

Happy Birthday to the Apex Predator

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This August marked the first anniversary of New York firm Paul Weiss' fiery [rebirth of its London office with an English law offering](#). Since then, the relentless London regeneration project has witnessed an astonishing **26** lawyers join its City partnership. Of these, **22** were laterals, **2** were vertical hires and **2** were from in-house – they have come from a narrow selection of just five firms and a couple of private equity houses.

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The first firm to suffer from Paul Weiss' predations was **Kirkland & Ellis** which, since last summer, has continued to gently haemorrhage London partners to its rival losing a total of **13** – an average of over one per month. The Big Law raptor has bitten far smaller chunks out of **Linklaters** (**4** laterals and one vertical), and **Clifford Chance** (**3** laterals and one vertical); happily for them, it has barely scratched **Akin** and **Ropes & Gray** – which have lost just one partner apiece. Its most recent hires, both from in-house, and both former Kirkland & Ellis or Linklaters partners, come from **Blantyre Capital** and client **TDR Capital** respectively - the latter at least appearing to be a far more gentle affair, with the apex predator seeming to ask permission to court its General Counsel before snapping him up.