

Law
Firm
Partner
Moves
in
London

♦ January –
February 2025
Issue No. 85

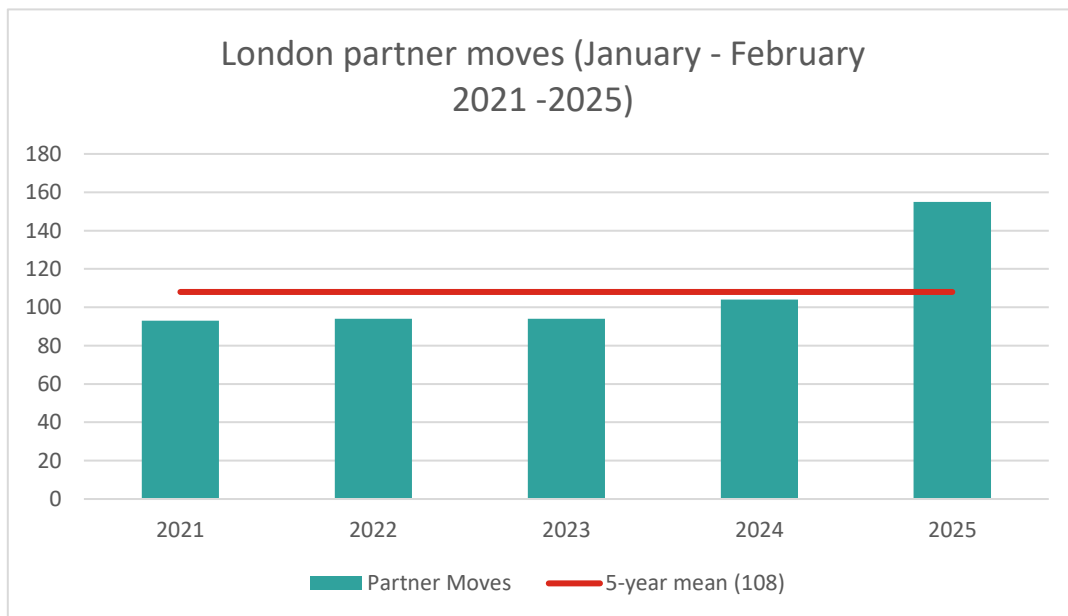
Welcome to the 85th edition of Law Firm Partner Moves in London, from the specialist partner team at Edwards Gibson, where we look back at announced partner-level recruitment activity in London over the past two months and give you a ‘who’s moved where’ update. Our records go back to 2007, and here is [our methodology](#).

January – February 2025

This bi-monthly round-up contains **155** partner moves – astonishingly **49%** up on the **104** we saw for the same period last year (at the time the second highest on record) and **34%** up on the all-time record **116** set in 2017 when the figures were artificially buoyed by the collapse of **King & Wood Mallesons’** European vein.

Overall, the numbers are **44%** up on the cumulative five-year average (**108**); and **54%** up on the cumulative ten-year average of (**101**) for the same period.

As reported [in our last edition](#), 2024 was a record year for law firm partner moves which were in large part driven by the continued huge investment bets by US law firms in private capital related hires. In the first two months of this year, that same dynamic has continued and would itself have comfortably set a new record for the period, however, the splintering of (soon to be defunct) London law firm **Memery Crystal** has artificially boosted the lateral market further with the addition of (so far) **16*** hapless émigrés from that firm whose scramble to find new homes is reflected in the figures.



✦ Firms with largest attrition in January – February 2025 (partnership to partnership moves only)

• Memery Crystal	16*
• Kennedys	5
• BCLP	4
• DLA Piper	4
• Stephenson Harwood	4
• Akin	3
• Baker McKenzie	3**
• Paul Hastings	3
• Mayer Brown	3
• Troutman Pepper Locke	3
• White & Case	3

* Excludes four partners which left Memery Crystal to join Lawrence Stephens as Directors (see below).

** Includes a lateral departure who moved from Baker McKenzie's Brussels office to Morgan Lewis in London.



✦ Team hires January – February 2025

The largest multi-partner team move this round-up was London firm **Fladgate's** rescue of a mixed nine-partner corporate, finance and real estate team from Memery Crystal. In addition, a four-partner corporate team jumped ship from Memery Crystal* to **Haynes Boone**; a four-partner shipping team transitioned from Kennedys to **DWF**; and an IP trio shifted from A&O Shearman to **White & Case** (comprising one lateral and two verticals).

Twelve other firms hired two-partner teams: **Blake Morgan** (finance from Irwin Mitchell); **Cadwalader** (finance from Ashurst); **Clifford Chance** (finance from Mayer Brown and, separately, corporate from Skadden); **CMS** (product liability from Shook Hardy & Bacon); **Edwin Coe** (finance from Memery Crystal); **Freshfields** (energy and infrastructure from Paul Hastings); **Gibson Dunn**

(restructuring and finance from Sullivan & Cromwell); **Hogan Lovells** (competition litigation from BCLP); **King & Spalding** (energy & infrastructure from Akin); **Mayer Brown** (structured finance from White & Case); **Shoosmiths** (IP from Troutman Pepper Locke); and **Squire Patton Boggs** (trade finance from Stephenson Harwood).

✦ **Of particular interest**

To market watchers the half-dozen partners hired by **Clifford Chance** in London over the past two months is in itself noteworthy. For context, in the preceding decade, Clifford Chance averaged just over two partner hires per annum in London; and that included 2022's record, when the firm hired six throughout the year.

This edition also sees the first ever lateral departure(s) in London from elite New York firm **Sullivan & Cromwell**, which loses a two-partner finance and restructuring team to Los Angeles founded **Gibson Dunn**.

✦ **Memery Loss**

In a further blow to the listed law firm model, **RBG Holdings**, the parent company of **Memery Crystal**, and disputes boutique **Rosenblatt**, has stated its intention to appoint administrators – this follows a period of intense speculation and various attempts to source funds. Whilst the eponymous Ian Rosenblatt has managed to regain control of his former firm (which, now separated from RBG Holdings, looks to be on firmer footing), Memery Crystal looks unlikely to survive the tumult.



Memery Crystal partners have been jumping in groups from the rapidly sinking ship. Life rafts in the form of alternative partnerships have so far been offered to 16* partners and their wider teams at: **Blake Morgan** (1 partner); **Edwin Coe** (2 partners), **Fladgate** (9 partners) **Haynes Boone**

(4 partners). Until recently Memery Crystal had 35 partners in London so it is probable that other lateral émigrés from the troubled firm will be picked-up in subsequent editions of this publication.

*In addition, a four-partner real estate team from Memery Crystal decamped to London firm Lawrence Stephens. However, because the individuals did not join their new firm as partners, in accordance [with our methodology](#), they are not recorded in Law Firm Partner Moves.

✔ **Toto, I have a feeling we're not in London anymore!**

In January the Kansas-headquartered firm **Shook, Hardy & Bacon** announced the closure of its London office. As part of this realignment, the firm's two managing partners have transitioned to **CMS**, bolstering that firm's contentious product liability practice. Never large, the reasonably obscure disputes focused US firm was once known for big-ticket tobacco litigation and, along with (now defunct) **LeBoeuf, Lamb, Greene & MacRae**, for having the most carnivorous sounding name in town.

✔ **Big Law and The Rule of Law – A Warning**

The volume of partner hiring is often regarded as a proxy for success – both for individual law firms, and the legal services industry as a whole. As such, it is perhaps ironic that the partner hire market is at an all-time high when the rule of law appears under such stress, both globally and in particular in the United States (where more than a third of the law firms making hires in this edition are headquartered). Regardless of any political or democratic merits of the policies, at the time of writing, many of the new administration's actions, in particular regarding the separation of powers, due process and conflicts of interest, appear to breach basic rule of law fundamentals.

Lawyers ... should remember that the financial success of Big Law is predicated entirely on the rule of law.



A democratically elected government has every right to legally amend legislation to implement its policies. Some business leaders and politicians have welcomed the recent circumventing of due process as a necessary evil required to loosen stifling regulatory burdens and boost economic activity. In the short-term this may well succeed (although the medium-term ramifications of a more capricious legal system will likely prove less beneficial for business). However, lawyers looking forward to a short-term M&A fillip (and there are more than a few!), should remember that the financial success of Big Law is predicated entirely on the rule of law.

If that still sounds too esoteric for law firm partners, the recent singling out for retribution by the Trump administration of the law firm **Covington & Burling**, (whose lawyers provided advice to the former Special Counsel involved in the prosecution of Donald Trump), should focus minds. Particularly as some lawyers at that firm have been individually targeted. If accepted, the issue may not be confined to corporate crime/ investigations lawyers – who’s to say that a commercial disputes lawyer, or even an M&A lawyer involved in a hostile takeover, acting on behalf of “the wrong party” will not be next?

To (mis)quote Niemöller, “*First they came for the criminal lawyers, and I did not speak out because I was not a criminal lawyer...*” Lawyers struggling with cue recall might remember that the poem ends:

*“And then they came for me,
And there was no one left
To speak for me.”*

✦ Other Fun Facts January – February 2025

- **29%** (45) of moves this edition were female.
- **24%** (37) of all hires were non-partners moving into partnership.
- **4** firms hired from in-house this edition: **Akin** (from Proman AG), **Clifford Chance** (from Blackstone and KKR), **Lee & Thompson** (from VCCP), **Jones Day** (the former Lord Chancellor from the Ministry of Justice).

[SCROLL BELOW FOR OUR FULL JANUARY-FEBRUARY 2025 REPORT](#)

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

✦ **Akin**

A quartet of laterals for the Texas born firm as it welcomes: energy disputes lawyer **Mark Clarke** from Proman AG, where he was group general counsel; corporate specialist **Daniel Wayte** from Orrick; finance lawyer **Kevin Gilroy** from King & Spalding; and corporate tax specialist **Natasha Kaye** from Cooley. Clarke, a former White & Case and Ashurst partner who joins Akin as its new head of international arbitration, focuses on contentious energy matters in the oil and gas sector – he has experience advising both public bodies and private corporations in both litigation and arbitration processes. Wayte specialises in capital solutions, advising on M&A, private equity and joint ventures. Gilroy, who returns to the firm which he left in 2019, covers private credit and special situations. Kaye focuses on VC and PE related corporate tax, with an angle on the life sciences and technology sectors.

✦ **Ashurst**

Structured finance lateral **Tauhid Ijaz** makes the switch to the UK headquartered firm from Hogan Lovells. Ijaz advises on structured finance and securitisations, advising major banks, private equity firms and insurers among other entities.

✦ **Baker Botts**

The Houston-born firm welcomes **Mark Castillo-Bernaus** from White & Case, where he was one time head of its global project development and finance practice. Castillo-Bernaus focuses on project development and finance, especially in relation to LNG and petrochemical projects.

✦ **BCLP**

A litigation hire for the global firm as it adds **Marc Thorley** from Baker McKenzie where he previously served as EMEA lead for its global financial institutions group. Thorley covers financial services litigation, investigations and regulatory matters, he largely advises financial institutions, banks and other corporate clients.

✦ **Bevan Brittan**

Arriving at the national firm to head up its firm-wide pensions team is **Joel Eytile** from DLA Piper. Eytile advises employers, investors, trustees and pension scheme providers on a wide range of advisory, transactional and regulatory pension matters.

✦ **Bird & Bird**

The technology focused outfit welcomes IP specialist **Josh Little** from Marriott Harrison. Little covers a variety of IP matters including trademarks, copyrights and design, largely working in the context of brand management.

✦ **Birketts**

Two hires for the top 50 UK firm which adds: real estate lawyer **John England** from Mishcon de Reya; and construction disputes specialist **Sarah Evans** from alternative law firm Spencer West. England, who exits Mishcon de Reya after more than 20 years, advises on a wide-range of direct real estate in the commercial and mixed use property sectors. Evans covers construction, engineering and energy projects disputes.

✦ **Blake Morgan**

The national firm adds three laterals: finance duo **Simon Owen** and **Dan Webster** from Irwin Mitchell, where Owen was head of banking & finance; and employment émigré **Bob Cordran** from the disintegrating Memery Crystal. Owen and Webster cover real estate finance, corporate banking and restructuring, with Owen having a particular angle in healthcare and hotels. Cordran advises on an eclectic range of contentious and non-contentious employment and labour law.

✦ **Bristows**

Making the switch to the City firm is competition lateral **Robert Vidal** from Pinsent Masons. Vidal advises on merger control and contentious anti-trust matters before the CMA and European Commission, with a particular angle in the life sciences and technology sectors.

✦ **Brown Rudnick**

A brace of laterals for the Boston headquartered outfit as it welcomes: corporate lawyer **Matthew Edwards** from Osborne Clarke; and tax litigator **Matthew Sharp** from Fieldfisher. Edwards advises on M&A, joint ventures, IPOs, securities and venture capital matters, with a focus on the life sciences sector. Sharp covers both direct and indirect tax disputes and trust litigation on behalf of corporates and private individuals.

✦ **Burges Salmon**

The Bristol headquartered firm adds corporate lateral **Charles Claisse** from Deloitte Legal, where he was head of M&A. Claisse, who joined Deloitte Legal when it took over technology boutique Kemp Little in 2021, covers M&A, venture capital investments, joint ventures, partnerships and spin offs across the business lifecycle.

✦ **Cadwalader**

A fund finance threesome for the New York firm which welcomes: a two-partner team comprising **Doug Murning** and **Matthew Worth** from Ashurst, where Worth was a counsel; and lateral **Bronwen Jones** from Reed Smith. Whilst Murning and Worth advise across a range of debt finance their primary focus is fund finance, and in particular, net asset value (NAV) financing. Jones advises on a range of fund finance matters including NAV, subscription, and hybrid facilities for banks, financial institutions, and fund managers. The hires are a partial re-stock following King & Spalding's [high-profile raid of a five-partner fund finance team last year](#).

✦ **CANDEY**

International arbitration specialist **Chris Bailey** arrives at the disputes boutique from the Singapore office of Stephenson Harwood. Bailey focuses predominately on commercial arbitration with particular expertise in energy and infrastructure disputes.

✦ **Charles Russell Speechlys**

The London headquartered firm elevates tech specialist **Racheal Muldoon** from Maitland Chambers, where she was a barrister. Muldoon, who joins the financial services and funds team, focuses on technology law, acting on matters involving digital assets, cryptocurrency, non-fungible tokens and real world assets.

✦ **Clifford Chance**

Hiring spree! A sextet of new partners for the magic circle outfit as it welcomes: a corporate team comprising lateral **Bruce Embley** and vertical **Emma Ghaffari** from Skadden, where Ghaffari was a European counsel; a two-partner finance team from Mayer Brown, comprising laterals **Aimee Sharman** and **Matt Lilley**; private equity lawyer **Angharad (Annie) Lewis** from Blackstone Capital Partners, where she was senior VP of legal; and corporate lawyer **Patrick Scott** from KKR, where he was a director. Embley, who was previously co-head of Freshfields' global M&A practice before [decamping to Skadden in 2020](#), is M&A focused – dealing with private equity, public and cross-border matters. English and Swedish qualified Ghaffari advises on leveraged buyouts, joint ventures, co-investments and reorganisations. Sharman and Lilley both cover private credit, advising lenders and borrowers with a focus on fund finance matters. Lilley qualified at Clifford Chance and was at the firm until 2021, when he moved to Mayer Brown. Lewis, who specialises in private equity, also rejoins her old firm following a three-year hiatus where she led the European legal function at Blackstone Capital. Scott focuses on private equity and covered PE in the tech growth and healthcare growth sectors at KKR.

✦ **Clyde & Co**

The global firm elevates two energy flavoured lawyers this edition: **Ben James** from Simmons & Simmons, where he was of counsel; and **Sebastian Lea** from Norwegian headquartered firm Wikborg Rein, where he was also a senior

associate. James advises on M&A in the energy, natural resources and infrastructure sectors. Lea covers energy, marine and natural resource matters, specialising in projects in the oil and gas sector as well as shipping issues.

✦ **CM Murray**

A new practice area for the employment and partnership law boutique as it hires **Nick Leale** from (the now defunct London office of) Armstrong Teasdale, where he was managing partner, to co-head its new regulatory practice. Leale, who is qualified as both a solicitor and barrister, advises on professional disciplinary law and regulatory risk.

✦ **CMS**

Four hires for the international firm as it: rescues product liability duo **Simon Castley** and **Sarah Croft** from Shook Hardy & Bacon as the Kansas-headquartered firm closes its doors in London; adds funds lateral **George Metcalfe** from Freeths; and elevates tax litigator **Nicola Hine** from KPMG, where she was a director. Castley and Croft who have both been at Shook Hardy & Bacon for nearly 30 years, advise on contentious product liability matters across a range of sectors including: automotive, engineering and medical devices. Metcalfe specialises in private closed-ended funds in the private equity, venture, debt and real assets spaces. Hine covers contentious matters related to both direct and indirect taxes.

✦ **Collyer Bristow**

The London firm welcomes commercial IP and technology lawyer **Sarah Coe** from Clarke Willmott. Coe predominately advises on commercial contracts and the commercialisation of IP assets.

✦ **DAC Beachcroft**

An aviation liability lateral for the insurance flavoured firm as it adds **Maria Cetta** from Clyde & Co. Cetta covers aviation losses and claims arising from air accidents, damage to aircraft and

cargo advising those directly involved in the aviation industry and their insurers.

✦ **Dechert**

Making the switch to the global firm is English and New York qualified private equity lateral **Nick Tomlinson** from Gibson Dunn. Tomlinson advises private equity firms, sovereign wealth funds, and corporations on cross-border private equity, M&A, growth capital, and joint venture transactions.

✦ **Dentons**

The global leviathan welcomes: a new head of corporate crime in the form of **Joanna Dimmock** from Paul Hastings; and structured finance lawyer **Alex Moezi** from A&O Shearman, where he was a counsel. Dimmock's practice spans a range of matters including bribery, corruption, fraud, money laundering and cartel investigations. Moezi specialises in structured finance and securitisations with an angle on financing consumer asset, trade receivable and ESG related assets.

✦ **DLA Piper**

Two new additions for the global firm which adds: finance and capital markets lateral **Gordon Houseman** from A&O Shearman; and real estate savant **Joe Conder** from Mayer Brown. Houseman, who is dual English and New York qualified, focuses on leveraged finance and capital markets transactions with a particular emphasis on high yield bonds. Conder predominately advises private funds on real estate transactions covering structured sale and purchase, development funding, sale and leaseback, financings and restructurings.

✦ **Druces**

The London firm elevates finance lawyer **Afsor Ullah** from Hill Dickinson, where he was a senior associate. Ullah covers a mix of real estate finance and Islamic finance.

✦ **Duane Morris**

A vertical hire for the US firm as it elevates employment lawyer **Helen Foley** from PwC. Foley specialises in workplace investigations and HR audits, particularly those linked to harassment and bullying.

✦ **DWF**

Five insurance and marine laterals for the private equity owned outfit which adds: a four-partner shipping quartet from Kennedys (comprising **Christopher Dunn** - who was head of Kennedy's marine practice, **Jonathan Evans**, **Michael Biltoo** and **Mark Lloyd**); and contentious insurance lawyer **Viran Ram** from Clyde & Co. The Kennedy's quartet advise on coverage disputes, recovery actions, charterers' liability claims, reinsurance, commodities and international trade disputes within the shipping and logistics space. Ram, who will split his time between London and Manchester, advises on policy coverage, subrogated recoveries, and non-injury defence matters in property and liability lines.

✦ **Edwin Coe**

In a double-header rescue hire, **Daniel Tunkel** and **David Sachs** join the Lincoln's Inn firm from the disintegrating Memery Crystal. Tunkel, who joins as head of financial regulation, covers the full scope of financial markets regulatory matters as well as the structuring and promotion of private investment funds. Sachs will lead the banking and finance team and has a broad finance practice representing lenders, borrowers, private equity sponsors, and financial advisors.

✦ **Eversheds Sutherland**

Prodigal Son ... In a vertical hire, the Anglo-American outfit welcomes back **Alex McCarney** from Skadden, where he was a counsel. McCarney a corporate lawyer who trained and practiced at Eversheds, specialises in private capital transactions across a number of sectors.

✦ **Faegre Drinker**

A brace of laterals for the US firm which bags: disputes lawyer **Jeremy Andrews** from DLA Piper; and financial services regulatory specialist **Steven Francis** from Addleshaw Goddard. Andrews covers banking and funds litigation, fraud and asset tracing, contentious trusts and natural resources disputes. Francis deals with both contentious and non-contentious financial services regulatory matters.

✦ **Fieldfisher**

The European firm welcomes corporate lateral **Philip Watkins** from Withers. Watkins has a broad corporate practice covering M&A, investments, JVs and securities offerings.

✦ **Fladgate**

Flotsam and jetsam! The London pocket battleship rescues nine émigrés from the floundering Memery Crystal, whilst also finding time to scoop up corporate lateral **Joshua Swerner** from Avonhurst. Climbing aboard from Memery Crystal are: **Matthew Lindsay** (who was co-head of banking and finance), **Rumit Nanji** (who was also co-head of banking and finance), **Richard Evans** (who was head of real estate litigation), **Nicola Kravitz** (who was co-head of real estate), **Liam Bell**, **Kelly Seal**, **Tristan Wark**, **Andrew Titmas** and **Lucie Burniston**. Lindsay and Nanji predominately specialise in real estate finance. Evans, along with Bell and Seal, are real estate litigators; the trio cover contentious matters in both the residential and commercial property sectors. Kravitz and Wark advise on commercial and residential property, with Wark focusing on matters with a private client element. Titmas and Burniston are corporate-focused: Titmus advises on M&A, restructurings and general corporate advisory; whilst Burniston has a particular angle on matters involving private companies. Swerner who jumped ship solo from boutique London outfit Avonhurst, advises on a broad range of corporate and M&A matters for an eclectic client base.

◆ **Freshfields**

Double Tap! The magic circle firm nabs energy and infrastructure duo **Jessamy Gallagher** and **Stuart Rowson** from Paul Hastings just [two years after they joined the US firm from Linklaters](#). Gallagher, who joins as global co-head of energy and real assets, focuses her practice on international public and private M&A in the infrastructure, energy, and real assets markets. Rowson advises private capital clients and lenders on the financing and refinancing of infrastructure projects with an angle on energy transition and digital infrastructure assets.

◆ **Fried Frank**

Two hires for the US firm as it adds insolvency/restructuring lateral **Geoff O’Dea** from Goodwin, marking Fried Frank’s fourth swipe at Goodwin in the past twelve months, and private funds lateral **Aranpreet Randhawa**, as she makes the switch from fellow New Yorker Proskauer Rose. O’Dea advises a range of stake holders on restructuring and insolvency and acquisition finance. Randhawa advises private investment funds on a wide variety of matters including structuring, formation and operation.

◆ **Gibson Dunn**

A trio of laterals for the Los Angeles founded firm comprising: an incredibly rare two-partner departure from Sullivan & Cromwell in the form of finance and restructuring duo **Presley Warner** and **Chris Howard**; alongside funds specialist **James O’Donnell** from DLA Piper. Both Warner and O’Donnell are dual English and New York qualified and were respectively head of the European credit and leveraged finance practice and head of the European restructuring practice at their former firm. O’Donnell, who was co-chair of investment funds at DLA, covers fund formation and operation, secondaries, joint ventures and co-investments.

◆ **Greenberg Traurig**

The global firm elevates insolvency lawyer **Aaron Harlow** from Shoosmiths in Birmingham, where he was a senior associate. Harlow advises on restructuring and corporate insolvency, with a focus on matters in the financial services, hospitality, retail and leisure sectors.

◆ **Harbottle & Lewis**

The West End firm welcomes two new hires as it adds: private client litigator **Charles Lloyd** from Macfarlanes; and disputes lateral **Michael Yates** from Taylor Wessing. Lloyd, specialises in international trusts and estate litigation for high-net-worth individuals. Yates, who is styled as an “information litigator”, advises individuals and companies on reputation management, information, cyber and media law disputes.

◆ **Haynes Boone**

A four-partner corporate / equity capital markets team for the Texas-headquartered outfit as it extricates a quartet of laterals from the floundering Memery Crystal: **Nick Davis** (who was senior partner at Memery Crystal and joins his new firm as co-head of the London office) arrives alongside **Edward Baker**, **Nick Heap**, and **Robert Bines-Black**. Best known for its work on London’s junior stock market (AIM) in the energy, tech, and mining sectors, the team covers IPO’s, equity capital markets and M&A.

◆ **Hill Dickinson**

The national firm welcomes real estate focused construction lawyer **Sam Nichols** from Maples Teesdale. Nichols advises on the full spectrum of non-contentious construction matters; from procuring and financing to disposal and regeneration.

◆ **Hogan Lovells**

Competition litigation duo **Edward Coulson** and **Andrew Leitch** make the switch to the global firm from BCLP. Coulson and Leitch cover a wide range of contentious anti-trust matters, but in recent

times have gained a particular angle advising corporates on class action defence.

✦ **Howard Kennedy**

Contentious IP specialist **Rosie Burbidge** joins the London outfit from alternative law firm Gunnercooke. Burbidge advises on IP disputes and strategic brand protection matters – covering protection, management and enforcement mechanisms in the IP sector.

✦ **Hugh James**

The Cardiff firm welcomes non-contentious construction lawyer **Jamie Swan** from Clarke Willmott. Swan’s construction practice is predominately real estate focused advising developers, retailers, funds and other institutional investors.

✦ **Hunters Law**

A private client addition for the Lincoln’s Inn outfit as it hires **Caroline Foulger** from Guildford firm TWM Solicitors, where she was head of private client. Foulger covers tax and succession planning, in addition to estate administration and Court of Protection matters.

✦ **Jenner & Block**

The Chicago-headquartered outfit launches a London public law and crisis management offering with **Joanna Ludlam** from Baker McKenzie, where she was head of global investigations. Ludlam, who will co-chair her new firm’s investigations department, advises corporate clients on investigations, public law litigation and crisis management.

✦ **Jones Day**

A corporate and disputes hire for the global firm which welcomes: **Sage Revell** from Brown Rudnick to its corporate team; and former Lord Chancellor and member of parliament, **Alex Chalk KC** to its disputes practice. Revell, who has a life sciences and tech focus, covers M&A, venture capital, private equity and corporate re-

organizations. Chalk - a criminal barrister by background - will advise on disputes, investigations and regulatory issues.

✦ **Katten**

Nathan Smith joins Katten from Dechert where he was counsel. Smith has a broad IP practice working across a number of industries including technology, fashion and financial services focusing on all aspects of soft IP and brand protection.

✦ **King & Spalding**

A trio of laterals for the Atlanta headquartered outfit as it adds: a project finance duo, composed of **Daniel Giemajner** and **Matthew Hardwick**, from Akin; and corporate lawyer **James Connor** from Orrick. Giemajner and Hardwick focus on the financing aspects of energy and infrastructure projects; the pair depart Akin just two years [after joining together from Norton Rose Fulbright](#). Connor is largely private equity, VC and M&A focused with an angle on tech sector clients.

✦ **Kingsley Napley**

Two additions for the London firm as it hires health and safety lateral **Andrew Sanderson** from Fieldfisher, and elevates technology lawyer **Christopher Perrin** from Spencer West, where he was a consultant partner. Sanderson, a solicitor-advocate is principally focused on health and safety within the transport sector, but has additional expertise in international trade disputes. Perrin advises technology enabled businesses on a wide variety of commercial matters including IT, outsourcing and data.

✦ **Kirkland & Ellis**

Five hires (one lateral and four vertical) for the world’s highest grossing law firm as it poaches financial services regulatory partner **Albert Weatherill** from Norton Rose Fulbright, and elevates: financial services regulatory lawyer **Amar Unadkat** from Proskauer Rose, where he was a counsel; corporate lawyer **Rafeeq Khazin**

from Paul Weiss, where he was an associate; competition lawyer **Bella Spring** from Weil, where she was a senior knowledge and practice development counsel; and disputes lawyer **Neema Dowson-Collins** from Fried Frank, where she was a senior associate. Weatherill, who has a niche in fintech and was global head of NRF's payments practice, covers a wide range of non-contentious financial services regulatory matters, as well as compliance and internal investigations. Unadkat primarily advises fund managers and has a particular focus on AIFMD and collective investment scheme issues. Khazin, who is New York and English qualified, primarily represents private funds on transactions involving M&A, secondaries and GP stakes. Spring who covers both EU and UK antitrust issues, will lead the competition team's knowledge, training and business development offering for London and Brussels. Dowson-Collins covers commercial litigation and institutional arbitration with an angle on joint venture and shareholder disputes.

◆ **Latham & Watkins**

A brace of laterals for the global leviathan which welcomes back leveraged finance specialist **Hugh O'Sullivan** from Goodwin, and adds TMT lawyer **Sophie Goossens** from Reed Smith. O'Sullivan, who was an associate at Latham from 2012 to 2016, specialises in sponsor-side leveraged finance, bridge financing and restructuring matters. English and French qualified Goossens provides legal and policy advice around digital content, AI, intermediary platforms, music, devices, and video games.

◆ **Lee & Thompson**

After a decade at advertising group VCCP, 8 years as general counsel, **Rebecca Coleman** joins the creative industries focused firm. Coleman, a commercial lawyer who has spent most of her legal career in-house, joins the advertising & marketing team.

◆ **Lester Aldridge**

In a vertical hire, the Southwest firm elevates private client lawyer **Amanda Nelson** from HCR Law, where she was a senior legal counsel. Nelson covers tax and succession planning, most often in the context of inheritance and capital gains.

◆ **Mayer Brown**

Double tap! A structured finance team for the Chicago spawned firm as it poaches lateral **Chris McGarry** and elevates lawyer **Adam Farrell** from White & Case, where Farrell was a counsel. McGarry and Farrell advise on CLOs and other types of structured products including securitisations and esoterics (such as commodities and infrastructure CLOs), together with related regulatory matters.

◆ **McDermott Will & Emery**

Two new faces for the Chicago headquartered firm as it welcomes: disputes lateral **Milo Molfa** from Curtis; and insolvency and restructuring specialist **Alexander Wood**, who was most recently a counsel at legacy Shearman & Sterling, having retired from the partnership pre-merger. Molfa, who has been based between London and Milan, covers both international arbitration and commercial litigation, he is dual qualified in England & Wales and Italy. Wood, who was onetime head of legacy Shearman & Sterling's London restructuring team, covers a wide variety of business restructuring and insolvency matters, advising both debtors and creditors.

◆ **Michelmores**

Corporate lateral **Dearbhla Quigley** arrives at the Exeter headquartered outfit from Forsters. Quigley advises on UK and cross border M&A, equity capital markets and investment transactions.

◆ **Mishcon de Reya**

Four hires (three laterals and one vertical) for the London firm as it adds real estate finance specialist **Richard Hughes**, from Watson Farley &

Williams; competition lawyer **Wessen Jazrawi** from Hausfeld; litigator **Kavan Bakhda** from Kennedys; and direct real estate lawyer **John Gordon** from Herbert Smith Freehills, where he was a counsel. Hughes advises lenders and sponsors on a broad spectrum of real estate finance matters with a particular emphasis on those involving operating assets. Jazrawi, who has a claimant focus, covers large scale competition litigation. Bakhda advises on commercial litigation, with a particular niche in sports disputes, but also handles non-contentious commercial matters. Gordon covers commercial real estate developments, acquisitions and disposals.

✦ **Morgan Lewis**

The US firm bags a brace of laterals: anti-trust savant **Paul Johnson** from Baker McKenzie in Brussels; and structured finance lateral **Dasha Sobornova** from Akin. Johnson has a particular angle in the tech, life sciences and energy sectors advising on multi-jurisdictional UK and EU merger control, foreign investment reviews, joint ventures, cartels and abuse of dominance matters. Sobornova assists arrangers, investment managers and issuers on structured finance matters with a particular focus on CLO transactions.

✦ **New Law Media**

Joining the West End media boutique is TMT disputes lateral **Michael Bywell** from Stephenson Harwood. Bywell specialises in commercial litigation predominately involving media, technology, cybersecurity, IP and data.

✦ **Norton Rose Fulbright**

Arriving at the global verein are: real estate lateral and data centre specialist **Kirsty Harrower** from Locke Lord (now Troutman Pepper Locke); and corporate lawyer **Jamal Tuhin** from Dechert, where he was a senior associate. Harrower advises on a range of real estate transactions with a particular angle on digital infrastructure and

energy issues in the data centre sector. Tuhin focuses on private equity and M&A matters – acting for both private equity houses and financial sponsors.

✦ **Osborne Clarke**

A trio of laterals for the Bristol headquartered outfit as it adds: construction disputes specialist **Helen Waddell** from Pinsent Masons; competition litigator **Aqeel Kadri** from Hausfeld; and private funds lawyer **Robert Eke** from Squire Patton Boggs. Waddell advises on contentious construction matters in the energy, infrastructure and engineering sectors. Kadri, who specialises in claimant related anti-trust disputes, has experience with both public and private enforcement mechanisms in the UK and EU. Eke advises on private fund formation and secondaries.

✦ **Paul Weiss**

Two additions for the apex predator as it welcomes corporate tax lateral **Kyle O’Sullivan** from BCLP and elevates US capital markets specialist **Uma Sud** from Simpson Thacher, where she was a counsel. O’Sullivan, [who only joined BCLP from Slaughter and May as a vertical hire last year](#), covers the tax aspects of corporate finance, M&A, reorganisations, IP related agreements and disputes with HMRC. Sud advises private equity sponsors, companies and banks on high-yield debt offerings.

✦ **Perkins Coie**

Following the [re-launch of its London office last year](#), the Seattle headquartered outfit creates a new practice area by adding anti-trust specialist **Miranda Cole** from the Brussels office of Norton Rose Fulbright, where she was most recently a consultant. Cole, who was briefly the head of NRF’s Brussels office, principally advises life sciences and technology companies on transactional and behavioural competition matters.

✦ **Pillsbury**

Corporate healthcare specialist **Hamid Yunis** makes the switch from fellow US firm McDermott Will & Emery where, until June last year, he was the London managing partner. Yunis focuses on corporate matters in the context of healthcare and life sciences with a secondary angle advising on infrastructure and projects.

✦ **Proskauer Rose**

Corporate and finance lateral **Sylvain Dhennin** decamps to the New York headquartered outfit from Hogan Lovells. Best known for high yield financing, Dhennin advises on an eclectic mix of other matters including M&A, capital raisings and leveraged finance.

✦ **Reed Smith**

The global firm adds corporate lateral **Samantha Myres** from Gowling WLG, where she was head of the firm's cannabis group. Myres advises on corporate finance, M&A and equity capital markets.

✦ **RWK Goodman**

A corporate hire for the Bath headquartered firm as it welcomes **David Gerber** from Bracher Rawlins. Gerber advises on acquisitions, disposals, joint ventures, fundraisings and private equity matters.

✦ **Sherrards**

Private client lawyer **Francesca Rossi** makes the switch from Italian flavoured London firm Pini Franco. Rossi covers succession planning and tax issues, principally advising UK and Italian high-net clients with assets in multiple jurisdictions.

✦ **Shoosmiths**

A quartet of laterals for the national firm as it welcomes: IP duo **Dominic Farnsworth** and **Leigh Smith** from Locke Lord (now Troutman Pepper Locke), where Farnsworth was chair of the firm's international IP group and co-chair of its trademark practice; private equity lawyer **Mark**

Churchman from Trowers & Hamlins; and corporate lawyer **Kurt Ma** from BCLP. Farnsworth and Smith specialise in trademarks, and brand protection strategies and IP portfolio management. Churchman advises energy, infrastructure and tech clients, as well as US sponsors, on corporate private equity matters. Ma's practice centres around financial services and technology, with a particular niche in video games.

✦ **Simmons & Simmons**

Four hires for the international firm as it poaches: anti-trust lateral **Sarah Smith** from DLA Piper, where she was head of competition; restructuring lateral **Kay Morley** from Dechert; real estate specialist **Danielle Hirsch** from Morrison & Foerster; and project finance lawyer **Sara Barin** from Freshfields, where she was a counsel. Smith's expertise encompasses behavioural advice, investigations, transactional matters and anti-trust litigation - with a particular angle on the life sciences and TMT sectors. Morley focuses on European special situations and cross-border restructurings predominately for private credit and private equity sponsors. Hirsch covers a wide variety of real estate matters including private equity linked real estate, direct and indirect acquisitions and loan originations. Barin advises on project finance and development in the energy, infrastructure and mining sectors.

✦ **Skadden**

Corporate tax lateral **Patrick O'Gara** decamps to the New York firm from Baker McKenzie. O'Gara covers corporate tax planning and the defence of multinationals and private equity investors, with a particular focus on matters related to IP, cross-border financing, and supply chain structuring.

✔ **Squire Patton Boggs**

Double tap! The global verein adds a two-partner trade finance team from Stephenson Harwood in the form of **Philip Prowse** and **Jameel Tarmohamed**. The duo cover structured commodities trade finance and have a niche in digital trade technologies.

✔ **Stephenson Harwood**

A balanced quartet of hires (two lateral and two vertical) arrive at the sector-focused-international firm which adds: energy and infrastructure lawyer **Kirsti Massie** from Mayer Brown, where she was co-leader of projects and infrastructure; construction specialist **Ryan Fordham** from Shoosmiths; disputes lawyer **Tim Knight** from Travers Smith, where he was a senior associate; and maritime and superyacht lawyer **Linda Roxburgh** from Wikborg Rein, where she was a legal director. Massie advises on energy and infrastructure projects related to both traditional power and renewable technologies. Fordham covers both real estate and infrastructure related non-contentious construction matters. Knight has a particular focus on group actions and competition litigation. Roxburgh specialises in all aspects of transactional superyachting and commercial maritime finance.

✔ **TLT Solicitors**

The Bristol headquartered firm elevates TMT lawyer **Tom Sharpe** from Osborne Clarke, where he was an associate director. Sharpe covers a variety of technology focused matters including those in the digital transformation and AI sectors.

✔ **Weil**

Swapping one New Yorker for another, energy and infrastructure lateral **Simon Caridia** joins the US outfit from White & Case. Caridia specialises in energy and infrastructure finance, advising traditional lenders and private equity sponsors on a variety of financing and restructuring matters.

✔ **White & Case**

Five hires for the New Yorker as it welcomes: a three-partner IP team from A&O Shearman comprising **David Stone**, **Karla Hughes** and **Adrian Dykes** (both Hughes and Dykes were non-partners who are elevated to partner on the move); **Dan Reavill** from Travers Smith, where he was head of technology and commercial transactions; and tax lawyer **Catherine Hill** from Latham & Watkins, where she was an associate. Stone, who was global head of IP at legacy Allen & Overy is an IP litigator who specialises in trademarks, registered and unregistered designs and copyright. Hughes, who joins from the Belfast office of Allen & Overy, advises on trademark and design law issues before the EUIPO, UK IPO and the Court of Justice in Luxembourg. Dykes covers both contentious and non-contentious IP with a focus on trademarks, passing off, copyright, patents and registered designs. Reavill advises on a wide range of non-contentious and contentious commercial matters, in particular the exploitation and protection of all types of technology, data and intellectual property. Hill advises corporates, individuals and funds on transactional tax and strategic tax planning.

✔ **Winston & Strawn**

One lateral and one vertical hire for the Chicago headquartered outfit which adds: real estate finance lawyer **Aparna Sehgal** from Dechert; and corporate lawyer **Adam Howard** from Skadden, where he was a counsel. Sehgal who joins as the new chair of structured finance and real estate finance, advises on real estate-backed transactions, including structured deals and those involving back-leverage arrangements, such as loan-on-loans and repurchase facilities. Howard focuses on public M&A and securities offerings advising both issuers and underwriters on capital market transactions.

✦ **Womble Bond Dickinson**

An insolvency and restructuring hire for the Anglo-Americanverein as it elevates **Seán McGuinness** from Addleshaw Goddard, where he was a managing associate. McGuinness advises on corporate insolvency, financial restructuring and distressed M&A.

[Edwards Gibson Partner Round-Up – click here to read our methodology](#)

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