** returns to his position after nearly three years at Gowling WLG; and finance lawyer **James Collis** moves from fellow Swiss verein Squire Patton Boggs. Ball assists across all forms of contentious IP matters, with a particular focus on patent enforcement. Collis, onetime global managing partner of Ashurst, has particular expertise in acquisition and leveraged finance.

# Ontier

The Iberian flavoured international firm nabs commercial litigator **Amy Harvey** from Peters & Peters, where she was of counsel. Harvey specialises in multi-jurisdictional litigation with a particular focus on tracing and recovering proceeds and obtaining interim remedies such as freezing injunctions, disclosure orders and other injunctions related to the preservation and protection of assets.

#### Orrick

A single lateral hire for the US firm this edition as it welcomes **Pete Sugden** to its corporate team from RPC. Sugden, a corporate technology specialist, advises on tech-heavy venture capital and private equity transactions.



#### Osborne Clarke

The Bristol spawned firm bolsters its employment practice with employee benefits and incentives lateral **Anika Chandra** from Shoosmiths. Chandra advises on the design and implementation of incentive arrangements and the implementation of share plans.

#### Pallas Partners

In a vertical hire, international arbitration lawyer **Nelson Goh** joins the London disputes boutique from Debevoise & Plimpton, where he was a senior associate. Goh advises on commercial arbitrations, investor-state disputes and public international law.

# Paul Hastings

Two lateral hires for the LA headquartered outfit this roundup: private equity lawyer **Tom Cartwright** is welcomed from fellow US firm Morgan Lewis; and structured products lawyer **Jason Brooks** arrives from CMS. Cartwright counsels private equity sponsors, sovereign wealth funds, and family offices on private equity investments and M&A transactions. Brooks advises financial institutions, banks and corporates on derivatives and structured products, with a particular focus on derivativelinked securities matters.

#### Payne Hicks Beach

The Lincoln's Inn firm elevates private client lawyer **Till Vere-Hodge** from US firm Constantine Cannon, where he was a senior associate. Vere-Hodge advises collectors, investors, dealers and galleries on both contentious and noncontentious art and cultural property matters.

# Penningtons Manches Cooper

Pensions specialist **Alison Hills** joins the London and South-East focused firm from Wedlake Bell. Hills advises a broad spectrum of clients, including trustees, employers, insurance providers and individuals, on a range of noncontentious pensions matters.

#### Proskauer Rose

The New York firm recruits insolvency and restructuring lateral **Adrian Cohen** from Clifford Chance. Cohen advises sponsors, debtors, lenders, commercial counterparties and officeholders on corporate restructuring and insolvency.

#### Reed Smith

Structured finance lateral **Tariq Zafar Rasheed** joins the international firm from BCLP. Rasheed has a particular focus on derivatives (both securitised and OTC) and structured products, advising investment banks, funds and corporates.

# RPC

The insurance heavy international firm makes two hires (one lateral and one vertical) this roundup: lateral **Shai Wade** from Stephenson Harwood becomes head of international arbitration; and liability insurance specialist **Mike Newham** joins from Mayer Brown, where he was counsel. Wade specialises in commercial arbitration, with expertise ranging from infrastructure and energy to partnership and shareholder disputes. Newham's practice encompasses financial institutions, D&O liability claims and professional negligence matters.

# Russell-Cooke

The London based firm elevates white-collar crime lawyer **Frances Murray** from listed firm Rosenblatt, where she was a senior associate. Murray, who represents individuals and corporates, joins the fraud and criminal litigation team.

#### Seddons

Real estate lawyer **Christian Taylor** joins the West End firm from JMW Solicitors. Taylor advises on commercial, residential, and mixed-use property transactions.



#### Shakespeare Martineau

The national firm hires real estate lateral, **David Wells**, from Cambridge firm HCR Hewitsons. Wells specialises in real estate investment and landlord and tenant matters, particularly in the logistics, education and healthcare sectors.

#### Shearman & Sterling

The US firm adds two from fellow New Yorkers this edition: leveraged finance lateral **Shameer Shah** joins from White & Case, and investment funds specialist **Philip Baynes** arrives from Weil Gotshal & Manges, where he was counsel. Shah focuses on acquisition finance and special situation restructurings for private credit funds, investment banks and other financial institutions. Baynes advises fund managers on the structuring, marketing, fundraising and operation of a range of private investment funds, co-investment schemes, carried interest arrangements and secondaries transactions.

#### Shoosmiths

Employment specialist **Robert Forsyth** arrives at the national firm from DLA Piper, where he was a senior associate. Forsyth advises on all aspects of contentious and non-contentious employment law.

#### Sidley Austin

Corporate/ private equity lateral **Tony Downes** is set to join the Chicago firm from fellow US firm Proskauer Rose. Downes' practice covers public and private M&A and investments, private equity transactions and joint ventures.

#### Simkins

Real estate specialist **David O'Dwyer** arrives at the media and entertainment boutique, as its new head of property, from Memery Crystal. O'Dwyer has particular expertise in the leisure, retail and office sectors.

#### Simmons & Simmons

The City stalwart hires real estate finance specialist **Kamal Arulvel** from Reed Smith into its banking team. Arulvel advises lenders and

borrowers on an eclectic range of real asset transactions, including secured senior and mezzanine financings, development loans, hotel financings and loan on loan financings.

#### Simpson Thacher & Bartlett

The white-shoe firm welcomes back **James Esterkin** to its real estate finance team from fellow US elite Kirkland & Ellis. Esterkin advises private equity sponsors and other investors in connection with the financing of UK and European real estate.

#### Stephenson Harwood

Three vertical hires for the international firm this issue as it welcomes: employee incentives lawyer Nicholas Stretch from Ashurst, where he was a consultant; commercial litigation specialist Dan Smith from Latham & Watkins, where he was counsel; and corporate lawyer Kristian Shearsby from Mills & Reeve, where he was an associate. Stretch, who was head of incentives at Ashurst, advises on employee share plans and executive remuneration issues for both listed and private companies. Smith focuses on financial litigation, advising corporates and financial institutions on disputes and investigations, with an angle on insolvency and bribery and corruption. Shearsby specialises in the life sciences and technology sectors, advising on venture capital investments, M&A and securities issues.

#### Stewarts Law

International arbitration lateral **Alejandro Garcia** joins the disputes boutique from Clyde & Co. Garcia, who is English, New York and Chilian qualified, specialises in both commercial and investor state matters across a range of industry sectors.

# Taylor Wessing

The international firm adds one lateral and one vertical hire to its tax offering this roundup: **James Ross** arrives from Chicago headquartered firm McDermott Will & Emery; and **Claire** 

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**Matthews** joins from Linklaters Singapore, where she was a managing associate. Ross advises corporates, funds and individuals on corporate and commercial tax issues, with a particular expertise in the structuring of corporate groups and M&A. Matthews advises on incentives and rewards.

# Watson Farley & Williams

In a vertical hire, litigation specialist **Sarah Ellington** joins the international firm from DLA Piper where she was a legal director. Ellington is a dispute resolution and ESG expert with experience across the spectrum of ESG disputes.

# Wedlake Bell

The City firm welcomes corporate duo **Mark Tasker** and **Stephen Callender** from "right on" London firm Bates Wells, where Tasker headed the M&A and corporate finance team. The pair advise on corporate transactions across a variety of sectors.

# Weightmans

A vertical hire for the national firm as it welcomes insurance/reinsurance specialist **Alice Wilson** from RPC, where she was a senior associate. Wilson acts for insurance clients across a broad spectrum of property and built environment claims.

# Weil Gotshal & Manges

The New York firm recruits restructuring lateral **Lois Deasey** from Akin Gump. Deasey advises hedge funds, bondholders, institutional investors and creditor committees on UK and cross-border financial restructurings, workouts and insolvencies.

# White & Case

Finance lawyer **Monica Barton** joins the New York firm from Winston & Strawn. Barton advises financial institutions, private equity firms and corporate clients on a range of cross-border transactions with a particular focus on acquisition and leveraged finance.

# Willkie Farr & Gallagher

Linklaters' finance lawyer **Daniel Gendron** is set to join the New York firm. Gendron specialises in leveraged finance, restructuring and high yield bond issuances acting for a mix of financial sponsors, portfolio companies and private capital providers.

# Withers

Corporate crime lateral **Natalie Sherborn** is welcomed from Pinsent Masons, where she coheaded the white-collar crime, compliance & investigations team. Sherborn advises corporates on investigations and reporting issues as well as advising both corporates and individuals on matters relating to corporate crime.

# Womble Bond Dickinson

The transatlantic firm boosts its finance team with **Claire Kistner** from Gateley, where she was a senior associate. Kistner specialises in corporate and acquisition finance across the mid-market sector.

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#### The Specialist Partner Team



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