

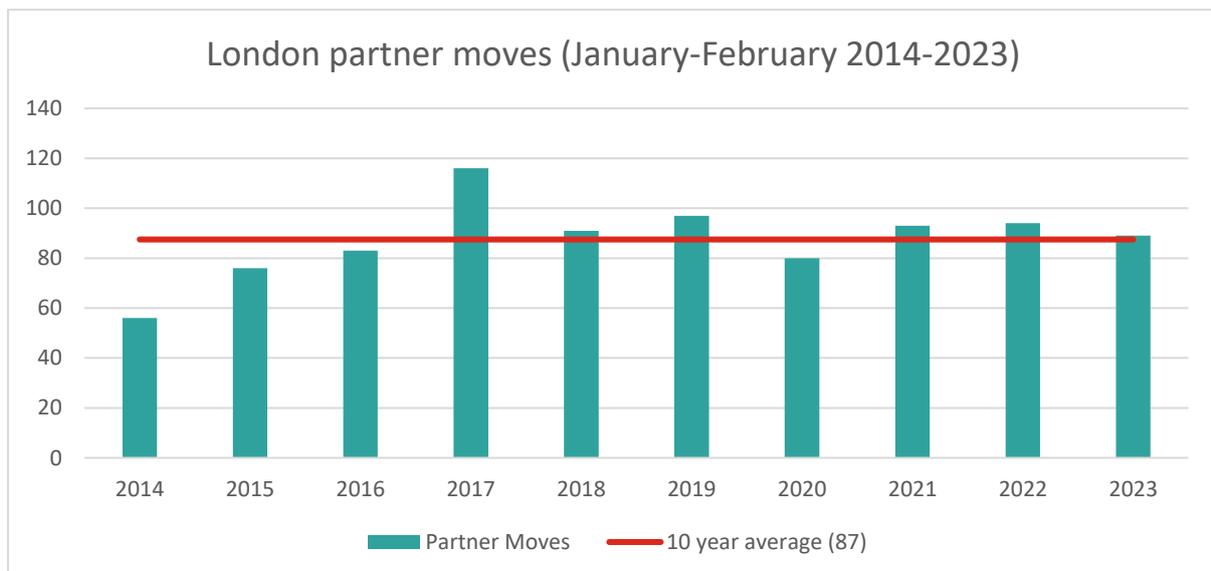
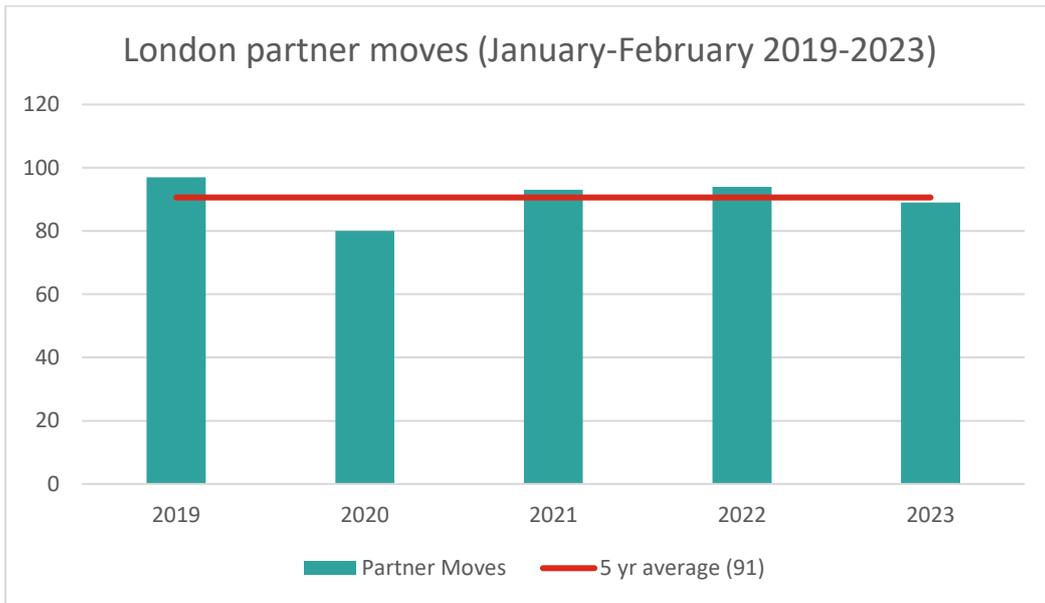
Law
Firm
Partner
Moves
in
London



 January-February
2023
Issue no. 73

Welcome to the 73rd 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.

With few exceptions, our January-February “the transfer season” edition tends to record the highest number of moves in any given year. This bi-monthly round-up contains **89** partner moves – a decrease of **5%** on the number of hires we saw during the same period last year (**94**) and although down **2%** on the cumulative five-year average it remains **2%** up on the ten-year average (**87**).



So far, 2023 has seen no fewer than nine firms hire three or more partners. The two most covetous firms this edition were **DWF** and **Stephenson Harwood**, which welcomed **4** partners apiece.

The largest multi-partner team hire was New York firm **Simpson Thacher & Bartlett**'s dramatic raid on **Travers Smith** for a trio of asset management flavoured laterals. However, **7** other firms - (**Akin Gump**, **Cleary Gottlieb**, **Clyde & Co**, **Cravath**, **DWF**, **Paul Hastings** and **Wedlake Bell**) - all welcomed partner duos this edition.

Of particular note to market watchers, is the launch of an English law offering by one of New York's finest - **Cravath, Swaine & Moore** - which swipes a two-partner leverage finance/high yield team from fellow white shoe outfit **Shearman & Sterling**. Whilst this move has excited much comment in the City, along the lines of "a new threat to the top of the established Big Law order", in practice, it is unlikely that the uber conservative 100 something partner firm will expand its English law capability much beyond its core lender-focused finance offering anytime soon.

Nevertheless, on the subject of elite New York headquartered firms with historically very conservative lateral hiring policies in London, **Cleary Gottlieb**'s welcoming of three new partners makes that firm look almost trigger happy ... although, unlike most in its peer group, Cleary has been practising English law for more than a quarter of a century.

◆ **Top partner recruiters in London January – February 2023**

• DWF	4	(3 laterals)
• Stephenson Harwood	4	(2 laterals)
• Cleary Gottlieb	3	(3 laterals)
• Clyde & Co	3	(3 laterals)
• Goodwin Procter	3	(2 laterals)
• Paul Hastings	3	(3 laterals)
• Simpson Thacher & Bartlett	3	(3 laterals)
• Weil Gotshal & Manges	3	(3 laterals)
• Wilson Sonsini	3	(3 verticals)

Ince, **Travers Smith** and **White & Case** saw the highest attrition – each losing **5** laterals in the first two months of 2023, followed by **Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner**, **Charles Russell Speechlys**, **Reed Smith** and **Shearman & Sterling**, each losing **4** London partners apiece.

◆ Highest firm attrition rates in London (laterals only) January – February 2023

• Ince	5
• Travers Smith	5
• White & Case	5
• Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner	4
• Charles Russell Speechlys	4
• Reed Smith	4
• Shearman & Sterling	4
• Linklaters	3
• DWF	3
• Norton Rose Fulbright	3

◆ The travails of Travers Smith

The first two months of 2023 has seen the 80 something partner London firm lose 5 laterals to US rivals (a three-partner team to **Simpson Thacher & Bartlett**, along with its head of private equity to **Clearly Gottlieb** and a funds focused corporate tax lateral to **White & Case**). On top of the two partners it lost in the second half of 2022 (employment to **Goodwin Procter** and corporate to **Fried Frank**), **Travers Smith**, which has struggled with profitability in recent years, appears to have lost nearly 10% of its partnership in just six months. Indeed, the private equity focused silver circle firm, which in the 10-years prior to 2023 lost on average just one lateral p/a, suddenly appears to have become a metaphor for the ability of more profitable US firms to snatch prime talent almost at will from their UK rivals.

◆ Also of note in this edition

- 33% (29) of all hires were female.
- 18% (16) of all hires were non-partnerships moving into partnership.
- 3 firms hired from in-house this edition: **Morrison & Foerster** (from the Bank of England), **Sidley Austin** (from Strategic Value Partners) and **Schulte Roth & Zabel** (from Paratus).

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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- ✦ **Akin Gump**
 Boosting the debt finance offering at the Texan-born firm are special situations and private credit duo **Fergus Wheeler** and **Paul Yin**, both from White & Case. Wheeler advises alternative investment managers, private credit funds and sovereign wealth funds on all forms of debt finance including in distressed situations. Yin advises on a wide range of cross-border and domestic transactions, including acquisition, real estate, and general corporate financings.
- ✦ **Alston & Bird**
 The US firm grows its London office with the lateral hire of disputes lawyer **Nick Brocklesby**, from Reed Smith. Brocklesby's practice focuses on commercial and banking litigation.
- ✦ **Baker McKenzie**
 The global verein welcomes finance lateral **Anthony Kay** from west coast US firm Orrick. Kay advises on general finance matters, including syndicated lending acquisition finance, direct lending and general corporate financings.
- ✦ **Beale & Co**
 Joining the construction boutique is non-contentious construction lateral **Peter Kitson** from Russell-Cooke. Kitson, who was head of transactional projects and construction at his former firm, advises on development agreements, building and engineering contracts, professional appointments and procurement and contract strategies.
- ✦ **Boodle Hatfield**
 Immigration specialist **Zoe Jacob** joins the London outfit as head of UK immigration from Farrer & Co, where she was a senior associate. Jacob advises on UK immigration and nationality law.
- ✦ **Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner**
 Corporate real estate lateral **Chris Beaumont-McQuillan** arrives at the real estate flavoured firm from Reed Smith. Beaumont-McQuillan, advises REITs, PERE funds, asset managers, sovereign wealth funds and property developers on a range of corporate real estate matters.
- ✦ **Charles Russell Speechlys**
 Two hires for the UK firm this round-up: insolvency specialist **Alison Goldthorp** joins from Norton Rose Fulbright and dispute resolution lateral **Richard Kiddell** arrives from Joseph Hage Aaronson. Goldthorp's experience includes acting for banks, insolvency practitioners and directors across the restructuring sphere, with a focus on contentious insolvency. Kiddell advises on commercial disputes specialising in international arbitration and investment treaty matters.
- ✦ **Child & Child**
 Joining the west-end firm is litigation lateral **Nick Goldstone** from Ince, where he was head of dispute resolution. Goldstone's eclectic practice includes commercial, IP and residential property disputes.
- ✦ **Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton**
 The normally uber conservative New York firm adds three laterals this edition: insolvency and restructuring duo **Solomon Noh** and **Alastair Goldrein** arrive from Dechert; and corporate lawyer **Ian Shawyer** defects from Travers Smith, where he was head of private equity. Noh's experience includes advising private capital funds and bondholder groups in distressed debt situations. Goldrein advises creditors, sponsors, insolvent companies, and insolvency practitioners on all aspects of insolvency and restructuring. Shawyer specialises in cross-border M&A and private equity transactions.
- ✦ **Clifford Chance**
 Two hires (one lateral and one vertical) for the magic circle firm this edition as it welcomes US securities specialist **Jill Concannon Christie** from White & Case and corporate lawyer **Thomas Fisher**, who re-joins the firm from Weil Gotshal, where he was counsel. Christie's practice is

focused on US capital markets and high yield debt. Fisher has extensive infrastructure experience, advising on acquisitions, divestments and reorganisations for financial investor clients.

✦ **Clyde & Co**

Three lateral hires for the insurance heavy firm this round up: product liability duo **Peter Barnes** and **Charlotte Kelly** join from DWF; and aviation finance lawyer **Jahnavi Ramachandran** arrives from Herbert Smith Freehills, where she was head of aviation finance. Barnes and Kelly advise on product liability matters, focusing on property, construction, aviation, energy, mining, motoring and manufacturing risks. Ramachandran advises financial institutions, as well as airlines and operators on the acquisition, finance and leasing of aviation assets.

✦ **CMS**

Two lateral hires for the verein-like international firm this edition: contentious financial services lawyer **Robert Dedman** joins from King & Spalding and insurance specialist **Anna Walsh** is welcomed from Capsticks. Dedman advises market participants on a range of matters including internal investigations, regulatory relations, intervention and remediation. Walsh provides advice to medical malpractice insurers and private health and social care providers.

✦ **Cravath, Swaine & Moore**

The elite Wall Street firm launches its English law practice with a two-partner leverage finance team comprising **Korey Fevzi** and **Philip Stopford** from fellow New Yorker Shearman & Sterling. The duo specialise in cross-border leveraged and acquisition financings, direct lending and complex restructuring transactions.

✦ **Debevoise & Plimpton**

The white shoe outfit strengthens its international arbitration practice with **Jeffery Sullivan KC** from fellow US firm Gibson Dunn & Crutcher. Sullivan, who will co-chair Debevoise's

international arbitration offering in Europe, advises on both commercial and investor state arbitrations across a range of fora - with an angle on the energy, extractive industry, TMT and infrastructure sectors.

✦ **Dechert**

Antitrust lateral **Douglas Lahnborg** defects from fellow US firm Orrick. Lahnborg's practice includes merger control, abuse of dominance, private damages actions and cartel investigations before the European Commission and the Competition and Markets Authority.

✦ **Dentons**

A vertical hire for the international firm, which elevates corporate lawyer **James Vernon** from Eversheds Sutherland where he was legal director. Vernon's practice includes public company takeovers, private M&A, joint ventures, corporate governance and general company law advice.

✦ **DLA Piper**

The global firm elevates finance lawyer, **Anthony Lombardi** from New York firm Schulte Roth & Zabel where he was a special counsel. Lombardi, who has a specialism in funds finance, also advises on structured products special situations, distressed investments, and alternative finance transactions.

✦ **DWF**

Four hires (two laterals and two verticals) for the listed firm this edition: leading real estate specialists **Deepa Debb** and **Carla Revelo** arrive from Dentons, where the latter was a senior associate; corporate real estate specialist **Alan Barnett** joins from Ince; and construction lawyer **Yolanda Walker** is welcomed from CMS, where she was a senior associate. Debb, who led the UK real estate team at her former firm, joins as global head of development and investment – she acts for developers, financial institutions, funders and property companies on pan-European and

domestic real estate transactions. Revelo advises on a range of real estate matters with an angle on large-scale portfolio investments. Barnett's practice is focused on corporate real estate, with a particular emphasis on the hotel and leisure sector, structured real estate and emerging markets. Walker provides project advice in relation to buildings and large-scale infrastructure projects as well as on construction disputes.

✦ **ebl miller rosenfalck**

Corporate and commercial lawyer **Patrick Gilmore** arrives from fellow London firm DKLM. Gilmore, who joins as head of corporate, has an eclectic corporate and commercial practice.

✦ **Faegre Drinker**

Finance lateral, **Gary Bellingham** makes the switch from fellow US firm Greenburg Traurig. Bellingham predominately focuses on the financing of commercial real estate assets for non-bank lenders and borrowers.

✦ **Fenchurch Law**

Joining the specialist insurance disputes firm is contentious insurance lateral **Michael Robin** from DWF. Robin's expertise covers a wide variety of insurance and reinsurance disputes with a focus on financial and professional risks.

✦ **Fieldfisher**

Two lateral hires this edition for the UK outfit: international arbitration specialist **Ania Farren** arrives from disputes boutique Omnia Strategy; and structured finance lawyer **Peter Knust** joins from BCLP. Farren advises states and corporations on a range of dispute resolution and public international law matters. Knust advises on structured products focusing on corporate trust and corporate service providers.

✦ **Fladgate**

Joining the London firm is contentious financial services lateral **Douglas Cherry** from Reed Smith.

Cherry specialises in investigations and advisory work for all types of regulated financial institutions.

✦ **Fried Frank**

Finance lateral **Chris Barron** joins the New-York headquartered firm from clandestine Caledonian private equity boutique, Dickson Minto. Barron advises on debt finance including domestic and cross-border acquisition and leveraged financings.

✦ **Goodwin Procter**

Three hires (two lateral and one vertical) for the US firm as it welcomes funds lawyer **Jacqueline Eaves** from Kirkland & Ellis; litigation lateral **Sarah McAtominey** from BCLP; and competition lawyer **Eram Khan** from Linklaters, where she was a counsel. Eaves advises on funds matters in the secondary market, including traditional portfolio sales, structured secondaries and GP-led transactions. McAtominey specialises in shareholder and contractual claims, for corporate clients and high net worth individuals. Khan undertakes a range of anti-trust matters with a focus on merger control and foreign investment.

✦ **Gowling WLG**

The Anglo-Canadian outfit strengthens its commercial litigation practice with insolvency litigator **Jason Freedman**, who arrives from Charles Russell Speechlys. Freedman focuses on insolvency disputes with an angle on fraud and asset recovery investigations.

✦ **Greenberg Traurig**

Financial services lateral **Tim Dolan** arrives at the storied US firm from Reed Smith, where he was head of the UK financial regulatory group. Dolan advises fund managers; investment firms; banks; and payment firms on UK and European compliance and regulatory issues including fund formation, GP-led secondaries, M&A and payment matters.

✓ **Herbert Smith Freehills**

The international firm welcomes finance lateral **Ambarish Dash** from Kirkland & Ellis. Dash advises private equity sponsors, portfolio companies and credit funds on a range of financings with a focus on leveraged buy-outs.

✓ **Hill Dickinson**

Real estate lateral **Alastair Moss** joins the national firm from Memery Crystal where he was co-head of real estate. Moss advises on real estate transactions, leasing and development matters for both commercial and residential property.

✓ **Hodge Jones & Allen**

The London firm welcomes disputes lawyer **Karolina Kupczyk** from listed Australian claimant outfit Slater & Gordon. Kupczyk handles commercial and financial litigation, as well as advising on breach of contract and data protection and privacy matters.

✓ **Howard Kennedy**

Two hires for the London firm this roundup; corporate crime lateral **Jonathan Huth** joins from US disputes outfit Kobre & Kim; and **John Kiely** arrives to head up the immigration offering from Fragomen, where he was a senior associate. Huth advises on financial fraud, market manipulation and investigations. Kiely assists family offices and high-net worth's on settlement, nationality and European law.

✓ **Jenner & Block**

Joining the Chicago-born firm this edition is international arbitration lateral **James Rogers** from Norton Rose Fulbright. Rogers, who also sits as an arbitrator, has particular experience in the energy, infrastructure and construction sectors.

✓ **Jones Day**

The US firm bags a brace of laterals this edition: contentious construction and engineering lawyer **Julian Bailey** joins from White & Case and real

estate specialist **Matthew Peel** arrives from BCLP. Bailey's disputes and arbitration practice focuses on international construction and infrastructure projects across a variety of industries, including transport, energy, industrial, mining, and defence. Peel advises on real estate investment and development with a particular angle on the senior living and health care sectors.

✓ **King & Spalding**

The Atlanta headquartered outfit elevates restructuring lawyer **Patrick Schumann** from Reed Smith where he was counsel. Schumann has broad experience on cross-border restructurings, formal insolvencies and distressed debt situations.

✓ **Kingsley Napley**

Making the switch to Mishcon de Reya from fellow London firm is tax disputes lateral **Waqar Shah**. Shah who will head up tax disputes at his new firm, advises high net worth individuals and corporate clients on both direct and indirect tax litigation.

✓ **KPMG**

The big four professional services outfit welcomes tax litigation specialist **Lee Ellis** from disputes boutique Stewarts. Ellis has particular expertise in judicial review and disputes involving EU law and international tax treaties.

✓ **Locke Lord**

Corporate energy & infrastructure lateral **Artem Faekov** is welcomed from fellow Texas spawned firm Akin Gump. Faekov advises on M&A, projects and joint ventures in the energy, TMT and natural resources space.

✓ **Macfarlanes**

The elite City firm welcomes private funds specialist **Stephen Ross** from Sidley Austin. Ross, onetime head of private funds at his previous firm, advises on fund formations and related

matters on behalf of credit, equity, hedge and infrastructure funds.

✦ **Michelmores**

Joining the Exeter headquartered outfit is private client lateral, **Dhana Sabanathan** from Winckworth Sherwood. Sabanathan advises high-net worth individuals, family offices, entrepreneurs, and owner-managed businesses.

✦ **Mishcon de Reya**

Corporate lateral **Nigel Stacey** joins the London firm from Houston-born set-up Baker Botts. Stacey specialises in M&A and corporate finance, including public takeovers, stock exchange matters and capital market transactions.

✦ **Morrison & Foerster**

Boosting the financial services and fintech offering at the US outfit is **Sam Riley** from the Bank of England where she was a senior advisor. Riley has extensive experience in domestic and international policy and regulatory development, crisis management and contingency planning.

✦ **Paul Hastings**

The US firms swipes three laterals this edition: infrastructure duo, **Jessamy Gallagher** and **Stuart Rowson** join from Linklaters, where they were both co-heads of infrastructure; and restructuring specialist **Helena Potts** makes the switch from Shearman & Sterling. Gallagher and Rowson respectively cover the corporate M&A and finance aspects of infrastructure projects with an angle on energy transition and digital infrastructure assets. Potts advises on domestic and cross-border restructurings and has a niche around distressed defined benefit pension schemes.

✦ **Penningtons Manches Cooper**

The national firm welcomes corporate lateral **Mona Patel** from Ince. Patel specialises in UK and cross-border acquisitions and disposals, joint

ventures, strategic partnerships, and restructurings.

✦ **Reed Smith**

The global firm welcomes finance lateral **Linn Mayhew**, from US outfit McGuire Woods. Mayhew advises on a wide range of finance matters with a focus on private credit and acquisition/ leveraged finance.

✦ **Schulte Roth & Zabel**

Corporate tax lawyer **Dan Roman** joins the funds-heavy New York firm from Paratus, where he was CFO and group head of tax. Roman focuses on UK tax issues relating to designing and managing fund structures, cross-border asset management, Brexit restructurings and deferred compensation arrangements.

✦ **Sidley Austin**

Two hires for the Chicago-spawned set up this edition, corporate lawyer **Phil Cheveley** makes the switch from Shearman & Sterling, where he was head of M&A for EMEA and Asia, and restructuring specialist **Kieran Sharma** returns to the firm from global investment firm Strategic Value Partners, where he was a director. Cheveley specialises in public company M&A and disposals, as well as primary and secondary equity issues. Sharma will primarily advise on investments, acquisition and restructuring of distressed businesses.

✦ **Simmons & Simmons**

A brace of laterals for the City headquartered international firm which bags: corporate and partnership law specialist **David Hicks** from Charles Russell Speechlys; and corporate finance specialist **Alexander Keepin**, from BCLP, where he was head of mining. Hicks advises asset managers and other financial services sector clients on M&A, fundraising, restructuring and partnership law. Keepin primarily advises extractive industries on main market and AIM listed IPOs and project financing transactions.

- ✦ **Simons Muirhead Burton**
 The west-end firm welcomes corporate lateral **Alon Domb** from Ince where he was head of corporate. Domb's practice includes advising on M&A, joint ventures, structured real estate and banking, corporate finance, partnership law and business affairs.
- ✦ **Simpson Thacher & Bartlett**
 In a dramatic raid on beleaguered City blue blood Travers Smith, the New York firm snaps up three asset management focused laterals welcoming: financial services regulatory specialist, **Stephanie Biggs**, along with private funds duo **Ed Ford** and **Sacha Gofton-Salmond**. Biggs who will co-head the European financial services and funds regulatory team, advises private funds, asset managers and financial institutions on European financial market regulations and transactions. Ford and Gofton-Salmond both specialise in transactions in the secondary funds market.
- ✦ **Stephenson Harwood**
 A quintette of new faces (three lateral and one vertical) for the international firm this edition: real estate specialist **David Sinclair** defects from Norton Rose Fulbright; technology disputes lawyer **Michael Bywell** arrives from Hausfield; private wealth lateral **Beatrice Puoti** is welcomed from Burges Salmon; and technology disputes specialist **Peter Dalton** joins from Herbert Smith Freehills, where he was a senior associate. Sinclair, onetime head of UK real estate at his former firm, advises on both real estate investment and development with a niche in infrastructure projects. Bywell specialises in TMT disputes and large-scale data breach and data privacy civil litigation. Puoti, who was head of private wealth at her former firm, advises on international tax, trusts and estate planning. Dalton specialises in cyber breach responses, investigations, regulatory communications, and litigation arising from cyber disputes.
- ✦ **Wedlake Bell**
 Commercial art duo, **Rudy Capildeo** and **Tim Maxwell** join the City firm from Charles Russell Speechlys. Capildeo assists with the purchase and sale of artworks, luxury asset financing and the protection of intellectual property. Maxwell blends commercial litigation and private wealth expertise with a specialism in art and cultural property law.
- ✦ **Weil Gotshal & Manges**
 A trio of laterals for the New York firm this round-up: corporate lawyer **Sarah Flaherty** is welcomed from Linklaters alongside high yield/ leverage finance specialists **Andrew Hagan**, from Freshfields, and **Gilles Teerlinck**, from White & Case. Flaherty specialises in M&A, corporate restructurings, joint ventures and equity offerings across the mining and pharmaceutical sectors. Hagan and Teerlinck advise on cross-border leveraged finance transactions with an angle on public and private high-yield bond financings, acquisition finance, private placements and restructurings.
- ✦ **Wilson Sonsini**
 Three vertical hires this edition for the west coast US tech-focused outfit: which elevates: incentives specialist **Fleur Benns** from Pinsent Masons, where she was a legal director; employment lawyer **Martin Luff** from Vinson & Elkins, where he was a senior counsel; and corporate tax lawyer **Sarah Lane** from Simpson Thacher & Bartlett, where she was a senior counsel. Benns' practice is focused on employee incentives and benefits, most notably in the life science and tech sectors. Luff advises on employment contracts, termination and employment disputes. Lane specialises in cross-border and international corporate tax advice.

✦ **Winston & Strawn**

The Chicago headquartered outfit hires restructuring specialist **Paul Fleming**, from Addleshaw Goddard. Fleming, who joins as head of insolvency and restructuring, advises creditors, stakeholders, insolvency practitioners, and directors on domestic and cross-border restructurings and insolvencies.

✦ **White & Case**

Corporate tax lateral **Jessica Kemp** joins the New York firm from Travers Smith where she was head of M&A tax. Kemp's practice covers a spectrum of tax matters pertaining to M&A, restructurings and capital markets, as well as structural and incentive-based tax issues.

✦ **Withers**

Joining the international firm is lateral **Carrie Duncan** from South London firm Anthony Gold, where she was head of private client, probate and trusts. Duncan, a private client specialist, advises on probate and succession planning for high net worths.

✦ **Womble Bond Dickinson**

Corporate laterals **Rebecca Ferguson** and **Carl Powlson** join the Anglo-American outfit from Ince and Shepherd and Wedderburn respectively. Both Ferguson and Powlson undertake a range of corporate finance, including public and private M&A, with Ferguson, who headed the capital markets practice at her former firm, having an angle on equity capital markets listings.

Related links:

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✓ **The Specialist Partner Team**



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