


# Law Firm Partner Moves in London

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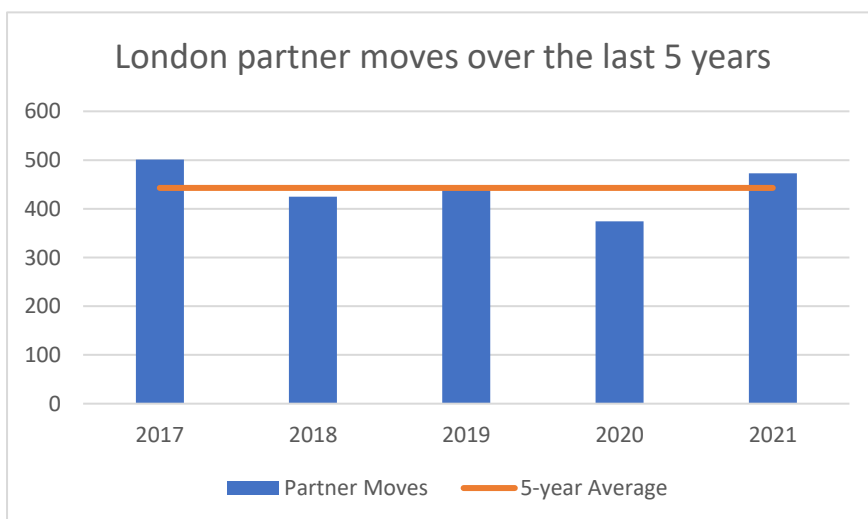
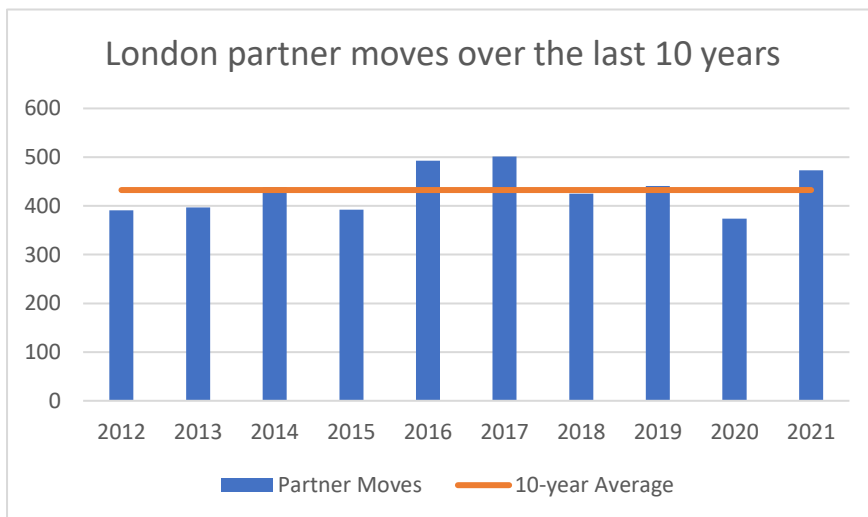
 November -  
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Welcome to the 66<sup>th</sup> edition of law firm partner moves, from the specialist partner team at Edwards Gibson, where we look back at announced partner-level recruitment activity in London over the past two months and give you a ‘who’s moved where’ update.

This edition concludes our Law Firm Partner Moves in London for 2021 and we have included some facts and figures below comparing this year’s partner-level recruitment activity with that over the past ten years.

◆ **A summary of 2021**

2021 saw a total of 473 announced partner moves – a 26% increase on the 374 moves we saw in 2020. This was respectively 7% above the five-year average (443) and 9% above the ten-year average (433). Indeed, aside from 2016 and 2017 (which were disproportionately elevated due to the voluntary and involuntary number of laterals entering the market associated with the collapse of King & Wood Mallesons’ European verein), 2021 was a record year for partner moves.



The most prolific hirer of 2021 was **Kirkland & Ellis** which - aided in part by its unusual partnership structure - hired 15 partners (albeit only 5 of whom were laterals), succeeded by **White & Case** which snapped up no fewer than 11. Following suit, **Addleshaw Goddard** and **Greenberg Traurig** each hired 10 partners.

Despite being the two most coveted firms, both **White & Case** and **Kirkland & Ellis** fell victim to the highest rates of attrition, losing 10 and 11 serving partners respectively. Unsurprisingly, in view of its imminent plans to list on the London stock exchange, **Mishcon de Reya** suffered the third highest rate of attrition, parting ways with 9 laterals in 2021.

Top partner recruiters in London 2021	Total hires	Lateral hires
• Kirkland & Ellis	15	5
• White & Case	11	8
• Greenberg Traurig	10	8
• Addleshaw Goddard	10	7
• McDermott Will & Emery	9	7
• DLA Piper	9	7
• Taylor Wessing	8	7
• Simmons & Simmons	8	6
• DWF	8	4
• Dentons	8	6

In terms of laterals (partnership to partnership hires), a dozen firms hired six or more partners, with **Greenberg Traurig** and **White & Case** hiring the most with eight partners apiece.

Top partner recruiters in London 2021 (partnership to partnership moves only)	Firms with largest attrition in London 2021 (partnership to partnership moves only)
• Greenberg Traurig 8	• Kirkland & Ellis 11
• White & Case 8	• White & Case 10
• Addleshaw Goddard 7	• Mishcon de Reya 9
• DLA Piper 7	• Dentons 8*
• Fladgate 7	• BCLP 7
• McDermott Will & Emery 7	• DLA Piper 7
• Taylor Wessing 7	• Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer 6
• Dentons 6	• Herbert Smith Freehills 6*
• Goodwin Procter 6	• Jones Day 6
• Latham & Watkins 6	• McDermott Will & Emery 6*
• Paul Hastings 6	• TLT 6
• Simmons & Simmons 6	• Vinson & Elkins 6

\*Includes one lateral move from an overseas office into partnership at another firm in London.

In terms of rarity value, perhaps the most notable single lateral move was **Weil Gotshal & Manges'** snaring of **Slaughter and May** corporate M&A lawyer **Murray Cox** – a lateral not even remotely close to that firm's mandatory retirement age.

#### ✦ **Alternative Law Firms**

As per our [methodology](#), Edwards Gibson only records hires by law firms with conventional partnership (or corporate) structures; nevertheless, it should be noted that, were we to do so, both **Keystone Law** and **Gunner Cooke** would likely feature in the rankings above. The difficulties in confirming a given lawyer's location at these entities make like-for-like comparisons with conventional law firms particularly difficult. However, on a rough reckoning, **Keystone** hired 30 and **Gunner Cooke** hired 16 relevant partners – if correct, this would make them the highest and second-highest partner recruiters in London in 2021.

#### ✦ **Top team moves in 2021**

Altogether, nine firms made single team hires consisting of three or more partners. The single largest team hire of 2021 was **Greenberg Traurig's** seven-partner fraud and disputes raid on the soon-to-be-listed **Mishcon de Reya**. **Hogan Lovells** also made its mark early in 2021 with a four-partner litigation team from **Debevoise & Plimpton**, consisting of an even split between lateral and promotional hires.

**Gibson Dunn & Crutcher** stands out for nabbing two separate three-partner corporate private equity teams in as many months from **Vinson & Elkins** and **Sidley & Austin**.

In addition, the following firms hired three-partner teams in 2021: **Advant** (finance from **Grimaldi Studio Legale**); **Bracewell** (energy from **Clifford Chance**); **Paul Hastings** (corporate crime from **White & Case**); **Sidley Austin** (finance from **Vinson & Elkins**); **Taylor Wessing** (corporate from **Stephenson Harwood**); and **Willkie Farr & Gallagher** (anti-trust from **Quinn Emanuel Uquhart & Sullivan**).

#### ✦ **Other fun facts from 2021**

- 28% of moves (133) were female;
- 4% of all moves - 20 in all - were in-house lawyers moving into law firm partnership;
- Including those moving from in-house, 135 lawyers moved from non-partner roles into partnership (29% of the total number of moves in 2021).

◆ **November - December 2021**

This bi-monthly round-up contains 79 partner moves – up 36% on the 58 we saw during the same period in 2020 (and 34% greater than the cumulative five-year average for the same period – 59).

Top hirers this edition with **three** hires each were:

- ◆ **Gibson Dunn & Crutcher**
- ◆ **Olaniwun Ajayi**
- ◆ **Taylor Wessing**
- ◆ **Wedlake Bell**

Over the past two months, the most significant team move detailed in our edition below was **Gibson Dunn & Crutcher's** raid on **Sidley & Austin** for a three-partner private equity team. The move comes just two months after the Los Angeles-born outfit snapped up another (infrastructure-heavy) private equity team from **Vinson & Elkins** (reported in [our last edition](#)).

It was announced in November that leading financial disputes lawyer **Natasha Harrison** is to leave her role as London managing partner of US litigation powerhouse **Boies Schiller Flexner**, to set up her own boutique. As the name of Harrison's new entity has not yet been declared, this move is not recorded in our figures for this edition. It is probable that Harrison's departure will result in further lateral departures from the US firm in 2022.

Four firms hired from in-house this round-up, making up 5% of the total: **BCLP** (from Bloomberg); **Matheson** (from Accenture); **TLT** (from the Government Legal Department); and **Wiggin** (from Three).

◆ **Market outlook for 2022**

On both sides of the Atlantic, the Covid-induced lockdown year of 2020, and the subsequent economic bounce-back through 2021, have been kind to commercial law firms. In 2020 emergency legislative changes as well as commercial and contractual uncertainties triggered urgent requests for legal advice and dispute resolution assistance. When the economy roared back to life, aided by unprecedented government largess and unbridled optimism following successful vaccine roll outs, investor animal spirits took over. Since then, law firm deal teams have been flat out advising on corporate M&A and financings.

Better still, whilst law firm revenue typically increased, dramatic cost savings (from global travel restrictions, fewer entertainment expenses, rent reductions, etc.) coupled with productivity gains from the universal adoption of Zoom/Teams - as well as (now proven) efficiencies in associates working from home - meant that law firm profitability rose sharply in 2020.

Record revenue and profitability have provided law firms with the means and confidence to invest in new partner hires, so unsurprisingly 2021 was, in real terms, a record year for law firm partner recruitment.

At the time of writing, the legal boom continues with deal and disputes teams working flat out. With few exceptions, partners in almost every practice area, in every class of commercial law firm, need additional associate/fee earner support to service their practice. The sustained work levels combined with the new isolation of working on a screen from home appears to be taking a toll on associate and fee earner mental health and engagement, with many complaining of dissatisfaction and burnout. Law firms have responded, as they have since the dot-com bubble, with double-digit pay rises and generous bonus payments triggering an associate salary war.

Sharply increased fixed people costs, as well as associate churn, will doubtless blunt law firm profitability a tad, although whilst the tsunami of work continues, will be sustainable. Nevertheless, history tells us that law firm salary wars don't tend to end well for associates, and more importantly for law firm management they have always been a portent of a market correction.

As of December 2021, much of Europe is re-entering some form of modified lockdown in response to the Covid Omicron variant. It remains to be seen what economic impact this will have, although with sharp rises in inflation, and already unprecedented peacetime government borrowing, if the West's economy suffers a downturn, it is unclear how much room governments will have to provide additional stimulus. In that situation, law firms will doubtless hope to continue to defy gravity by benefiting from their inherently well-hedged business models.

**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**  
Jacqueline Heng joins the debt capital markets team from Norton Rose Fulbright where she was counsel. Heng is dual qualified (UK/US) and works on a myriad of securities offerings, with expertise in green bonds and sustainable financings.
- ✔ **Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld**  
The Texan-born firm adds incentives & employment specialist **Stephen Brown** to its ranks from Icon Law. Brown, who served as a partner at Latham & Watkins for 18 years, has extensive experience in advising private equity sponsors and public companies on executive employment issues as well as on structuring and taxation of share schemes and management incentive arrangements.
- ✔ **Armstrong Teasdale**  
White collar crime lawyer **Sarnjit Lal** joins the St Louis-based outfit (formerly Kerman & Co) from criminal defence specialists Tuckers Solicitors. Lal handles fraud, criminal cases and cross-border disputes.
- ✔ **Arnold & Porter**  
The Washington DC headquartered firm welcomes finance lawyer **Marc Isaacs** from McGuireWoods. Isaacs focuses on bilateral and syndicated lending with experience in sports finance, infrastructure finance, real estate finance, and general secured lending.
- ✔ **Baker McKenzie**  
Energy specialist **Andrew Hedges** joins the corporate energy, mining and infrastructure practice from fellow global verein Norton Rose Fulbright. Hedges specialises in energy transition, renewables and decarbonisation.
- ✔ **BCLP**  
Prodigal Daughter ... the global firm re-stocks its antitrust & competition team by welcoming back former BCLP lawyer **Victoria Newbold** from Bloomberg, where she was EU competition counsel. Newbold has particular expertise in the technology, financial services and retail sectors.
- ✔ **BDB Pitmans**  
The south England firm snaps up planning lawyer **Duncan O'Connor** from Pinsent Masons, where he was a legal director. O'Connor specialises in infrastructure planning, predominantly in the energy and transport sectors.
- ✔ **Boodle Hatfield**  
Finance lawyer **Jonathan Hyndman** arrives at the London firm from Rosling King, where he was the head of banking and finance. Hyndman specialises in real estate debt financing, particularly in the development sector, advising lenders, financial institutions and corporate borrowers.
- ✔ **Bristows**  
The IP and tech heavy boutique welcomes employment lawyer **Gareth Wadley** from Gateley as its new head of employment. Wadley advises on a mix of contentious and non-contentious employment, including tribunal litigation, employment contracts and bonus arrangements.
- ✔ **Charles Russell Speechlys**  
Private client disputes specialist **Madalina-Andreea Dumitrescu** resurfaces at the European firm having been part of a swathe of Mishcon de Reya resignations amid its IPO. Dumitrescu acts for high-net-worth individuals, family offices and associated corporate entities on commercial disputes, employment and reputation management matters.
- ✔ **Clifford Chance**  
Prodigal Son ... Mayer Brown private equity lateral **Neil Evans** returns to the magic circle firm where he trained. Evans advises on private and public M&A, co-investment arrangements, management incentivisation and reorganisations.
- ✔ **CM Murray**  
The partnership and employment law boutique recruits professional disciplinary and regulatory specialist **Andrew Pavlovic** from Russell-Cooke Solicitors, where he was a senior associate.

Pavlovic specialises in SRA professional discipline and regulatory investigations.

✔ **Crowell & Moring**

Structured products duo **Jennifer Kafcas** and **Charles Wakiwaka** join the Washington DC headquartered firm from US rival McGuireWoods. Kafcas led the structured finance and derivatives team at her former firm; both she and Wakiwaka specialise in transactional and regulatory derivatives matters. Wakiwaka arrives at his new home less than a year after [his vertical move to McGuireWoods from Clifford Chance](#).

✔ **DAC Beachcroft**

Financial services regulatory specialist **Angela Hayes** joins from TLT. Hayes advises on both contentious and non-contentious matters with a particular focus on investigations and enforcement defence for banks, insurers, investment funds, and asset managers.

✔ **Debevoise & Plimpton**

The New York firm welcomes commercial litigation veteran **Patrick Swain** after three decades at Freshfields. Swain's expertise includes M&A and shareholder disputes, commercial fraud, professional negligence, and contentious insolvency.

✔ **Dentons**

Financial services regulatory enforcement specialist, **Chris Brennan**, joins the global verein from White & Case. Brennan acts for leading financial institutions and individuals in relation to regulatory investigations and enforcement matters.

✔ **Devonshires**

Housing specialist, **Matthew Waters**, joins the London firm from Bevan Brittan. Waters assists local authorities, developers, contractors, and funders on commercial, corporate and regulatory matters.

✔ **DLA Piper**

The global firm makes two additions to its intellectual property team: **Rebecca Lawrence**, who resumes her legal career after founding a design company; and **Patricia Collis** who joins from Bird & Bird, where she was a senior associate. Lawrence works predominantly on life sciences patent litigation, whilst Collis specialises in brand protection and portfolio management.

✔ **Dorsey & Whitney**

Corporate lateral **Stewart Worthy** arrives at the Minneapolis-born firm from King & Wood Mallesons. Worthy has a broad corporate and M&A practice advising across a range of sectors.

✔ **Druces**

The London firm hires construction specialist **Richard Bailey** from Goodman Derrick, where he headed the construction offering. Bailey advises on both contentious and non-contentious construction with a focus on the former.

✔ **DWF**

Two hires for the listed firm this edition: White-collar crime lateral **Euros Jones** joins from Weightmans, where he was head of business crime; and real estate finance lawyer **Simon Sharp** joins from BCLP, where he was an associate director. Jones represents corporates and individuals in corporate crime and related regulatory matters and will lead the corporate crime offering. Sharp works across all forms of real estate finance, acting for both lenders and borrowers.

✔ **Fieldfisher**

The UK outfit expands its civil fraud and investigations team with commercial crime duo, **Quinton Newcomb** and **Shiv Haria-Shah**, from alternative legal services provider Fulcrum Chambers. Both Newcomb (who was managing partner of Fulcrum and is appointed as head of commercial crime) and Haria-Shah are barristers specialising in commercial crime, investigations and compliance.



✦ **Freeths**

The national firm welcomes real estate lateral **Alice Dockar** after almost two decades at Herbert Smith Freehills. Dockar acts for developers, landlords and investors on a range of development projects, corporate occupier lettings and real estate acquisitions and disposals.

✦ **Gibson Dunn & Crutcher**

The Los Angeles headquartered blue-blood snaps up a private equity trio from US rival Sidley & Austin; laterals **Wim de Vlieger** and **Till LeFranc** join alongside **Isabel Berger**, who is promoted from senior associate. The team will focus on private equity, M&A leverage buyouts and capital markets transactions across Europe. The move is the second three-partner private equity team Gibson Dunn has hired in as many months following its raid on US rival Vinson & Elkins announced in [our last edition](#).

✦ **Greenberg Traurig**

The leading US real estate firm re-enforces its real estate finance offering with storied BCLP lateral **Daniyal Ansari**. Ansari acts for lenders and developers in complex investment and development financings and debt restructurings.

✦ **Greenwoods GRM**

The south of England firm hires **Matthew Lynch** as head of immigration from PwC Legal, where he was a senior manager. Lynch specialises in corporate immigration relating to UK inbound services.

✦ **Holland & Knight**

Aviation and asset finance specialist **Richard Sharman** arrives at the US firm from Bird & Bird. Sharman advises on structured asset finance and corporate transactions acting on behalf of financial institutions, leasing companies, operators, arrangers and investors, with a particular focus on aircraft and other transportation assets.

✦ **Ince**

The listed firm recruits insurance duo **Jennette Newman** and **Leane Conisbee** from Clyde & Co. Newman joins her new firm as head of insurance and Conisbee, who was a senior associate, is elevated to partner. The pair advise on UK and international casualty and coverage, advising insurers, reinsurers and intermediaries.

✦ **JMW**

The Manchester headquartered set-up welcomes construction specialist **Janet McCann** from Laytons. McCann acts for developers, contractors and sub-contractors on real estate led construction matters.

✦ **Katten Muchin Rosenman**

Finance and capital markets specialist **Chris Harrison** arrives at the Chicago headquartered firm after less than a year at fellow US outfit Vedder Price. Harrison acts for financial institutions, funds, corporate and government entities on a mix of capital markets and leveraged finance transactions.

✦ **Kennedys**

White collar crime lawyer **Iskander Fernandez** arrives from fellow insurance firm BLM to head the crime and investigations team. Fernandez acts for high-net-worth individuals and corporates on proceedings involving allegations of bribery, corruption, fraud, money laundering and tax evasion.

✦ **Kingsley Napley**

Two hires for the London firm this round-up: property litigation specialist **Claire Lamkin** arrives from Blake Morgan; and tax lawyer **Matt Spencer** is welcomed from DAC Beachcroft, where he was an associate. Lamkin advises on both commercial and residential real estate disputes on behalf of landlords, tenants and developers. Spencer advises on the tax structuring of a wide range of corporate and real estate transactions.

✦ **Kirkland & Ellis**

The Chicago headquartered firm nabs corporate tax partner **Alexander Cox** from Ashurst, where he was head of tax. Cox specialises in corporate, investment fund and real estate taxation.

✦ **Linklaters**

Financial services regulatory specialist **Carl Fernandes** returns to his former magic circle firm after a three-year stint at Latham & Watkins. Although joining in London, Fernandes is slated to relocate to Asia in due course.

✦ **Mantle Law**

The UAE construction, infrastructure and energy disputes boutique launches its London office with contentious construction lawyer **Gurbinder Grewal** from Dentons. Grewal focuses on resolving contentious construction and infrastructure disputes through arbitration, adjudication, litigation or ADR.

✦ **Marriot Harrison**

Corporate tax specialist **Katerina Heal** joins the mid-town firm from US outfit Proskauer Rose, where she was special counsel. Heal advises on a variety of both UK and international tax including cross-border M&A, private equity and VC investments, alternative funds, business start-ups and group restructurings.

✦ **Matheson**

Technology and outsourcing lawyer **Rory O’Keeffe** returns to the Dublin-based firm after a decade at Accenture, where he was a senior lawyer. O’Keeffe’s expertise encompasses cloud, digital and business transformation, artificial intelligence, robotics, cybersecurity, and technology contracting matters.

✦ **Milbank**

The New York firm recruits competition lawyer **Andrea Hamilton** from the Brussels office of McDermott Will & Emery. Hamilton advises on a range of antitrust issues with a particular focus on merger control and foreign direct investment.

✦ **Mishcon de Reya**

The soon to be listed London firm makes two hires: corporate lawyer **Angeli Arora** from Dentons in South Africa; and corporate crime specialist **Alison Geary** from WilmerHale, where she was counsel. Arora advises on a range of private equity, M&A and general corporate matters and has a particular niche representing activist funds. Geary advises both corporates and individuals on corporate and white collar crime issues concerning fraud, bribery, cartels, market abuse and money laundering.

✦ **Norton Rose Fulbright**

Energy specialist **Alistair Black** arrives from fellow global verein Dentons. Black specialises in the development and financing of energy projects, advising sponsors, bidders and lenders in the oil and gas, LNG, petrochemicals and power sectors.

✦ **Olaniwun Ajayi**

The Nigerian firm launches its London office with a trio of vertical hires: project finance specialist **Howard Barrie** from Dentons, where he was a consultant; energy and infrastructure projects specialist **Gabriel Onagoruwa** from White & Case, where he was counsel; and finance and DCM lawyer **Chucks Ibechukwu** from the International Finance Corporation, where he was senior counsel. The team will specialise in English law international projects and financings with a focus on Africa.

✦ **Orrick**

Corporate tax lawyer **David Klass** arrives from fellow US firm Hunton Andrews Kurth. Klass advises on a wide variety of corporate tax issues, including M&A, finance, private equity and investment funds.

✦ **Paul Hastings**

Finance lawyer **Adrian Chiodo** joins the west coast outfit from fellow US firm, Latham & Watkins. Chiodo focuses his practice on cross-border leveraged finance across the capital structure, including private credit, US and

European term loan B, general banking, and corporate financings.

✦ **Penningtons Manches Cooper**

The national firm hires employment lawyer **Ruby Dinsmore** from Slater & Gordon, where she was a principal lawyer. Dinsmore’s practice focuses on advising senior executives.

✦ **Pinsent Masons**

The national firm bags a brace of laterals this edition; life sciences lawyer **Gareth Morgan** arrives from CMS and technology specialist **Ruby Khnom** joins from DWF. Morgan specialises in pharma patents and biotechnology regulation. Khnom advises on TMT matters including: technology procurement, outsourcings and licensing.

✦ **Reed Smith**

In a vertical hire the US firm elevates structured products lawyer **Paulette Mastin** from Linklaters, where she was counsel. Mastin, who specialises in corporate trustee matters, joins the financial industry group.

✦ **Seladore Legal**

Litigation lawyer **Gary Milner-Moore** joins the year-old disputes boutique from Herbert Smith Freehills, where he was a consultant. Milner-Moore, who was formerly an equity partner at his previous firm, has experience in a range of commercial disputes including finance litigation, insolvency, fraud and contract disputes.

✦ **Shoosmiths**

The national firm welcomes construction lawyer **Ryan Fordham** from Travers Smith where he was the (non-partner) head of construction and engineering. Fordham advises on a wide range of non-contentious construction matters.

✦ **Signature Litigation**

The litigation boutique swipes disputes partner **Simon Fawell** from Dechert. Fawell specialises in banking and structured finance dispute resolution with a focus on derivatives,

commercial mortgage-backed securities, asset financing and leasing.

✦ **Simmons & Simmons**

One lateral hire for the City stalwart this roundup as it welcomes TLT’s head of property litigation **Jason Juden**. Juden advises on traditional property litigation issues ranging from development, possession and dilapidations claims to easements and property-related insolvency.

✦ **Squire Patton Boggs**

Africa specialist **Timi Balogun** joins the global verein from US firm Curtis Mallet-Prevost Colt & Mosle. Balogun’s practice encompasses both dispute resolution/ arbitration and the development and financing of infrastructure projects on behalf of African governments, state entities and national oil and gas companies.

✦ **Stephenson Harwood**

The international firm makes two hires this edition: insolvency and asset recovery specialist **Tal Goldsmith**, from Wedlake Bell; and commodities trade finance lawyer **Jameel Tarmohamed** from HFW, where he was a senior associate. Goldsmith specialises in contentious insolvency matters. Tarmohamed, who joins the marine international trade practice, undertakes a mix of structured commodities trade finance and digital trade.

✦ **Steptoe & Johnson**

Environmental lawyer **Simon Tilling** switches from Bristol headquartered Burges Salmon to arrive at the US regulatory firm. Tilling advises on UK and EU environmental law, chemicals regulation and product standards.

✦ **Taylor Wessing**

Three hires this roundup for the European firm: Collyer Birstow’s commercial disputes head **Richard Viegas**; Bates Wells’ head of data privacy **Victoria Hordern**; and pensions lawyer **Anna Taylor** who joins from Linklaters where she was

counsel. Viegas' experience encompasses a wide variety of banking litigation, fraud, general commercial disputes and international arbitration. Hordern specialises in data protection and privacy compliance, including GDPR implementation, employee privacy compliance and online privacy issues. Taylor has experience advising trustees and employers on a range of pension issues.

✦ **TLT**

The Bristol headquartered firm launches its public inquiries team with Government Legal Department lawyer **Zaqia Rashid**. Rashid has worked on a number of high-profile UK inquiries.

✦ **Wallace LLP**

Corporate lawyer **Andrew Cooke** arrives at the west end firm from Sherrards Solicitors. Cooke advises high-net-worths, management teams and corporates on a mix of M&As, restructurings, MBOs and MBIs.

✦ **Wedlake Bell**

The City firm makes three hires (one lateral and two vertical) this edition; private client specialist **Charles Wang** joins from listed firm Rosenblatt and IP lawyer **Charlotte Wilding** - together with data protection specialist **Alexander Dittel** – both arrive from Deloitte, where they were counsel and senior associate respectively. Wang is dual (English and Chinese) qualified and acts for a variety of Chinese high-net-worth individuals and related entities. Wilding has expertise in IP strategy, clearance and trademarks and joins the IP team as head of trademarks. Dittel advises on a range of data and cyber related matters.

✦ **Weightmans**

The insurance heavy national firm nabs aviation disputes specialist **Adam Baker** from Clyde & Co where he was a legal director. Baker, who joins the aviation team, specialises in insurance related aviation disputes.

✦ **White & Case**

Now you see me ... The New York firm snatches two lawyers this roundup: corporate lateral **David Lewis** from Clifford Chance and funds specialist **Robert Nield** from Sidley Austin, where he was a senior associate.<sup>1</sup> Lewis, who was co-head of the mining and metals group at his former firm, specialises in M&A and equity capital markets transactions, particularly in the natural resources sector. Nield advises on the formation and operation of private equity, infrastructure, distressed debt, credit, energy and real estate funds. Despite these hires, the US firm's lateral tally is reduced by one as private equity lawyer **Mark Evans**, whose move to White & Case was announced in [our last edition](#), has instead opted to remain at Dechert.

✦ **Wiggin**

The convergence media boutique hires telecoms specialist **Victoria Harris-Honrado** from communications company Three, where she was a senior legal advisor. Harris-Honrado specialises in competition and regulatory issues within the telecoms sphere.

✦ **Withers**

The private client heavy international firm recruits art and fashion specialist **Sarah Barker** from Lee & Thompson where she headed the art and fashion teams. Barker, a corporate and commercial lawyer by background, represents galleries, agents, collectors, artists and luxury brands.

<sup>1</sup> Please note, this edition previously referred to Robert Nield as a lateral hire. The entry was retrospectively amended in May 2024.

**Related links:**

- ✔ [Edwards Gibson Partner Round-Up - Our Methodology](#)
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✔ **The Specialist Partner Team**



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