

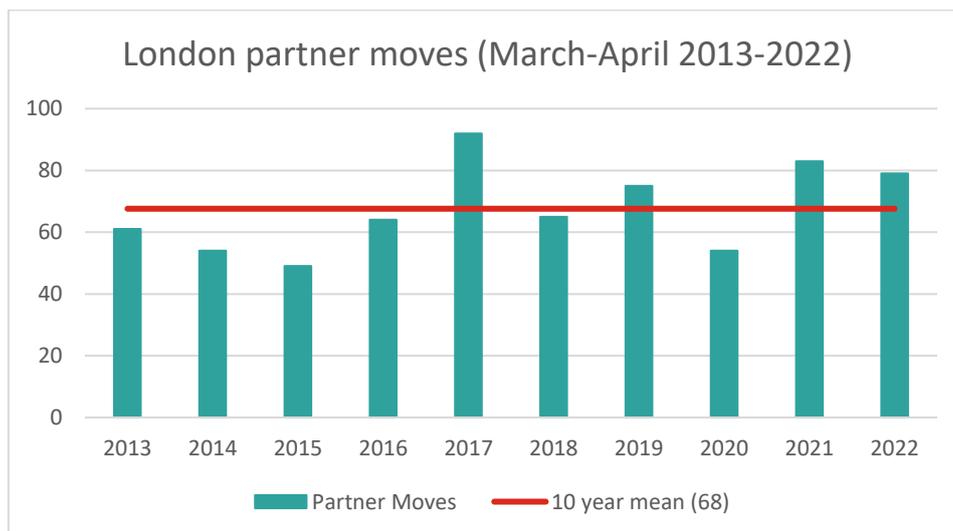
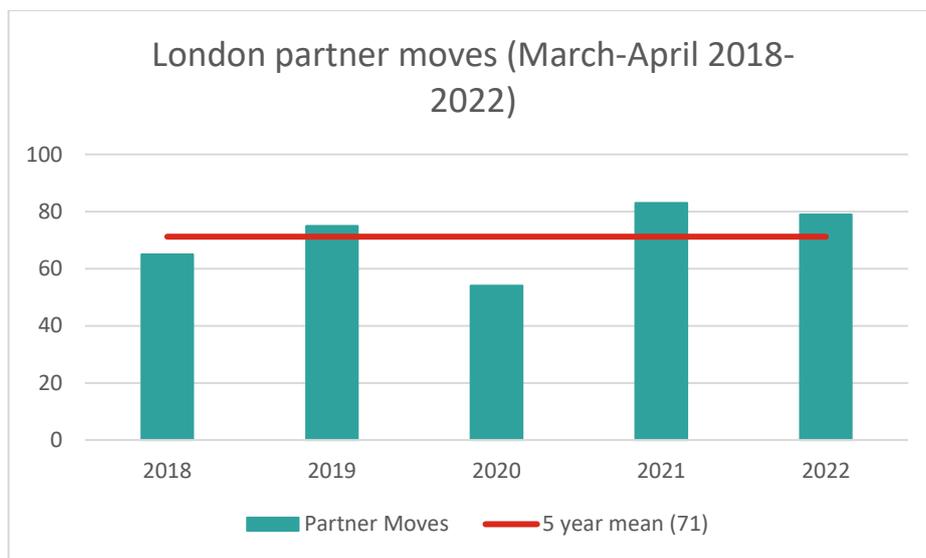
# Law Firm Partner Moves in London



 March - April 2022  
Issue no. 68

Welcome to the 68<sup>th</sup> edition of law firm partner moves, 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 **79** partner moves – unsurprisingly down **5%** on the **83** we saw for the same period in 2021 (a record year in real terms), but comfortably above the cumulative five-year and ten-year averages - **71** and **68** respectively. In terms of laterals (partner-to-partner hires), there were **60** in total, an **8%** drop on the **65** this time last year.



The most acquisitive firm this edition was international verein **Squire Patton Boggs**, which hired five partners (four lateral, one vertical), across white collar crime, privacy, and projects.

The two most striking moves this edition were: Boston-born **Ropes & Gray**'s swipe on US rival, **Fried Frank**, for a three-partner private equity team; and **Linklaters**' raid on Houston headquartered **Vinson & Elkins** for a leveraged finance/ high yield trio. The Linklaters hire marks the third large-scale grab on the beleaguered London office of **Vinson & Elkins** over the past 9 months - which has also seen it lose similar sized private equity/ finance teams to **Sidley & Austin** and **Gibson Dunn & Crutcher**.

**Linklaters** is far from the only magic circle firm to hire this edition: **Allen & Overy**, **Clifford Chance**, and **Freshfields** welcome laterals from **Skadden** (international arbitration), **Norton Rose** (TMT), and **Dickson Minto** (private equity) respectively. Indeed, 2022 has seen the usually conservative magic circle cabal hire 10 partners so far.

In addition to **Linklaters** and **Ropes & Gray**, over the past two months, two other firms have taken on three partner teams: **Harbottle & Lewis** (TMT and data privacy from **Deloitte Legal**) and **Osborne Clarke** (energy and finance from **Orrick**). **Simmons & Simmons** also joins the list of top recruiters this edition with three hires comprising a leading real estate duo from **Stephenson Harwood** and a vertical hire in renewable energy from **Clifford Chance**. Similarly, **DLA** welcomed three laterals across project finance, public law, and tax from **Shearman & Sterling**, **Bates Wells**, and **BCLP**, respectively.

#### Top partner recruiters in London March - April 2022

|                                |   |                         |
|--------------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| ✦ <b>Squire Patton Boggs</b>   | 5 | (4 laterals 1 vertical) |
| ✦ <b>DLA Piper</b>             | 3 | (3 laterals)            |
| ✦ <b>Harbottle &amp; Lewis</b> | 3 | (3 laterals)            |
| ✦ <b>Linklaters</b>            | 3 | (2 laterals 1 vertical) |
| ✦ <b>Osborne Clarke</b>        | 3 | (3 laterals)            |
| ✦ <b>Ropes &amp; Gray</b>      | 3 | (3 laterals)            |
| ✦ <b>Simmons &amp; Simmons</b> | 3 | (2 laterals 1 vertical) |

#### Team hires in London March - April 2022

|                                |   |                                 |
|--------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| ✦ <b>Harbottle &amp; Lewis</b> | 3 | (TMT and data privacy)          |
| ✦ <b>Linklaters</b>            | 3 | (leveraged finance/ high yield) |
| ✦ <b>Osborne Clarke</b>        | 3 | (energy & finance)              |
| ✦ <b>Ropes &amp; Gray</b>      | 3 | (private equity)                |
| ✦ <b>Edwin Coe</b>             | 2 | (employment)                    |
| ✦ <b>Simmons &amp; Simmons</b> | 2 | (real estate)                   |

Of interest to avid market watchers is the rare appearance in this edition of the intensely secretive **Dickson Minto**, which sees the c. 25 partner Scottish/ London private equity boutique lose no fewer than two private equity laterals to **Freshfields** and (reportedly) **King & Spalding** respectively.

In March 2022 **Laytons ETL Global** acquired real estate boutique **Cannings Connolly**; Edwards Gibson does not record the transfer of individual partners to their new entity on merger as a “partner move”, but for reference, this merger resulted in the transfer of only two laterals with a further five partners decamping to alternative law firm **Gunnercooke**.

**Also of note in this edition**

- ✓ **Two** firms hired from in-house: **Dechert** (from Bank of America Merrill Lynch) and **Reed Smith** (from Novartis)
- ✓ **37%** of all hires were female
- ✓ **24%** of all moves were non-partners moving into partnership

**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](#)

✦ **Allen & Overy**

The magic circle firm welcomes international arbitration specialist, **David Herlihy**, from Skadden. Herlihy focuses on commercial and investment treaty arbitration as well as public international law; in due course, Herlihy, who is English, New York and Irish qualified, will split his time between London and Dublin.

✦ **Bates Wells & Braithwaite**

In a vertical hire, the London outfit nabs data protection barrister **Eleonor Duhs** from Fieldfisher, where she was a director. Duhs, who joins as head of data privacy, specialises in privacy and information compliance and the post-Brexit regulatory landscape.

✦ **Beale & Co**

Professional indemnity specialist **Ross Baker** joins the construction and insurance law boutique from BLM. Baker has experience spanning insurance and reinsurance, particularly in claims against directors and officers, accountants, financial intermediaries, brokers, and solicitors.

✦ **Boies Schiller Flexner**

The US disputes boutique restocks following [the recent en masse desertion](#) of the bulk of its London offering to newly launched Pallas Partners; International arbitration specialist **Timothy Foden** arrives from the London office of Swiss disputes boutique Lalive. Foden, who is dual qualified (US and English), focuses on international arbitration in the mining and energy sectors.

✦ **Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner**

In a vertical hire, the real estate-heavy firm formalises its relationship with property litigation expert **Victoria Blanchard**, who has spent the last 7 years as an external consultant for BCLP through Lawyers on Demand. Blanchard specialises in real estate disputes with a particular focus on rights of light.

✦ **Capsticks**

Pensions specialist, **Neil Bhan**, makes the switch to the health, housing, and social care outfit from

DAC Beachcroft. Bhan, who will retain his head of pensions position at his new firm, advises on all aspects of pensions law, with a specific focus on public sector pensions.

✦ **Clarke Willmott**

Planning specialist **Marianne Barker** joins the national firm from Asserson Law Offices. Barker has both contentious and non-contentious experience, advising on a range of planning and infrastructure matters including CIL, town centre regeneration, green build release and heritage.

✦ **Clifford Chance**

TMT lawyer **Zayed Al Jamil** joins the tech group at the magic circle firm from Norton Rose Fulbright. Al Jamil provides advice on tech-related aspects of corporate transactions with a focus on outsourcing and technology projects.

✦ **Clyde & Co**

The global firm continues to strengthen its insurance and international arbitration offerings against the backdrop of its pending merger with insurance boutique BLM: professional liability expert, **Rob Crossingham**, joins from Weightmans alongside Queen Mary University of London academic, professor **Loukas Mistelis**. Crossingham advises on policy coverage matters and represents clients in disciplinary proceedings before various professional bodies. Mistelis, who has experience as an arbitrator and counsel, will specialise in international disputes across the commercial, construction and energy sectors, whilst continuing to undertake a part-time role at Queen Mary.

✦ **CMS**

The verein-like European firm hires contentious IP lawyer, **Mark Shillito**, from Herbert Smith Freehills. Shillito, onetime head of both Herbert Smith's global IP group and its UK & US disputes team, advises on IP disputes across a range of sectors including: TMT, FMCG, and life sciences.

✦ **Cooley**

CMS' co-head of competition and trade, **Caroline Hobson**, arrives at the West Coast US firm.

Hobson specialises in EU and UK competition law, regulatory issues, merger control and foreign direct investment clearance matters.

✦ **Covington & Burling**

The Washington DC headquartered firm welcomes private equity specialist **Mark Thompson** from fellow US outfit, Weil Gotshal & Manges. Thompson, who joins as global co-chair of the firm's private equity practice, advises a range of clients, including pension funds, sovereign wealth funds and corporate clients, on a variety of corporate transactional matters.

✦ **DAC Beachcroft**

Two hires (one lateral and one vertical) for the international firm this edition. Restructuring and insolvency veteran **Joe Bannister** arrives from Hogan Lovells, and pensions law expert **Beth Brown** is welcomed from Mayer Brown, where she was counsel. Bannister assists with domestic and international restructurings and insolvencies, across all sectors. Brown specialises in all aspects of pensions law, including insolvency, risk transfer, and governance matters.

✦ **Dechert**

The global firm adds two partners this edition: corporate crime specialist, **Judith Seddon**, joins from Ropes & Gray, where she co-led the white collar and government enforcement practice; and structured products/ real estate finance specialist **Richard Pugh** arrives from Bank of America Merrill Lynch, where he was director and assistant general counsel. Seddon acts for corporates and individuals in relation to fraud, money laundering, corruption, and regulatory investigations. Pugh specialises in commercial real estate finance and securitization matters.

✦ **Deloitte Legal**

Data privacy specialist **Cavan Fabris** makes the switch from Big Four rival, EY Law, where he was a director. Fabris, who joins the data privacy practice, specialises in, cybersecurity, data, telecoms, and AI law.

✦ **Devonshires**

Corporate lawyer **Helen Curtis** joins from fellow London firm Gannons. Curtis, who is dual English and US qualified, advises on business acquisitions and disposals, investment rounds and restructuring.

✦ **DLA Piper**

The global firm welcomes three laterals this edition: leading corporate tax specialist, **Richard Harbot** from BCLP, project finance lawyer, **Iain Elder** from Shearman & Sterling, and public and administrative law specialist, **Emma Dowden-Teale** from Bates Wells. Harbot maintains a broad practice encompassing the tax aspects of private equity/ M&A, real estate, and restructuring matters. Elder, who was previously based in Abu Dhabi and London, predominantly focuses on the energy sector in emerging markets, representing sponsors and lenders on project development and financing. Dowden-Teale, who will lead the contentious public law team, advises both private and public sector clients on public law and related judicial review and appeal litigation.

✦ **DMH Stallard**

Litigation lawyer **Matthew Akers** arrives at the South-East firm from Weil, Gotshal & Manges, where he was a counsel. Akers advises on a broad range of commercial disputes, predominantly relating to contract breaches, fraud, and shareholder/partnership issues.

✦ **Edwin Coe**

The London firm strengthens its employment practice with a two-partner team hire of **Alexandra Bonner** and **Clare Gilroy-Scott**, who join from Goodman Derrick. Both Bonner and Gilroy-Scott advise on contentious and non-contentious employment matters for both employers and claimants.

✦ **EIP Europe**

Commercial technology privacy specialist **Mark Lubbock** joins the patent attorney/ IP boutique from Boston headquartered Brown Rudnick.

Lubbock advises on both contentious and non-contentious matters across a wide variety of industry sectors.

✦ **Eversheds Sutherland**

Two hires for the Anglo-American firm this round up: project finance lateral **Alex Carver**, arrives from Freshfields; and real estate disputes specialist, **Rashpal Soomal**, makes the switch from BCLP. Carver, who is appointed global co-head of project finance at his new firm, advises on project financings/PPPs and acquisition financings in the transport energy and social infrastructure sectors. Soomal focuses on contentious property matters, particularly on issues relating to development and rights of light.

✦ **EY Law**

The legal arm of the professional services outfit welcomes technology and fintech specialist, **Fiona Ghosh**, from Addleshaw Goddard. Ghosh, who led the fintech practice at her previous firm, advises on large scale disruption, business transformation, and strategic risk management.

✦ **Fieldfisher**

The European firm expands its private client offering with **Elena Tzialli** from Fletcher Day. Tzialli, who headed the private client practice at her previous firm, has a broad contentious and non-contentious practice.

✦ **Forsters**

Property litigator **Julia Tobbell** arrives at the Mayfair firm from Herbert Smith Freehills, where she was a senior associate. Tobbell, who is a solicitor advocate undertakes an eclectic range of real estate disputes matters.

✦ **Freshfields**

In a rare lateral departure from the elite and secretive Scottish boutique, Dickson Minto, private equity lawyer, **Rebecca Ward**, joins the magic circle firm. Ward, who specialises in transactional private equity and M&A, joins Freshfield's financial sponsors group.

✦ **Harbottle & Lewis**

The London media tech boutique welcomes a three-partner TMT team from Deloitte Legal to launch its new technology, data and digital group. **Emma Wright** arrives to lead the group with her specialism in telecoms and internet regulatory matters. **Anita Bapat**, who led the privacy practice at Deloitte, focuses on data protection compliance and has experience in breaches and regulatory investigations, whilst **Rupam Davé** undertakes transactional work for technology transformation projects involving outsourcing, systems integration, and technology procurements.

✦ **Harold Benjamin**

Restructuring and insolvency specialist **Niten Chauhan** joins as head of restructuring and insolvency from fellow London firm JPC law. Chauhan, who also headed the restructuring practice at his former firm, specialises in both contentious and non-contentious matters.

✦ **Howard Kennedy**

A double hire for the London firm this round-up: **James Meakin**, who arrives from Dentons, becomes the new head of tax; and property litigator, **Edward Cooper**, joins from Taylor Wessing, where he was senior counsel. Meakin's expertise encompasses the tax aspects of corporate and real estate transactions including M&A, group reorganisations, venture capital, and private equity. Cooper has experience across real estate litigation, with a particular focus on commercial real estate disputes.

✦ **Jones Day**

Competition lateral **Mark Jones**, makes the switch to the global firm from Hogan Lovells. Jones advises on a wide range of anti-trust matters including: merger control, FDI clearances, cartel, monopoly and market investigations.

✦ **King & Spalding**

Two hires for the Atlanta headquartered firm this edition: energy specialist, **Nina Howell**, re-joins

after nearly three years at Bracewell; and corporate lawyer, **Paul Barron**, arrives from clandestine Scottish private equity boutique Dickson Minto. Howell has extensive experience in the liquefied natural gas sector whilst also acting on upstream joint ventures, unitisation, M&A, and other corporate transactions. Barron specialises in private equity and M&A.

✦ **Kirkland & Ellis**

The Chicago-born firm replenishes its competition offering with **Alasdair Balfour**, who joins from Allen & Overy, and, separately, welcomes disputes lawyer **Stuart Doxford** from Simmons & Simmons, where he was a managing associate. Balfour specialises in UK and EU antitrust matters, with a particular focus on cross-border merger control; this move follows the firm's double loss in competition highlighted in [our previous edition](#). Doxford undertakes both litigation and arbitration with a particular focus on acting for financial institutions.

✦ **Latham & Watkins**

Following a five-year career break, former Ropes & Gray finance partner, **Tania Bedi**, bolsters the banking practice at the West Coast firm. Bedi specialises in international bank and debt financing, predominantly on leveraged buyouts and acquisition finance matters.

✦ **Lester Aldridge**

Re-joining the Bournemouth headquartered outfit is private client lawyer, **Mahendree Naidoo**, who arrives from Moore Kingston Smith, where she was director and head of private client. Naidoo, who is dual qualified (UK and South African), advises on wills, trusts and estate and tax planning.

✦ **Linklaters**

A three-partner team hire (two lateral and one vertical) for the magic circle firm which raids Vinson & Elkins for a leveraged finance/ high yield trio in the form of **Noel Hughes**, **Giacomo Reali** and **Christianne Williams**, who was counsel. Hughes led the London finance, M&A and capital

markets offering at his former firm. The team all undertake leverage finance and high yield transactions with Reali having a particular focus on Italian market deals. The move marks the third large-scale raid on Vinson & Elkins in the past nine months which has seen the Houston headquartered firm lose similar sized private equity/ finance teams to [Sidley & Austin](#) and [Gibson Dunn & Crutcher](#).

✦ **Mishcon de Reya**

The London firm poaches real estate lawyer, **Lee Foxcroft**, from Slaughter and May, where he was an associate. Foxcroft advises on commercial real estate transactions, including acquisitions and disposals, development projects, and joint ventures.

✦ **Morgan Lewis & Bockius**

Structured finance specialist, **Richard Hanson**, arrives from rival US firm Orrick. Hanson advises alternative investment funds and asset managers on structured finance and securitisation matters.

✦ **Morrison & Foerster**

The US firm expands its competition offering with the arrival of **Marie-Claire Strawbridge** from Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, where she was counsel. Strawbridge advises on the merger control and foreign direct investment aspects of global transactions as well as broader antitrust matters.

✦ **Ontier**

Disputes lateral, **Aoife Keane**, arrives at the Iberian flavoured global firm from West End outfit Seddons. Keane acts for companies and high-net-worth individuals in domestic and cross-border disputes across the financial services and technology sectors.

✦ **Orrick**

Data privacy regulation and litigation specialist **Kelly Hagedorn** makes the switch from fellow US firm, Jenner & Block. Hagedorn advises on a range of data privacy regulation and litigation issues arising under UK and European data

protection law, including white collar investigations and fraud allegations.

✦ **Osborne Clarke**

The Bristol headquartered firm bolsters its energy practice with a three-partner team from Orrick, comprising **John Deacon**, **Hannah Roscoe**, and **Dominic O'Brien**. Deacon's practice focuses on energy projects, with a particular emphasis on renewables. Roscoe advises on transactional and regulatory energy matters, including M&A, commercial contracts and project financings. O'Brien, who was head of banking and finance at his previous firm, undertakes a mix of project and acquisition financings.

✦ **Pinsent Masons**

Finance lawyer, **Max Millington**, is welcomed from Osborne Clarke. Millington advises on domestic and cross-border mid-market private debt origination and restructurings across the financial services and TMT sectors.

✦ **Reed Smith**

Life sciences transactional lawyer, **Milan Thakker**, joins the US firm from pharma company Novartis, where he was senior legal counsel. Thakker has experience in cross-border M&A, private equity, venture capital, and joint venture transactions.

✦ **Ropes & Gray**

The Boston blue-blood nabs a three-partner private equity team from US rival, Fried Frank: **Daniel Oates**, who led the European private equity at his former firm, arrives alongside **Simon Saitowitz** and **Angela Becker**. The trio specialise in acquisition and leveraged buyouts, disposals, joint ventures and public-to-private transactions for private equity and corporate clients.

✦ **Royds Withy King**

The national firm hires insolvency lawyer, **Julie Killip**, from listed firm Ince, where she co-led the restructuring and insolvency practice. Killip focuses on contentious insolvency for both corporates and individuals.

✦ **Schulte Roth & Zabel**

The New York firm bags a brace of structured products specialists this round-up; **Stuart Axford** and **Martin Sharkey** are welcomed from Arnold & Porter and Dentons respectively. Axford has particular expertise in securitization transactions across a broad range of assets including residential and commercial mortgages, supply chain finance, cryptocurrencies, and NFTs. Sharkey is a leading CLO specialist who also undertakes forward flow and supply chain financing, ESG, portfolio sales, secured asset-backed lending and warehouse financing.

✦ **Shoosmiths**

Finance litigator, **Andrew Bowden-Brown**, arrives from five-partner London firm Francis Wilks & Jones. Bowden-Brown's expertise includes asset based lending, crypto asset recovery and commercial disputes.

✦ **Sidley Austin**

The Chicago-spawned outfit hires corporate lawyer, **Robert Darwin**, from Dechert. Darwin focuses on private equity and M&A, predominantly working in the life sciences and healthcare sectors.

✦ **Simmons & Simmons**

Three hires for the City blue-blood this round-up; leading real estate duo **Jonathon Wilkes** and **Ashley Davidson** join from Stephenson Harwood; and renewable energy specialist, **Serra Tar**, arrives from Clifford Chance, where she was a senior associate. Wilkes headed the real estate team at his former firm and, together with Davidson, undertakes investment and development matters on behalf of major pension funds, financial institutions large property companies, private equity houses and family offices. Tar advises on all aspects of project development, M&A, joint ventures, financing, and commercial transactions in the energy and infrastructure space.

✦ **Squire Patton Boggs**

The international firm adds five this round-up: corporate crime specialists **Hannah Laming** and **Wayne Barnes** arrive from Peters & Peters and Fulcrum Chambers respectively; corporate energy and projects specialist, **Christopher Thomson**, is welcomed from Dentons; and data privacy lawyers **David Naylor** and **Malcolm Dowden**, who was a legal director, make the switch from Wiggin and Womble Bond Dickinson respectively. Both Laming, who joins as European head of government investigations & white collar, and Barnes are barristers specialising in corporate crime and investigations. Thomson advises on projects across the energy value chain, predominantly focusing on emerging markets. Naylor advises on commercial transactions, technology transfer and data privacy regulatory matters; he joins as head of the UK data privacy, cybersecurity, and digital assets practice. Dowden's experience spans technology, data protection and privacy issues.

✦ **Stephenson Harwood**

Private client specialist **Jonathan Conder** joins the international firm from Macfarlanes. Conder advises on all aspects of tax, trust, estate, and succession planning, as well as regulatory, immigration and philanthropic issues.

✦ **Trowers & Hamlins**

The international firm welcomes financial services lawyer **Sean Donovan-Smith** from Texas headquartered outfit Locke Lord, where he was a consultant. Donovan-Smith, who will head the financial services regulatory and investment funds practice at his new firm, has broad experience of complex financial services matters.

✦ **Wallace**

Employment specialist, **James Williams**, arrives at the Mayfair firm from Hill Dickinson. Williams advises both employers and employees on a broad range of contentious and non-contentious employment matters.

✦ **White & Case**

In a vertical hire, the New York firm welcomes finance lawyer **Paul Yin** from Skadden, where he was European counsel. Yin advises on domestic and cross-border transactions, predominantly on acquisition, real estate and corporate finance.

✦ **William Sturges**

Following a yearlong hiatus as a self-employed solicitor, former Lawrence Stephens commercial and employment partner, **Martin Donoghue**, emerges at the London firm. Donoghue works across the medical, technology and fintech sectors.

**Related links:**

- ✔ [Edwards Gibson Partner Round-Up - Our Methodology](#)
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- ✔ [Quantifying your following and writing an effective business plan](#)
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✔ **The Specialist Partner Team**



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