

Law
Firm
Partner
Moves
in
London

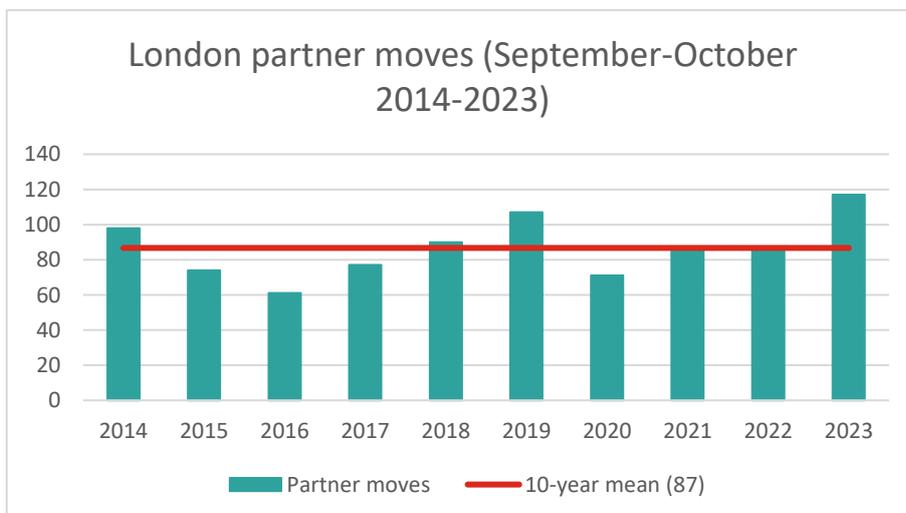
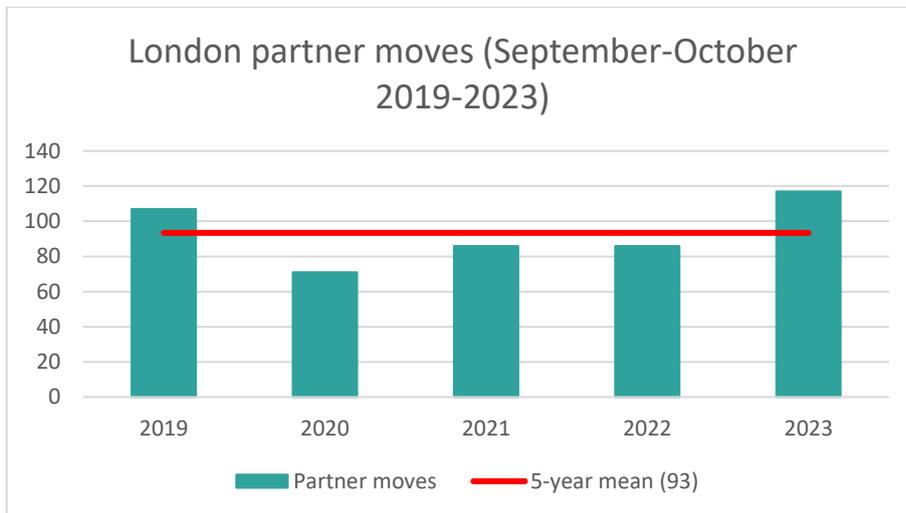
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- ◆ September –
October 2023
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Welcome to the 77th edition of Law Firm Partner Moves in London, from the specialist partner team at Edwards Gibson, where we look back at announced partner-level recruitment activity in London over the past two months and give you a ‘who’s moved where’ update.

📌 **September – October 2023**

This bi-monthly round up contains **117** partner moves, a staggering **36%** up on the **86** we saw for the same period last year (and **26%** and **34%** up on the cumulative five-year and ten-year averages for the same period - **93** and **87** respectively). Unsurprisingly, the statistics are inflated by the collapse of **Axiom Ince**; a 100 plus partner national law firm - with a penchant for acquiring other failed law firms - which finally collapsed in October ejecting scores of hapless partners and forcing them to rapidly find new homes.

Nevertheless, even if we exclude the **Axiom Ince** émigrés - which make up **15%** of the total (see below) - this edition would contain **100** partner moves, still **16%** higher than this time last year and up **11%** and **18%** on the cumulative five-year and ten-year averages for the same period.



✦ **The \$20 million lateral club**

The most dramatic news during the period was the well telegraphed follow-on raid by white shoe firm **Paul Weiss** on **Kirkland & Ellis** for an additional five laterals (this time in corporate, tax, and finance) to add to the [four it had already bagged in August](#). Nevertheless, as if to show it has nothing personal against its Chicago rival, this round-up also sees the New York outfit snatch a corporate lateral from **Linklaters**. Having suffered an enormous blow to its London reputation, and in an attempt to restock its leverage finance team with a near peer offering, that traditional apex predator of the legal recruitment world turns its big guns on Wall Street rival **Simpson Thacher** to steal a storied, and reputedly eye watering expensive, two-partner team in the form of **Ian Barratt** and **Sinead O'Shea**. Indeed, since August the internecine warfare between Paul Weiss and Kirkland & Ellis, has reportedly netted at least three of the laterals who have moved to those two firms in London, annual compensation of c. \$20 million apiece.

✦ **Top partner recruiters in London September – October 2023**

• Paul Weiss	6	(6 laterals)
• Addleshaw Goddard	4	(3 laterals)
• Collyer Bristow	4	(3 laterals)
• Howard Kennedy	4	(2 laterals)
• Memery Crystal	4	(3 laterals)
• DWF	3	(1 lateral)
• Irwin Mitchell	3	(3 laterals)
• Paul Hastings	3	(2 laterals)
• Pinsent Masons	3	(2 laterals)
• RPC	3	(2 laterals)
• Shoosmiths	3	(2 laterals)

In addition, sixteen firms, including three magic circle outfits, hired two partners apiece: **Allen & Overy**, **Baker McKenzie**, **Birketts**, **Brown Rudnick**, **DAC Beachcroft**, **Dentons**, **DLA Piper**, **Eversheds Sutherland**, **Freshfields**, **Gateley Legal**, **Herbert Smith Freehills**, **Horwich Farrelly**, **Kirkland & Ellis**, **Linklaters**, **Simmons & Simmons** and **Stephenson Harwood**.

✦ **Team hires**

The two most sizable multi-partner team moves this edition were: **Paul Weiss'** acquisition of a five-partner corporate, tax, and finance team from **Kirkland & Ellis** (see above); followed by **Collyer Bristow's** adoption of a four-partner real estate and construction team from the collapsed **Axiom Ince**.

Six firms hired two-partner teams: **Gateley Legal** (international arbitration and commercial litigation from **Clifford Chance**); **Horwich Farrelly** (insurance from **Axiom Ince**); **Irwin Mitchell** (white-collar crime and regulatory from **Axiom Ince**); **Kirkland & Ellis** (finance from **Simpson Thacher**); and **Memery Crystal** (real estate and property finance from **Howard Kennedy**).

✔ **Highest firm attrition rates in London (laterals only) September – October 2023**

- **Axiom Ince** 16*
- **Kirkland & Ellis** 10
- **Linklaters** 3
- **Mishcon de Reya** 3

*Only records moves made in accordance to our [methodology](#).

In addition, ten other firms lost two partners apiece: **Armstrong Teasdale**, **Cadwalader**, **DLA Piper**, **Latham & Watkins**, **Lewis Silkin**, **Memery Crystal**, **Morgan Lewis**, **Pinsent Masons**, **Reed Smith** and **Simpson Thacher**.

✔ **Ince & Out – the final collapse of Axiom Ince**

The collapse of Axiom Ince has forcibly dumped over a hundred partners onto the market nationwide. Whilst a plethora of law firms have opportunistically scooped up refugees from the flotsam and jetsam (with some firms purportedly acquiring multiple lateral partners in London), many of the hires do not meet the requirements for inclusion in this publication set out in our [methodology](#). This is either because they work in practice areas that we do not record, or because, in our assessment, the partners are not in fact based in London. As such, in this edition, we have recorded only **17**, out of the nearly 30 that have been announced.

With Axiom Ince having been made up of a smorgasbord of failed law firms prior to its own collapse - notably **Ince & Co** (a shipping, insurance, energy and aviation blue blood), **Gordon Dadds** (a west end private client flavoured outfit) and **Plexus Law** (an insurance specialist), we have recorded all moves from organisations eventually eaten up by the now-defunct firm as moves coming from Axiom Ince.



✦ **Also of note in this edition**

- **33%** of all hires (**39**) were female
- **26** lawyers (**22%**) were elevated to partnership from other law firms
- **6** firms hired from in-house: **CMS** (from Binance); (**DLA Piper** (from PGIM); **Freshfields** (from the Competition and Markets Authority); **Howard Kennedy** (from London Wall Lending); **Lewis Silkin** (from unspecified) and **Morgan Lewis** (from the Information Commissioner's Office)

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like to discuss this article or any other aspect of the market in more depth.

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

◆ **Addleshaw Goddard**

A quartet of hires (three lateral and one vertical) for the international firm this edition: Contentious construction specialist **Caroline Pope** from DLA; real estate finance lateral **Fran Sepúlveda** from Mishcon de Reya; TMT lawyer **Natalie Trainor** from Pinsent Masons; and investment funds specialist **Ben Cocoracchio** from Osborne Clarke, where he was an associate director. Pope advises on domestic and international litigation, arbitration and adjudication for developers, contractors, energy providers and utilities. Sepúlveda advises funds, family offices and financial institutions on investment and development financing and debt restructurings. Trainor acts for private and public sector clients on technology, digital transformation and outsourcing projects. Cocoracchio specialises in private funds with a focus on real estate.

◆ **Allectus Law**

Mishcon de Reya corporate lawyer **Angeli Arora** decamps to launch a new corporate boutique aimed at advising private funds. Arora, who herself has an activist investor niche, has angled the new firm to advise on impact and ESG investing, special situations, M&A and investor disputes.

◆ **Allen & Overy**

The magic circle firm, soon to be restyled A&O Shearman, bags a brace of US firm laterals this edition: corporate and restructuring lawyer **Sophie Jermine** arrives from Akin; and contentious construction specialist **Daniel Garton** is welcomed from White & Case. Jermine's practice focuses on special situations, cross-border structuring, M&A investment funds and portfolio investments. Garton who joins the international arbitration team, specialises in construction and infrastructure disputes across the energy, oil and gas, petrochemical, data centre, transportation and mining industries.

◆ **Baker McKenzie**

Two joiners (one lateral and one vertical) for the global verein this edition: restructuring and corporate specialist **Richard Needham** rejoins after two years at KPMG Law; and corporate lawyer **Hannah Luqmani** is welcomed from Fried Frank, where she was an associate. Needham advises corporates and private equity sponsors on business reorganisations and spin-off M&A transactions. Luqmani advises on a range of private equity transactions including M&A and joint ventures.

◆ **Bates Wells**

Commercial litigator **Tim Constable** arrives at the "values driven", right on London firm from Dentons in Milton Keynes. Constable advises on a wide range of commercial disputes as well as professional indemnity.

◆ **Bird & Bird**

Joining the European firm as head of its employee incentives and benefits team is tax and incentives specialist **Sarah Ferguson** from DLA Piper, where she was a legal director. Ferguson advises companies on the design, implementation and operation of executive remuneration and employee incentives along with related trust and tax support.

◆ **Birketts**

The Cambridge headquartered outfit welcomes two new faces this edition: corporate émigré **Matthew Stratton** from the collapsed Axiom Ince; and finance lawyer **Tom Berisford** from Osborne Clarke, where he was an associate director. Stratton has an eclectic practice advising on M&A and joint ventures, with a particular interest in the energy, shipping and commodities sectors. Berisford has experience in corporate lending, acquisition and leveraged finance, financial restructurings and distressed debt trades.

✦ **Brown Rudnick**

A brace of laterals for the Boston born firm this edition as it restocks its London disputes offering: commercial litigator **Robin Pickworth** arrives from Armstrong Teasdale, where he was head of the UK civil fraud practice; and **Derval Walsh** joins from Mishcon de Reya, where he was head of finance & banking disputes. Pickworth has particular experience in international fraud and private client disputes. Walsh, who is typically adverse to large banks, advises on disputes on matters including loan notes, securitisations, syndicated loans, sovereign debt and interbank money market debt.

✦ **Clifford Chance**

The global energy & infrastructure group at the magic circle firm welcomes finance lawyer **Craig Nethercott** from Latham & Watkins. Nethercott advises on a range of infrastructure and energy project finance, banking, capital markets, and Islamic finance transactions across the EMEA and Asia.

✦ **Clyde & Co**

Energy lateral **Anna Nerush** makes the switch to the global firm from Texas headquartered Haynes and Boone. Nerush specialises in advising the emerging markets, energy and energy infrastructure sectors on a range of corporate and commercial issues, including acquisitions, divestments and joint ventures.

✦ **CMS**

The verein-like international firm bolsters its crypto and digital assets team with financial services specialist **Mike Ringer** who joins from cryptocurrency exchange Binance, where he was the head of legal. Ringer specialises in fintech and digital assets regulation.

✦ **Collyer Bristow**

A real estate and construction break-off from the collapsed Axiom Ince emerges at the London firm which rescues a four-partner team (three laterals and one vertical) in the form of: contentious construction and property litigators **Ian Chappell** and **Adrian Bingham** along with real estate lawyers **Mino Themistocli** and **George Georgiou**, who was a consultant at his previous firm.

✦ **Cooley**

Disputes lateral **Charlie Lightfoot** arrives from fellow US firm Jenner & Block, where he was the London managing partner. Lightfoot, who joins as global chair of his new firm's international arbitration practice, advises on both commercial and investor state arbitrations as well as general commercial litigation.

✦ **Covington & Burling**

Making the switch to the Washington DC headquartered outfit is financial services regulatory lateral **David Berman** from Latham & Watkins. Berman advises financial institutions on regulatory and compliance, investigations, market conduct and systems and controls.

✦ **DAC Beachcroft**

Two hires for the national firm this edition which welcomes: real estate lateral **Steven Pitchford** from Macfarlanes; and aviation and litigation émigré **Anna Anatolitou** from the collapsed law firm Axiom Ince. Pitchford advises on real estate investment and development along with related restructurings. Anatolitou advises on general commercial disputes as well as aviation related litigation, claims management, liability and regulatory matters.

✦ **Dentons**

The global leviathan bags a brace of laterals this edition: debt capital markets lawyer **Toby Gray** from Linklaters; and pensions specialist **Carolyn Saunders** from Pinsent Masons, where she was

onetime head of pensions. Gray advises on securitised derivative products, with a focus on repackagings, credit linked notes and synthetic securitisations. Saunders advises employers, trustees, and providers on the full range of pensions issues, including transactions, governance and contentious matters.

✦ **DLA Piper**

Two new faces for the global firm this round-up: finance lawyer **Charlotte Lewis-Williams** joins from asset manager Pricoa Private Capital (PGIM), where she was a legal counsel; and debt capital markets lawyer **Louise Hennessey** is elevated from Allen & Overy, where she was counsel. Lewis-Williams specialises in leveraged, acquisition and corporate finance with particular experience in the private credit industry. Hennessey advises on a broad range of debt capital markets products and matters, with a particular focus on emerging market and social housing bond issues.

✦ **Duane Morris**

Disputes lawyer **Mark Handley** arrives from fellow US firm Curtis, Mallet-Prevost, Colt & Mosle. Handley, a solicitor-advocate, advises on cross-border commercial litigation, commercial and investor state international arbitration, financial crime and sanctions matters.

✦ **DWF**

A trio of new joiners (one lateral and two vertical) for the formerly listed, now taken private, firm which welcomes: re/insurance lateral **Andrew Symons** from DLA Piper; corporate lawyer **Dhruv Chhatralia** from Bird & Bird, where he was a legal director; and pensions specialist **Liz Ramsaran** from PwC, where she was a director. Symons specialises in financial lines and reinsurance disputes. Chhatralia has experience of M&A, PE and venture capital transactions in the financial services and TMT sectors. Ramsaran

advises trustees, corporate sponsors, and providers on all aspects of pensions law.

✦ **Enyo Law**

Now you see me ... just 18 months after his high-profile [lateral move to Allen & Overy from RPC](#), disputes partner **Andy McGregor** decamps to the London disputes boutique Enyo law. McGregor specialises in civil fraud and finance litigation.

✦ **Eversheds Sutherland**

The Anglo-American outfit welcomes two new hires this publication; employment lateral **Graham Green** from Reed Smith; and disputes lawyer **Katia Finkel** from Baker McKenzie, where she was a senior associate. Green advises on contentious and non-contentious employment within the TMT sector with a particular focus on media clients. Finkel specialises in both commercial and investor state international arbitration, focusing on the energy, mining and infrastructure sectors.

✦ **Faegre Drinker**

Morrison & Foerster corporate lateral **Dan Coppel** makes the switch to the Minneapolis headquartered outfit this round-up. Coppel has a broad practice incorporating venture capital and private equity M&A, joint ventures and restructurings across a range of sectors including: technology, manufacturing, automotive and real estate.

✦ **Farrer & Co**

The London firm welcomes non-contentious construction lateral **Clare Reddy** from Lewis Silkin, where she was head of construction. Reddy advises on a range of matters including regeneration, mixed use development, refurbishment and fitting out of commercial property.

✦ **Freshfields**

The usually highly conservative hirer welcomes two partners this edition: ESG specialist **Doug Bryden** from Travers Smith, where he headed the environment & operational regulatory team; and competition lawyer **Colin Raftery**, who returns to the magic circle firm after a seven-year stint at the Competition and Markets Authority, where he was a senior director. Bryden primarily advises boards and investors on ESG governance strategies, transparency, obligations and responding to ESG crisis events. Raftery, who led the CMA's merger control function, will focus on anti-trust merger control matters.

✦ **Gateley Legal**

The listed firm elevates disputes duo **Michael Lightfoot** and **Kieran McCarthy** from Clifford Chance, where they were both senior associates. Lightfoot and McCarthy, who are both styled co-heads of international arbitration at their new firm, advise on a mix of international arbitration and commercial disputes.

✦ **Gibson Dunn**

In a vertical hire the Los Angeles headquartered outfit elevates finance lawyer **Kavita Davis** from Simpson Thacher, where she was counsel. Davis advises on debt finance and leveraged buyouts with an angle on sponsor-side infrastructure matters.

✦ **Goodwin**

The Boston born firm snags corporate crime specialist **Mark Beardsworth** from Cadwalader to lead its new European investigations and enforcement practice. Beardsworth advises corporates and individuals on white-collar crime, internal investigations and reputational and enforcement risk.

✦ **Gowling WLG**

Joining the Anglo-Canadian outfit is IP and life sciences specialist **Sharmela Kalmer** from Withers, where she was a senior associate. Kalmer focuses on non-contentious IP, working with the biotech and medtech industries.

✦ **Greenwoods Legal**

Private wealth & tax émigré **Matthew Biles** joins from the collapsed Axiom Ince, where he was head of private client & tax. Biles advises on private wealth law with a particular angle on inheritance, capital gains and income tax.

✦ **Hamblins**

The London firm hires litigation lateral **Peter Huth-Wallis** from alternative law firm Gunnercooke. Huth-Wallis has a broad practice covering shareholder disputes, contentious insolvency, civil fraud and trading and asset recovery.

✦ **Hannaford Turner**

Arriving at the shipping boutique is superyacht specialist, and refugee from the collapsed Axiom Ince, **Duncan Bateson**. Bateson acts for ultra-high net worth individuals, banks and other industry participants on the financing, sale and purchase, charter and construction of superyachts.

✦ **Herbert Smith Freehills**

Two corporate hires (one lateral and one vertical) for the international firm which welcomes: **Eleanor Shanks** from Sidley Austin; and **Dylan Doran Kennett** from DLA Piper, where he was a senior associate. Shanks, who joins as head of international private equity, advises private equity sponsors, investors and funds on transactions across a range of industry sectors. Kennett specialises in venture capital and growth equity with an angle on the technology, life sciences, sport and entertainment sectors.

✔ **Hogan Lovells**

The global firm hires energy lateral **Andy Shaw** from CMS where he was co-head of the oil & gas and energy transition team. Shaw advises on both transitional energy and oil & gas with a focus on the former including green and blue hydrogen, green ammonia, carbon capture, geothermal, wind, solar and BESS.

✔ **Horwich Farrelly**

The collapse of Axiom Ince has seen this insurance heavy outfit purportedly acquire multiple lateral partners in London, however, in accordance with our [methodology](#), only two of these are recorded in this round-up - insurance/reinsurance lawyers **Victoria Jordan** and **Paul Cha**. Jordan focuses on property risk and coverage advising on construction and property related professional liability. Cha also advises on coverage issues and related broker disputes.

✔ **Howard Kennedy**

A quartet of new arrivals for the London firm this edition: real estate lateral **Jason Tann** from Cripps, where he was head of the London commercial real estate team; litigation lawyer **Nikki Edwards** from alternative law firm Temple Bright; corporate crime specialist **David Hamilton** from Pinsent Masons, where he was a senior associate; and finance lawyer **Hannah Place** from London Wall Lending, where she was a senior legal counsel. Tann's practice covers investment, development, commercial landlord and tenant and asset management. Edwards advises on an eclectic range of commercial disputes across a plethora of industries. Hamilton specialises in financial services enforcement and white-collar defence matters. Place, who was formerly a legal director at Howard Kennedy, advises on real estate finance and related restructuring.

✔ **Hunton Andrews Kurth**

Arriving at the Virginia headquartered firm as head of international arbitration, is disputes lateral **Maurice Kenton**, from Clyde & Co, where he was one-time co-chair of the global arbitration group. Kenton has a particular angle on the oil & gas and extractive industry space, advising on a mix of commercial and state related international arbitrations with a secondary practice in commercial and insurance litigation. Kenton's move reunites him with energy laterals David Hesse and Philip Mace who also left Clyde & Co to join the US firm [in August](#).

✔ **Irwin Mitchell**

Three hires for the national firm this edition which welcomes construction lateral **Joanna Preece** from Maples Teasdale alongside a two-partner team from the collapsed Axiom Ince in the form of: regulatory lawyer **Philip Somarakis**; and white-collar crime lawyer **Colette Kelly**. Preece advises on the construction aspects of developments acquisitions, disposals, lettings and financings. Somarkis, who joins as the new head of regulatory, specialises in alcohol and entertainment licensing, betting and gaming and crime. Kelly advises individuals and corporates on fraud, proceeds of crime and regulatory matters.

✔ **JMW Solicitors**

Joining the Manchester headquartered firm this edition is restructuring and insolvency lawyer **Imran Aslam** from Armstrong Teasdale, where he was head of insolvency and restructuring. Aslam advises on insolvency related matters across a range of sectors including: automotive, real estate, financial services, retail and leisure sectors.

✦ **Kennedys**

The insurance focused outfit welcomes tax litigation lateral **Andy Brown** from Bird & Bird. Brown advises on tax related disputes and investigations, money laundering, fraud and other tax related crisis situations.

✦ **Kirkland & Ellis**

Knock-on effect ... following the recent high-profile raid on its own leveraged finance team by New York rival Paul Weiss, the Chicago-spawned powerhouse begins to restock by itself poaching a two-partner leverage finance team from Simpson Thacher in the form of laterals **Ian Barratt** and **Sinead O'Shea**. The storied duo both advise on domestic and cross-border acquisition and leveraged financings with O'Shea's practice having an angle on infrastructure finance and syndicated corporate facilities.

✦ **Lewis Silkin**

Prodigal Son ... returning to the London firm is IP and entertainment lawyer **Phil Hughes**, who until recently, was COO of Gleam Futures, a client of the firm and continues to hold a number of non-legal positions. Hughes, a former associate at Lewis Silkin, will advise brands, talent managers, and media entities on intellectual property, commercial contracts, and regulation.

✦ **Linklaters**

Two laterals for the magic circle firm this round-up as it welcomes: anti-trust specialist **Bruce Kilpatrick** from Addleshaw Goddard, where he was head of competition; and IP disputes lawyer **Katie Coltart** from Kirkland & Ellis. Kilpatrick, a Linklaters alumnus, specialises in both advisory and litigation matters including: merger control, anti-trust enforcement, market investigations and state aid. Coltart advises on patent litigation across the life sciences and technology sectors with a secondary practice in trade secrets, trademark, and IP licensing.

✦ **Macfarlanes**

The elite City firm elevates private funds lawyer **Peter Chapman** from Sidley Austin, where he was a senior associate. Chapman's hire follows on from that of funds lateral Stephen Ross who made the switch from Sidley Austin [in January](#). Chapman specialises in investment funds with experience in fund formation, management structuring, GP-stake deals and secondaries.

✦ **Mayer Brown**

Finance lateral **Victoria Thompson** decamps from fellow US firm Morgan Lewis. Thompson's practice focuses on secured lending and restructuring work, including distressed debt funding, special situations, asset-based lending and supply chain finance.

✦ **McDermott Will & Emery**

Arriving at the Chicago headquartered firm is real estate finance lateral **Usman Khan** from Kirkland & Ellis. Khan advises lenders, arrangers, private equity sponsors and other real estate investors on financing and restructuring of senior and mezzanine real estate debt.

✦ **Memery Crystal**

A quartet of hires (three lateral, one vertical) for the listed law firm which welcomes: corporate lawyer **Edward Baker** from Simmons & Simmons; employment specialist **Bob Cordran** from Dorsey & Whitney; and finance duo **Steve Clinning** and **Laura Brown** from Howard Kennedy, where Brown was a senior associate. Baker specialises in equity capital markets and M&A. Cordran, who will head the employment team at his new firm, advises on an eclectic range of contentious and non-contentious matters. Clinning and Brown predominately focus on real estate, development and hotel finance.

✦ **Mishcon de Reya**

The London firm bags disputes and contentious insolvency lateral **Mark Whelan** from Memery Crystal, where he was the head of litigation. Whelan principally advises clients in the financial services sector acting for brokers, funds and insolvency practitioners.

✦ **More Fisher Brown**

Joining the specialist shipping boutique this edition is marine lawyer **Andy Powell** from the collapsed Axiom Ince. Powell's practice covers contentious and non-contentious matters, with a particular angle in ship and yacht sale and purchase.

✦ **Morgan Lewis**

Privacy and cybersecurity specialist **Vishnu Shankar** joins the US firm from the Information Commissioner's Office, where he was head of legal (regulatory enforcement). Shankar, who only joined the ICO in January this year from Proskauer Rose - where he was a partner - advises on GDPR and e-privacy laws, the Cybersecurity Directive and international data transfers.

✦ **Morrison & Foerster**

The west coast firm welcomes leading commercial disputes lateral **Ben Summerfield** from Reed Smith, where he was practice group leader for EME. Ranked for commercial litigation, banking disputes and civil fraud, Summerfield advises on English high court litigation and international arbitrations acting for corporates, state entities and ultra-high net worths.

✦ **Orrick**

The US firm elevates energy and infrastructure lawyer **Albert Yu** from Linklaters, where he was managing associate. Yu advises on financings, developments, joint ventures, and M&A transactions with a particular focus on renewable energy and energy transition projects.

✦ **Paul Hastings**

Three hires (two lateral and one vertical) join the Los Angeles headquartered firm this edition. ESG lawyer **Ruth Knox** and real estate finance specialist **Rehan Hanif**, are both welcomed from Kirkland & Ellis; and corporate lawyer **Candice Lambeth** arrives from Weil Gotshal & Manges, where she was an associate. Knox, who joins as global co-chair of ESG & sustainable finance, specialises in the management, mitigation, and maximization of ESG risks and opportunities. Hanif advises lenders, arrangers, private equity sponsors and other real estate investors on financing and restructuring senior and mezzanine real estate debt. Lambeth specialises in assisting clients in the energy and infrastructure sectors on domestic and cross-border M&A, joint ventures and co-investments.

✦ **Paul Weiss**

Double tap ... the fiery rebirth of the New York firm's London office continues with six more English law laterals, five of whom are snatched in a follow-on raid from Kirkland & Ellis: two corporate lawyers, **Roger Johnson** and **Andreas Philipson**; two tax specialists, **Cian O'Connor** and **Timothy Lowe**; and finance lawyer **Stefan Arnold-Soulby**. Joining alongside the Kirkland & Ellis quintette is corporate lateral **Will Aitken-Davies** from Linklaters. Johnson, who was rumoured to be moving in [the last edition of Partner Moves](#), specialises in high-value private equity and M&A and will join as co-chair of the global M&A practice and co-head of the London office. Philipson's practice focuses on advising financial sponsors and their portfolio companies on M&A, restructurings and leveraged buyouts. O'Connor has a particular angle on real estate and private equity tax structuring advising on joint ventures, M&A, acquisition financing and IPOs. Lowe specialises in the tax aspects of public and private M&A, reorganisations, reconstructions and corporate finance. Arnold-Soulby specialises in debt finance, acting for private equity sponsors

on leveraged buyouts, hybrid and direct real estate, synthetic equity and other financing solutions. Aitken-Davies advises private equity houses and other financial sponsors on private M&A, take-privates, carve-outs, co-investments, consortium deals and distressed acquisitions. Significantly, Paul Weiss' London office has now taken 9 lateral partners from Kirkland & Ellis in the past three months, making this by far the single biggest team move in BigLaw this year.

✦ **Penningtons Manches Cooper**

Shipping disputes refugee **Paul Crane** is rescued by the London and south-east focused firm from the collapsed Axiom Ince. Crane's practice is predominantly P&I and defence dealing with claims surrounding bills of lading, other contracts of carriage, and charterparty recoveries.

✦ **Pillsbury**

Private funds lateral **Gawain Hughes** makes the switch from fellow US firm Morgan Lewis. Hughes advises institutional fund managers and investors on the structuring and investment into unregulated investment funds, with a focus on the real assets, private equity and debt/credit sectors.

✦ **Pinsent Masons**

A trio of hires (two lateral and one vertical) for the national firm which welcomes: TMT litigator **Emily Cox** from Stewarts; IP disputes specialist **James Marshall** from Taylor Wessing; and structured finance lawyer **Harjeet Lall** from Mayer Brown, where she was a senior associate. Cox, who was head of media disputes at her former firm, specialises in data privacy litigation and media disputes. Marshall's practice focuses on the life sciences and technology sectors advising on patent litigation and enforcement strategies. Lall, who was co-chair of the India practice at her former firm, advises financial institutions on a wide range of structured finance and securitisation transactions.

✦ **Quinn Emanuel**

The elite US disputes boutique bags international arbitration lateral **Melis Acuner** from Cadwalader. Acuner advises on both international commercial arbitration and commercial litigation across a range of industries including: energy, steel, telecoms and construction.

✦ **RPC**

Three new faces join the insurance-heavy international firm this edition: corporate refugee **James Channo** from collapsed law firm Axiom Ince; insurance specialist **Thom Lumley** who returns from a career break, prior to which he was a partner at Plexus Law; and tech-focused litigation specialist **Caroline Tuck** from Deloitte, where she was a director. Channo advises on AIM and main market listings, secondary fundraisings, cross-border M&A and joint ventures, with a particular focus on the hotels, retail, technology, oil and gas and renewable energy sectors. Lumley's practice covers general liability and casualty insurance. Tuck advises on commercial disputes with an angle on large-scale distressed IT and technology transformation projects.

✦ **Shepherd and Wedderburn**

The Scottish-headquartered outfit bolsters its real estate team with finance lawyer **Sam Clarke** from Acuity Law. Clarke advises on real estate financings across the hotel, student accommodation, office, industrial, retail and residential asset classes.

✦ **Shoosmiths**

The national firm welcomes three hires this issue: IP litigator **Antony Craggs** from Lewis Silkin; finance lateral **James Spencer** from Alston & Bird; and real estate finance lawyer **Paul Hynes** from Katten, where he was senior associate. Craggs advises on patent, trademark and design litigation across a range of sectors including life

sciences, technology and industrials. Spencer's practice incorporates real estate finance, structured finance and related restructuring. Hynes advises banks alternative lenders and developers on real estate finance.

Signature Litigation

Kirkland & Ellis international arbitration specialist **Philipp Kurek** decamps to the disputes boutique. Kurek advises on both investment and commercial arbitration across an eclectic range of sectors including: TMT, logistics, financial services, private equity, manufacturing, pharmaceutical and real estate.

Simmons & Simmons

Two hires for the City stalwart this edition: structured finance specialist **Matthew Monahan** arrives from Linklaters, and knowledge management lawyer **Katja Ullrich-North** makes the switch from Hogan Lovells, where she was the (non-partner) global head of knowledge management. Monahan's practice focuses on structured transactions including: repackagings, structured note programmes and OTC derivatives. Ullrich-North will drive the firmwide strategy for knowledge management.

Stephenson Harwood

A brace of laterals for the international firm this round-up: anti-trust barrister **Trudy Feaster-Gee** from Walker Morris in Leeds, where she was head of competition law; and shipping finance émigré **Stuart McAlpine** from the failed law firm Axiom Ince, where he was global head of marine projects. Feaster-Gee primarily advises on contentious anti-trust matters with experience across an eclectic range of commercial and regulated sectors. McAlpine advises on ship finance and projects in the marine and energy industries.

Stewarts Law

Litigation and arbitration specialist **Sherina Petit** makes the switch from Norton Rose Fulbright to the disputes boutique to lead its international arbitration and India practice. Petit, who has particular expertise in India-related matters, works across a range of sectors including energy, pharma, finance and technology.

Taylor Wessing

The TMT heavy outfit elevates contentious IP lawyer **Anneka Dalton** from Hogan Lovells, where she was a counsel. Dalton, a solicitor advocate, advises on trademarks and domain names, and has a special interest in online IP issues.

Trowers & Hamlins

In a vertical hire, the international firm elevates energy and infrastructure lawyer **Josh Partridge** from Bird & Bird, where he was a non-partner. Partridge focuses on renewable generation, energy storage and digital technologies.

Vinson & Elkins

Joining the energy flavoured Houston headquartered outfit is energy and infrastructure lateral **Chris Taufatofua** from New York headquartered rival Milbank. Taufatofua advises lenders, sponsors, governments and contractors on project development, finance and transactions in the energy transition, LNG, power and renewables sectors.

Walkers

A lateral hire for the Cayman Islands headquartered firm which welcomes aviation finance lawyer **Donna Ager** from Maples Group. Ager advises on Irish law surrounding debt financings, portfolios sales and acquisitions, aircraft asset backed securities, enhanced equipment trust certificates and collateralised loan obligations.

✦ **Wedlake Bell**

The City firm snags employment lateral **Stephen Ravenscroft** from listed outfit Memery Crystal, where he was head of employment. Ravenscroft advises corporates and senior executives on the full range of both contentious and non-contentious employment matters.

✦ **Weightmans**

Private client émigré **Naomi Woods** joins the national firm from the collapsed law firm Axiom Ince. Woods advises on wealth structuring and protection and estate administration, with particular expertise in agricultural and rural affairs.

✦ **White & Case**

A vertical hire for the white-shoe firm as it elevates debt finance lawyer **Peter Mason** from Freshfields, where he was a senior associate. Mason advises on leveraged, investment-grade and real estate financings, refinancings and restructurings, with an angle on acquisition financing.

✦ **Womble Bond Dickinson**

Financial services regulatory lateral **Michael Lewis** arrives at the transatlantic tie-up from Osborne Clarke. Lewis has particular expertise in regulatory capital, client assets and the conduct of business regulation and authorisations.

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✓ **The Specialist Partner Team**



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