

# Lateral Partner Moves in London

 September -  
October 2019

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.

Despite the wider economic damage inflicted by the UK’s seemingly never-ending Brexit purgatory, it would appear that the market for lateral partners in London commercial law firms remains in something of rude health. Ten law firms hired three or more laterals in this edition and we recorded a total of 106 lateral partner moves – 18% up on the same period last year and an astonishing 31% increase on the statistical average (81) over the preceding 5 years.

Of particular note this round-up is the launch of two new law firms: The long-awaited arrival of US AM Law 100 firm **Alston & Bird**, which kicks off its City offering by nabbing three partners from two fellow US firms, and the pending launch of a six partner shipping boutique **Preston Turnbull**, which tears itself away from **Clyde & Co** in reportedly controversial circumstances.

#### Top partner recruiters in London September – October 2019

◆ <b>Preston Turnbull</b> (new firm)	6
◆ <b>Akin Gump</b>	4
◆ <b>Alston &amp; Bird</b> (new firm – US HQ)	3
◆ <b>Dentons</b>	3
◆ <b>DLA Piper</b>	3
◆ <b>Kingsley Napley</b>	3
◆ <b>Orrick, Herrington &amp; Sutcliffe</b>	3
◆ <b>Reed Smith</b>	3
◆ <b>Rosenblatt</b>	3
◆ <b>TLT</b>	3

#### Top partner recruiters in London 2019 (year to date)

◆ <b>Dentons</b>	14
◆ <b>Fieldfisher</b> (excludes Cummings Fisher)	12
◆ <b>Akin Gump</b>	9
◆ <b>Baker McKenzie</b>	9

**Also of note in this edition**

- ✔ Six firms hired partners from in-house: **Akin Gump** (Pricoa Private Capital), **Boies Schiller Flexner** (Barclays), **DLA Piper** (Aviva), **HFW** (Elix Aviation Capital), **Reed Smith** (Johnson & Johnson) and **Taylor Wessing** (Sumitomo Electric Industries);
- ✔ Including moves from in-house, 27% of all lateral moves were non-partners moving into partnership;
- ✔ 27% of all lateral hires were women.

Time will tell if the London lateral partner market's ability to seemingly defy gravity will continue in the face of mounting global, as well as Brexit inflicted, economic challenges and the further uncertainties arising from UK's decision to hold a snap general election in December. Rest assured our next bulletin will zoom in on the coming two months in detail - as well as providing our usual year-end summary packed with fun facts and figures.

**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.**

Many thanks,  
The Edwards Gibson Team

✓ **Addleshaw Goddard**

Addleshaw Goddard has welcomed leading restructuring lawyer **Paul Fleming** from Dechert, where he was head of the practice. Fleming advises creditors and lenders on complex domestic and international restructurings and insolvencies.

✓ **Akin Gump**

Akin Gump has now made nine lateral partner hires in 2019 with four hires this round-up. Corporate private equity lawyers **Shaun Lascelles** and **Simon Rootsey** join from Vinson & Elkins. Both are energy-focused and transactional, having advised infrastructure investors and private equity houses. Finance lawyer **Mike Gustafson** also joins, as a partner, from Pricoa Private Capital where he was European deputy chief legal officer. Gustafson specialises in sophisticated debt finance work, including institutional private placement transactions, direct lending and financial restructurings. The firm also welcomes Corporate lawyer **Weyinmi Popo** from Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe. Popo has experience in M&A, private equity, infrastructure and energy transactions with a focus on Africa.

✓ **Allen & Overy**

Two more hires for Allen & Overy this edition, bringing the 2019 total to three partner lateral hires. Employment lawyer **Vicky Wickremeratne** joins from Simmons & Simmons, while financial services regulatory lawyer **Knox McIlwain** joins from Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton, where he was counsel, and reunites with Bob Penn who returned to Allen & Overy in 2018. Wickremeratne has expertise in people-risk management, largely within the financial services, life sciences and TMT sectors. The New York qualified McIlwain will focus on financial institutions resilience and insolvency, as well as supporting the derivatives practice.

✓ **Alston & Bird**

The long-awaited launch of AM Law 100 firm Alston & Bird has kicked off with the hire of three partners. Finance lawyers **Andrew Petersen** and **James Spencer** join from K&L Gates alongside competition lawyer **James Ashe-Taylor** from Constantine Law. Petersen, who was head of finance at his former firm, and Spencer specialise in real estate finance and development finance transactions. While Ashe-Taylor focuses on merger control, state aid and the antitrust aspects of joint ventures, distribution and agency agreements.

✓ **AmaeeLaw**

White collar crime lawyer **Robert Amaee** founded AmaeeLaw, following his departure from Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan. He focuses on financial crime, corporate investigations and compliance.

✓ **Arnold & Porter**

**Beatriz San Martin**, a life sciences lawyer, joins Arnold & Porter from Fieldfisher. She focuses her practice on trademark and copyright litigation, as well as design and database issues concerning emerging technologies.

✓ **Ashurst**

Ashurst has strengthened its dispute resolution practice with the hire of **Ruby Hamid** from Freshfields, where she was counsel. Hamid specialises in corporate crime, global investigations and financial regulation.

✓ **BDB Pitmans**

**Richard Marsh** joins BDB Pitmans from Eversheds Sutherland, where he was principal associate. Marsh's expertise encompasses a wide range of planning work.

- ✦ **Bevan Brittan**  
 Bevan Brittan welcomes real estate lawyers **Dalee Kaur**, from BDB Pitmans, and **Mark Paget Skelin**, from Capsticks. Kaur has experience in planning and infrastructure law. Skelin focuses on site disposals and redevelopments.
- ✦ **Boies Schiller Flexner**  
**Tracey Dovaston**, a litigation lawyer, joins elite US disputes firm Boies Schiller Flexner as a partner from Barclays where she was head of litigation, investigations and regulatory enforcement for EME. Dovaston has experience managing high-profile banking litigation, investigations and enforcement matters.
- ✦ **Brown Rudnick**  
 Brown Rudnick has hired restructuring and insolvency lawyer **Charlotte Møller** from Reed Smith.
- ✦ **Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner**  
 Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner strengthens its employment offering with the hire of **Adam Lambert** from Kingsley Napley. Lambert's experience includes large-scale disputes and global transactions across a range of sectors.
- ✦ **Clifford Chance**  
 Clifford Chance has made its third partner hire for 2019, recruiting Corporate lawyer **Richard Crosby** from Norton Rose Fulbright. Crosby specialises in domestic and cross-border M&A, securities offerings and corporate restructurings.
- ✦ **Clyde & Co**  
**Andrew Yarwood**, who specialises in marine insurance, joins Clyde & Co as a partner from Kennedys where he was a senior associate.
- ✦ **CMS**  
 CMS welcomes financial services regulatory lawyer **Angela Greenough** as a partner from Hogan Lovells where she was counsel.
- ✦ **Cohen & Gresser**  
 US-firm Cohen & Gresser has recruited its fourth London partner with the hire of **Jumana Rahman** to lead the UK commercial litigation practice. Rahman was previously counsel at Latham & Watkins and specialises in commercial cross-border disputes, with a focus on financial services litigation and insurance-related disputes.
- ✦ **Collyer Bristow**  
 Private client tax lawyer **James Austen** joins Collyer Bristow as a partner from Charles Russell Speechlys where he was senior associate.
- ✦ **Davitt Jones Bould**  
 Specialist real estate firm Davitt Jones Bould has hired **Nigel Heilpern**, previously at King & Spalding, where he was a real estate and real estate finance partner. Heilpern specialises in property finance deals and transactional work for banks, developers and other institutions.
- ✦ **Dentons**  
 The recruitment of three partners this round-up brings the total of lateral hires Dentons has made in 2019 to an impressive fourteen. **Richard Pallot-Cook**, a finance restructuring lawyer, joins from Simmons & Simmons, alongside corporate lawyer **Paul Doris**, from Orrick and employment lawyer **Purvis Ghani**, from Stephenson Harwood. Pallot-Cook specialises in corporate and financial restructuring, workouts and insolvency. Doris focuses his practice on mergers and acquisitions and joint ventures. Ghani advises on all areas of contentious and non-contentious employment with particular expertise in international and cross-border matters, in the financial services, information and technology sectors.
- ✦ **Devonshires**  
 Real estate lawyer **Hannah Langford**, who specialises in property and planning, joins Devonshires from Clarke Willmott.

✦ **DLA Piper**

DLA Piper has hired a trio of lawyers this round-up. Corporate real estate lawyer **Joanne Owen** re-joins from Proskauer Rose, employment lawyer **Nick Hipwell** from Deloitte and **Amrit McLean** from Aviva where she was propositions and sales director. Owen focuses her practice on private equity, real estate finance and alternative vehicles for property investment. Hipwell specialises in employment incentives and rewards. McLean advises on pensions de-risking and bulk annuity work.

✦ **DMH Stallard**

Employment lawyer **Rebecca Thornley-Gibson** joins DMH Stallard from Ince Gordon Dadds. She has particular experience in the travel sector.

✦ **EC3 Legal**

**Gavin Coull** joins insurance boutique EC3 Legal from BLM. Coull specialises in dispute resolution for reinsurers and their clients, across a broad range of non-marine classes.

✦ **EY**

EY welcomes two corporate lawyers: **Claire Scott-Priestley** from Squire Patton Boggs and **Craig Stevenson** from PwC (China & Hong Kong). Scott-Priestley specialises in multi-jurisdictional, cross-border M&A, while Stevenson's experience covers international and domestic corporate structuring projects.

✦ **Fieldfisher**

Commercial energy lawyer **Paul Stockley** joins Fieldfisher as co-head of oil and gas from Womble Bond Dickinson where he was also head of oil and gas. Stockley's hire marks the twelfth lateral hire Fieldfisher has made in London this year, putting it in second place.

✦ **Fladgate**

Construction lawyer **Elliot Lewis** joins Fladgate from Brecher. Lewis specialises in advising clients

on UK domestic development including systems of procurements and tendering.

✦ **Gateley Legal**

Gateley Legal expands in London with two new hires: regulatory lawyer **Kenneth Maxwell** and corporate lawyer **Martin Montgomery**. Maxwell joins from Veale Wasbrough Vizards and has expertise in real estate finance. Montgomery joins from Dundas & Wilson and focuses on mergers and acquisitions, capital markets and private equity.

✦ **Gibson Dunn & Crutcher**

Gibson Dunn & Crutcher makes its first hires since 2017 with the recruitment of financial services lawyer **Michelle Kirschner** from Macfarlanes and tax lawyer **Ben Fryer** from Mayer Brown. Kirschner focuses on non-contentious financial services regulation. Fryer advises on a wide range of corporate transactions.

✦ **HFW**

HFW has welcomed aviation lawyer **Asheesh Das** as a partner from Elix Aviation Capital, where he was head of legal. Das has expertise in aviation finance.

✦ **Ince Gordon Dadds**

**Julian Clark** joins Ince Gordon Dadds as its new senior partner, from Hill Dickinson where he was head of shipping.

✦ **Irwin Mitchell**

Irwin Mitchell has hired **Paul Henson**, who has expertise in real estate disputes with a particular interest in acting for tenants in the leisure sector, from Collyer Bristow.

✦ **Kemp Little**

**Farina Azam** joins Kemp Little as partner and travel lead from Travlaw where she was head of commercial and partner, alongside IT disputes partner **Matthew Irvine** who joins from Pinsent

Masons. Azam provides regulatory and commercial advice to the travel industry. Irvine has experience in litigation, arbitration and mediation.

✦ **Kennedys**

Insurance lawyer **Paul Castellani** joins Kennedys from RPC. Castellani specialises in professional indemnity insurance, focusing on coverage issues and defence of claims involving solicitors, surveyors and insurance industry professionals.

✦ **Kingsley Napley**

Kingsley Napley has boosted its employment practice through the acquisition of boutique employment specialist law firm Archon Solicitors. Three employment specialists join: **Corinne Alfridge**, who was managing partner, **Niki Southern** and **Nick Ralph**.

✦ **Kirkland & Ellis**

Kirkland & Ellis has hired private equity tax specialist **Mavnick Nerwal** from Linklaters. Nerwal has extensive experience of advising on complex and innovative structures for banks and funds.

✦ **Latham & Watkins**

Latham & Watkins hires two partners this round-up. Capital markets lawyer **Chris Horton** joins from Simmons & Simmons, where he was head of equity capital markets. In addition, competition lawyer **David Little** joins from Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton, where he was counsel. Horton advises on UK listings, disclosure and transparency rules, and Little on a variety of UK, EU, and international competition law.

✦ **Locke Lord**

Locke Lord has welcomed litigation partner **David Herbert** from Gunnercooke. Herbert has extensive experience in international disputes, especially those centered on offshore trusts, structures and investment funds.

✦ **Macfarlanes**

Financial services regulatory lawyer **Andrew Henderson** joins Macfarlanes from Eversheds Sutherland. Henderson's experience includes: perimeter issues, regulatory capital, market abuse and trading.

✦ **McDermott Will & Emery**

McDermott Will & Emery strengthens its private equity practice with the hire of **Tom Whelan**, who acts for private equity sponsors, multi-strategy funds and corporates.

✦ **McGuire Woods**

McGuire Woods has hired finance specialist and EMEA bank head **Lee Cullinane** from White & Case. Cullinane has experience in representing lenders in the leveraged finance space and will lead the EMEA finance team.

✦ **Mishcon de Reya**

Mishcon de Reya augments its white-collar crime offering with the hire of **Ben Brandon**, as a partner from barristers' chambers Three Raymond Buildings, where he was a dual qualified solicitor and barrister.

✦ **Morrison & Foerster**

**Chiraag Shah** joins Morrison & Foerster as head of international arbitration from Kirkland & Ellis. Shah specialises in arbitration in Africa, the Middle East and Asia.

✦ **Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe**

Three partner hires at Orrick this edition. The firm has welcomed corporate ECM lawyer **Ed Lukins**, from Cooley, finance lawyer **Rick Hanson** from Ropes and Gray, where he was counsel, and energy lawyer **Hannah Roscoe** from Herbert Smith Freehills, where she was senior associate. Lukins undertakes IPOs and M&As across the technology, life sciences, energy and natural resources sectors. Hanson specialises in structured finance for funds, asset managers and

investment trusts, and Roscoe's focus is on global transactional and regulatory matters in the energy and infrastructure sectors.

◆ **Osborne Clarke**

Finance lawyer **James Tarleton** joins Osborne Clarke from Addleshaw Goddard where he was managing associate. Tarleton specialises in mid-market financial services transactions in receivables financing and asset-based lending.

◆ **Penningtons Manches**

**Michael Brown**, a litigation lawyer, joins Penningtons Manches from Bird & Bird. Brown specialises in financial services disputes and contentious regulatory matters.

◆ **Pinsent Masons**

Pinsent Masons has made two lateral hires: life sciences lawyer **Nicole Jadeja** moves from Fieldfisher, where she was co-head of life sciences, and white-collar crime lawyer **Natalie Sherborn** joins from Kobre & Kim. Jadeja specialises in patent litigation, and Sherborn in white collar and complex crime.

◆ **Preston Turnbull**

Clyde & Co have lost a six-partner team which is looking to establish a new boutique shipping firm called Preston Turnbull. **Andrew Preston, Elizabeth Turnbull, Fanos Theophani, Rob Collins, Andrew Bicknell** and **Ed Mills-Webb** will launch the new marine trade, commercial litigation practice.

◆ **Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan**

Litigation and arbitration partner **Julianne Hughes-Jennett** joins Quinn Emanuel Urquhart & Sullivan from Hogan Lovells. Hughes-Jennett is recognised as a leading adviser on business and human rights issues. Her practice focuses on the natural resources, life sciences and TMT sectors.

◆ **Reed Smith**

Reed Smith has welcomed a trio of partners this round-up: **Nick Austin** from Clyde & Co, **Iqbal Hussain** from Johnson & Johnson, and **Colin Baker** from Goodwin Procter where he was counsel. Austin specialises in shipping, international trade and arbitration. Hussain has experience in cross-border M&A, licensing, equity investments and joint venture transactions, with an emphasis on the life sciences sector. Baker advises on a range of funds finance.

◆ **Rosenblatt**

Rosenblatt has launched a white-collar crime practice with two partners: KPMG's former head of corporate crime **Manraj Somal**, who will head the practice and who will be joined by the former head of Kangs Solicitors' London office **Frances Murray**. Somal, who was a director at KPMG, specialises in compliance, regulatory investigations and enforcement. Murray practices predominantly in white collar and serious crime. IT lawyer **Anthony Lee** also joins the firm from DMH Stallard. Lee's expertise includes cloud computing, data protection and intellectual property law.

◆ **RPC**

Litigation lawyer **Tatiana Minaeva** joins RPC from Jones Day, where she was counsel. Minaeva specialises in complex international commercial and sovereign arbitrations, with an emphasis on Russia.

◆ **Seddons**

Commercial litigation lawyer **Aoife Keane** joins Seddons as a partner from Hausfield where she was counsel. She has expertise in corporate and commercial disputes.

◆ **Shoosmiths**

White collar crime lawyer **John Hartley** joins Shoosmiths from Hodge Jones & Allen, where he was head of fraud, financial crime and regulatory

investigations. Restructuring lawyer **Lee Sennett** also joins the firm from Ince Gordon Dadds.

◆ **Sidley Austin**

Sidley Austin welcomes financial services regulatory lawyer **Kolja Stehl** from Shearman & Sterling where he was counsel. Stehl has knowledge of the financial services regulatory landscape in Germany and across Europe. Corporate lawyer **Eleanor Shanks**, who specialises in private equity, also joins from Proskauer Rose.

◆ **Simmons & Simmons**

**Alex Blomfield**, an energy lawyer, joins Simmons & Simmons from K&L Gates. He specialises in the development, construction and financing of projects, predominantly in renewable energy.

◆ **Skadden**

Skadden has made its first lateral partner hires since 2017 with the hire of two corporate M&A lawyers from Allen & Overy: **George Knighton** and **Simons Toms**. Knighton has experience in public takeovers as well as restructurings, and Toms's experience covers the technology, media and telecommunications sectors.

◆ **Squire Patton Boggs**

Finance lawyer **Ian Yeo** joins Squire Patton Boggs from Herbert Smith Freehills. Yeo is a general banking lawyer with a broad range of finance experience.

◆ **Steptoe & Johnson**

**Zoe Osborne** joins Steptoe & Johnson as a partner from Clifford Chance where she was a director. Her practice focuses on financial crime and contentious regulatory investigations.

◆ **Taylor Wessing**

Taylor Wessing has made two lateral partner hires this round-up. **Nick Storrs**, a litigation lawyer, joins from Signature Litigation where he

was a senior associate. Storrs has experience in disputes involving shareholder actions, joint ventures and financing arrangements. Competition lawyer **Paolo Palmigiano**, previously general counsel and chief compliance officer at Sumitomo Electric Industries, also joins.

◆ **TLT**

TLT has hired three lawyers this edition. **Kanika Kitchlu-Connolly** has joined the firm from Gowling where she was a director. The firm has also bolstered its financial services offering with the hire of two regulatory lawyers: **Angela Hayes** from King & Spalding and **Robin Penfold** from Addleshaw Goddard, where he was legal director. Hayes covers market abuse regulation and regulatory investigations and enforcements in the asset management sector. Penfold advises financial services clients on regulatory and compliance matters.

◆ **Watson Farley & Williams**

WFW has made a double partner hire this bulletin: **Simon Ovenden** joins from Simmons and Simmons where he was head of debt capital markets, while aviation lawyer **Pete O'Hare** joins from Milbank where he was an associate. Ovenden has experience of equity and debt capital markets transactions advising both issuers and underwriters. O'Hare is an aviation finance specialist.

◆ **Wedlake Bell**

Wedlake Bell has hired leading real estate lawyer **David Roberts** from Jones Day where he was co-head of global real estate. Roberts covers both investment and development and is well-known for his expertise in the logistics and retail sectors. The firm also strengthens its employment practice with the hire of **William Granger** as head of employment, from Charles Russell Speechlys. Granger specialises in leadership support, crisis communication, discrimination, unfair prejudice, whistleblowing and team moves.

✦ **Weightmans**

Two energy lawyers have joined Weightmans: **Levent Gurdenli** from Bird & Bird, where he was senior associate, and **Jim Jordan** from Norton Rose Fulbright where he was counsel. Gurdenli specialises in projects in the renewable energy sector and Jordan in non-contentious matters in the construction, engineering and energy sectors.

✦ **Weil Gotshal & Manges**

Weil Gotshal & Manges has nabbed two partners this edition: **David Avery-Gee** from Linklaters and **Jenny Doak** from Vinson & Elkins. Avery-Gee advises on M&A transactions and IPOs across the natural resources, energy and financial services sectors. Doak's tax experience covers restructuring, M&A, joint ventures, financings and capital markets transactions.

✦ **Willkie Farr & Gallagher**

Debt finance lawyer **Ashley Young** joins from Kirkland & Ellis. Young advises on cross-border finance transactions, focusing on the leveraged and corporate acquisition finance space.

✦ **Winckworth Sherwood**

Litigation lawyer **Paul Dunbar** joins Winckworth Sherwood from Ashfords, where he was head of London property litigation.

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- ✔ [Previous editions of Lateral Partner Moves in London](#)
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✔ **The Specialist Partner Team**



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