

Lateral Partner Moves in London



 January - February
2020

Welcome to the latest round-up of lateral partner moves in the legal market from 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.

In all there was a total of 80 lateral partner moves announced in the first two months of 2020 – an 18% decrease on the same period last year and 20% lower than the statistical average (100) for the same period over the past 5 years.

Still there is plenty of hiring drama contained in this edition with most of the running made by US headquartered law firms. No less than five New York law firms: **Cadwalader, Milbank, Skadden, White & Case** and, unusually, **Simpson Thacher** all took laterals – the latter nabbing **Linklaters’** Head of Tax. Also of note, in a very rare senior level defection from **Mishcon de Reya**, US firm **Greenberg Traurig** launched a commercial and financial disputes offering with the hire of two litigation heavyweights which included the head of Mishcon’s leading banking and finance disputes team.

In what is hopefully not an ominous portent of things to come, 8% of all moves were in insolvency/restructuring with: **Kirkland & Ellis, Norton Rose, RPC, Skadden** and **Dechert** (which took a two partner team from **Shearman & Sterling**), all reinforcing their offerings in the space.

In keeping with its recent form, the most acquisitive firm this round-up was global boutique **Brown Rudnick** which hired no fewer than four partners – including a three-lawyer corporate team from fellow US firm **Baker Botts**.

Top partner recruiters in London January – February 2020

◆ Brown Rudnick	4
◆ Greenberg Traurig	3
◆ JMW Solicitors	3
◆ Latham & Watkins	3
◆ Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe	3
◆ Squire Patton Boggs	3

Also of note in this edition

- ◆ 3 firms hired partners from in-house: **Simmons & Simmons** (SFO), **Reed Smith** (Deutsche Bank) and **Squire Patton Boggs** (KPMG);
- ◆ 36% of all laterals were non-partners moving into partnership;
- ◆ 30% of the total moves we recorded were female.

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.

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

Edwards Gibson will be attending MIPIM 2020 - the leading European real estate conference. Discover more [here](#).

Many thanks,
The Edwards Gibson Team

- ✦ **Addleshaw Goddard**
 Addleshaw Goddard welcomes **Rachel Orton** and **Frances Richardson** to its real estate practice. Orton joins from Squire Patton Boggs and has expertise in senior living and healthcare within the BTR sector. Richardson, a property litigation specialist, joins from Linklaters where she was counsel and head of real estate disputes.
- ✦ **Baker Botts**
 US firm Baker Botts hires corporate technology lawyer **Stuart Blythe** into its corporate department from CMS where he co-headed the global M&A practice in the TMT sector.
- ✦ **Bird & Bird**
 Bird & Bird reinforces its real estate sector presence with the hires of real estate finance specialist **James Salford**, from Addleshaw Goddard, and commercial property lawyer **Peter Nicholson** from Russell-Cooke.
- ✦ **BLM**
 Insurance firm BLM has hired **Jason McNerlin** as the firm's head of product recall and liability. The Clyde & Co former consultant specialises in drafting recall and contamination insurance policies.
- ✦ **Bristows**
 Bristows has hired non-contentious IP lawyer **Richard Dickinson** from US firm Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer. Dickinson advises on the development, exploitation and protection of IP rights.
- ✦ **Brown Rudnick**
 US firm Brown Rudnick has hired a quartet of partners this round-up. A three-partner corporate technology team, led by **Neil Foster**, accompanied by **Tim Davison** and **Sarah Melaney** (who were special counsel and senior associate respectively), join from Baker Botts alongside commercial disputes partner, **Ravi Nayer**, from Pinsent Masons. Foster joins as co-chair and European head of technology. Nayer, who acts for asset managers, insurers and pension funds, joins the litigation team.
- ✦ **Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner**
Anton Chambers joins BCLP's global aviation finance practice from Clifford Chance where he was a senior associate. Chambers advises on asset finance transactions and restructurings.
- ✦ **Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft**
 The New York firm welcomes funds lawyer **Michael Newell** from Norton Rose Fulbright. Newell has experience in advising clients on managing onshore and offshore investment vehicles such as real estate, retail and hedge funds.
- ✦ **Clarkslegal**
 Clarkslegal has hired employment partner **Thomas Hunt** from Eric Robinson Solicitors. Hunt specialises in a range of employment law matters including TUPE, restrictive covenants and settlement contracts.
- ✦ **Cooley**
David Boles joins Cooley's capital markets practice from Latham & Watkins. Boles, who is US and English qualified, represents issuers, investment banks and investors on IPOs, private placements and other equity capital markets transactions across EMEA.
- ✦ **Dechert**
 Dechert replenishes its restructuring practice with a two-partner team led by **Solomon Noh** from Shearman & Sterling. Noh is accompanied by **Alastair Goldrein** who was counsel at Shearman & Sterling. The team specialises in a range of financial restructuring matters.

- ✦ **Duane Morris**
 US firm Duane Morris grows its capital markets and construction disputes practices with **Drew Salvest** and **Steve Nichol** respectively. Salvest joins from Jones Day and has over 25 years of experience advising on US and international debt capital market transactions. Nichol, who is a contentious construction specialist, joins from Trowers & Hamblins.
- ✦ **DWF**
 DWF welcomes **Stewart Room** from PwC as its new global head of data protection and cyber security. Room specialises in advising clients on information management, use of data, as well as regulatory investigations. Also joining DWF is technology/outsourcing and procurement specialist **Rubina Khan** from Penningtons Manches Cooper.
- ✦ **Farrer & Co**
 Farrer & Co boosts its private wealth team with **Georgina James** from BCLP. James advises international families, trustees and family offices on cross-border taxation and estate planning issues.
- ✦ **Fladgate**
 Two hires for Fladgate in this edition. Litigation and contentious IP lawyer **John Evans** joins the dispute resolution team from Kerman & Co. Corporate lawyer **Ravi Goonesena** joins from Shakespeare Martineau. Goonesena advises on mergers and acquisitions, corporate finance, joint ventures and investments.
- ✦ **Gateley**
Sarah Reynolds joins Gateley's commerce, technology & media practice from RSM Legal where she was head of commercial legal services.
- ✦ **Goodman Derrick**
 Goodman Derrick strengthens its dispute resolution practice with litigation partner **Daniel Dodman** who joins from Black Lion.
- ✦ **Goodwin Procter**
 Goodwin kicks off 2020 with two hires. CMS' head of private equity, **James Grimwood**, joins alongside BCLP's funds and investment management lead, **Justin Cornelius**. Grimwood specialises in transactional private equity whilst Cornelius specialises in real estate funds.
- ✦ **Greenberg Traurig**
 Three significant hires for the Global Top 20 firm in this round-up. In a very rare senior level defection from Mishcon de Reya, Greenberg has launched a commercial and finance disputes offering in London with the hire of two heavyweight litigation partners - **Masoud Zabeti** and **Mohammed Khamisa QC**. Zabeti, who headed up Mishcon's leading banking and finance disputes group, specialises in investment product, fund and trade disputes. Khamisa specialises in commercial litigation with a focus on fraud within the finance sector. Tax partner **Clive Jones** also returns to Greenberg after an 18-month stint at DLA Piper where he was UK Head of Tax. Jones advises on tax structuring and investment funds in the real estate and financial services sectors.
- ✦ **Harbottle & Lewis**
 Two hires for the private client and media tech boutique this edition. Music lawyer **Kieran Jay** joins from West End firm Lee & Thompson, to head up the music department. Alongside him joins trusts and fraud lawyer, **Sofie Hoffman**, from private prosecution specialists Edmonds Marshall McMahon.
- ✦ **Herbert Smith Freehills**
 O'Melveny & Myers funds partner **Jonathan Blake**, who joined the firm in 2017 as an émigré from KWM's collapsed European verein, has resurfaced at Herbert Smith Freehills as the head of its international private funds team. Blake is a private equity funds veteran.

- ✦ **Hill Dickinson**
Corporate lawyer **Shantanu Sinha** joins Hill Dickinson from Mishcon de Reya where he was a legal director.
- ✦ **Howard Kennedy**
Michelmores' head of employment, **James Townsend**, joins the West End firm. Townsend's experience includes advice in the retail, construction and leisure sectors.
- ✦ **JMW Solicitors**
The Manchester headquartered firm makes three commercial law hires to its recently opened London office. **Jonathan Askin** joins from BLM where he was national head of commercial law. Joining Askin is real estate lawyer **David Wadsworth**, from Blake Morgan, and IP lawyer **Philip Partington** from IP boutique Virtuoso Legal, where he was a director and head of IP disputes.
- ✦ **Kirkland & Ellis**
Lisa Stevens joins Kirkland & Ellis' restructuring practice from Latham & Watkins where she was an associate. Stevens specialises in special situations financings and financial restructurings.
- ✦ **Latham & Watkins**
Three hires for the US firm in this edition as it continues to grow its corporate offering with the addition of **Shing Lo** from Bird & Bird, **Mike Turner** from Taylor Wessing and **Samuel Newhouse** from Freshfields where he was co-head of natural resources. Lo is a corporate technology partner specialising in venture capital, private equity and M&A. Turner, the international head of the technology, media and communications practice at Taylor Wessing, advises on a range of corporate matters for publicly and privately held technology entities. Newhouse advises on a broad range of corporate and securities transactions with a focus on energy and natural resources.
- ✦ **Lewis Silkin**
Lewis Silkin strengthens its real estate practice with planning lawyer **Sara Hanrahan** from Blake Morgan where she was head of planning.
- ✦ **Linklaters**
High-yield finance specialist **Colin Chang** joins Linklaters' London banking practice from White & Case's Paris office. Chang advises underwriters, issuers and sponsors across Europe and the US.
- ✦ **Locke Lord**
The Texas headquartered firm has hired energy lawyer **Matthew Daffurn** from Linklaters where he was a managing associate. Daffurn advises corporates, lenders and sponsors on the financing and development of energy and infrastructure projects.
- ✦ **Mayer Brown**
A power and projects team from White & Case - comprising **Kirsti Massie** and former counsel **Meredith Campanale**, join Mayer Brown's global banking and finance practice. Both Massie and Campanale advise clients in the renewables and conventional power markets.
- ✦ **McDermott Will & Emery**
Corporate lawyer **Fergus Gallagher** joins the US firm from Hogan Lovells where he was a senior associate. Gallagher's hire follows on from that of Hogan Lovells' former head of private equity - Tom Whelan - reported in our [October 2019 edition](#).
- ✦ **MBM Commercial**
TLT corporate lawyer **Bryan Shaw** has joined the London office of Scottish firm MBM Commercial from TLT where he was an associate.
- ✦ **Milbank**
The New York firm has hired M&A lawyer **Lisa O'Neill** from McDermott Will & Emery LLP. O'Neill has expertise in both public and private M&A

across a range of sectors including energy and financial services.

✦ **Morrison & Foerster**

US firm Morrison & Foerster has hired derivatives lawyer **Polly Ehrman** into its corporate finance practice from Latham & Watkins where she was an associate. Ehrman advises on derivatives across all asset classes with an emphasis on equity derivatives.

✦ **Norton Rose Fulbright**

Two hires for Norton Rose Fulbright this roundup. Planning partner **Sarah Fitzpatrick** joins from BCLP as Norton Rose's new head of planning and insolvency partner **Alison Goldthorp** arrives from Addleshaw Goddard. Goldthorp is primarily a contentious insolvency specialist.

✦ **Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe**

Orrick starts 2020 with three vertical hires. The US firm has launched a cyber, data privacy litigation and regulatory enforcement practice with the hire of **Keily Blair** and **James Lloyd** who were respectively director and senior manager at PwC. In addition, **Anthony Kay** joins the finance practice from Latham & Watkins where he was counsel. Kay has a focus on acquisition, leveraged and private equity finance.

✦ **Reed Smith**

Reed Smith has made two hires this round-up. Financial services and regulatory enforcement lawyer **Joe Kohler** joins from Deutsche Bank, where he was a managing director and co-head of global markets. The firm also welcomes **Sam Webster** into its global corporate group from Mayer Brown where he was counsel. Webster focuses on M&A, joint ventures, private equity and venture capital across a range of sectors.

✦ **RPC**

RPC welcomes **Finella Fogarty**, the head of business restructuring at DWF. Fogarty has experience in advising insolvency practitioners,

corporates and individuals on both contentious and non-contentious restructuring and formal insolvency.

✦ **Russell-Cooke**

Russell-Cooke has hired real estate lawyer **Neil Dryer** from CMS where he was a senior associate. Dryer advises a range of institutional investors across the healthcare, infrastructure, logistics and data centre sectors.

✦ **Shoosmiths**

Shoosmiths has hired corporate partner **Sam Tyfield** from US firm Vedder Price and Keystone Law's data protection and privacy consultant **Philip Tansley**. Tyfield has experience of M&A, high frequency trading and financial services and Tansley specialises in crisis management of cybersecurity incidents.

✦ **Sidley Austin**

Vincent Brophy joins the competition practice at Sidley from the Brussels office of Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft. Brophy, who will be based in London, advises clients on antitrust and EU regulatory matters.

✦ **Simmons & Simmons**

Simmons & Simmons has hired white collar crime and investigations lawyer **Camilla de Silva** from the Serious Fraud Office where she was joint head of bribery and corruption.

✦ **Simpson Thacher & Bartlett**

New York firm Simpson Thacher has hired **Yash Rupal** the head of the London tax team at Linklaters. Rupal's experience includes mergers and acquisitions, investment fund structuring and tax planning.

✦ **Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom**

Skadden welcomes restructuring partner **Peter Newman** from fellow New York firm Milbank.

Newman focuses on cross-border restructurings, distressed acquisitions and financings.

✦ **Squire Patton Boggs**

Squire Patton Boggs makes a trio of hires to its corporate team. Private equity duo - **Charles Leeming** and **Ben Squires** - arrive from New York firm Simpson Thacher, where they were both associates. Joining alongside them is KPMG lead partner and corporate lawyer **Stephen Ball**.

✦ **Steptoe & Johnson**

Steptoe & Johnson welcomes **Christophe Bondy** from fellow US firm Cooley where he was special counsel. Bondy acts for a broad range of both state and private actors in international investment and commercial arbitration and trade disputes.

✦ **Taylor Wessing**

Real estate lawyer **Matthew Swainston** joins Taylor Wessing from real estate and private client firm Forsters where he was the head of commercial real estate.

✦ **Town Legal**

Planning boutique Town Legal hires **Michael Gallimore** from Hogan Lovells where he led the planning team and headed the Birmingham office.

✦ **Veale Wasbrough Vizards**

Tax lawyer **Thomas Dick** joins from DLA Piper where he led the US tax desk in London.

✦ **Wedlake Bell**

Kathryn West joins the real estate team from Jones Day. West's hire follows on from that of Jones Day's former global head of real estate – David Roberts – [reported in our October 2019 edition](#). West has experience of investment, development and real estate finance.

✦ **Weightmans**

Two partners join Weightmans this edition. Medical negligence lawyer **Kiran Sekhon** joins the healthcare practice from Capsticks, and criminal regulatory/health and safety specialist, **Lili Oliver**, joins from Clyde & Co where she was fleetingly a legal director and head of corporate risk.

✦ **White & Case**

Corporate tax lawyer **Will Smith** joins the New York firm from Sidley Austin. Smith focuses on the direct and indirect aspects of a range of tax matters and has significant expertise in funds.

✦ **Winckworth Sherwood**

Andrea London joins Winckworth Sherwood from Fletcher Day where she was head of employment. London advises on a range of employment law matters.

✦ **Womble Bond Dickinson**

Matt Lewy joins Womble Bond Dickinson's corporate practice from Baker Botts where he was a senior associate. Lewy specialises in energy sector corporate transactions.

Related links:

- ✔ [Edwards Gibson Partner Round-Up - Our Methodology](#)
- ✔ [Previous editions of Lateral Partner Moves in London](#)
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