

Lateral Partner Moves in London

 May - June 2018

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.

There are a total of 68 lateral partner moves in this edition, which, although a 5% increase on our March-April edition, is 13% fewer than the statistical average for the preceding five year period. Indeed, at the half year point, the number of lateral partner moves in London was down 23% on the (admittedly record breaking) same period in 2017 – a drop which, as we observed in our last edition, is only partially explained by the 2017 figures being artificially buoyed by the collapse of King & Wood Mallesons’ European verein.

Still, there are plenty of exciting comings and goings for market watchers in this edition which includes seven moves by in-house lawyers into partnership (including two from litigation funders) along with the hire by **Linklaters** of the Director of Public Prosecutions – Alison Saunders.

Also of note; the reclaiming of one of its own by **Allen & Overy** - in the form of leading financial services partner Bob Penn, after a two year sojourn at **Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton** - represents a rare riposte in the battle for talent by a magic circle firm against the US elite.

The largest single team move in this round-up was by **Irwin Mitchell** which nabbed a three partner employment team from **Bindmans**.

Top partner recruiters in London May-June 2018

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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.

The Edwards Gibson Team

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✦ **Allen & Overy**

Allen & Overy has welcomed back financial services lawyer **Bob Penn** from Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton. Penn, who specialises in non-contentious financial services regulation, re-joins the Magic Circle firm after just two years away, having left to take a role as Cleary's head of non-contentious financial services in 2016.

✦ **Ashurst**

Ashurst has hired Baker McKenzie's one-time global co-head of securitisation, **Jonathan Walsh**. Walsh has a particular focus on multi-jurisdictional term and commercial paper transactions.

✦ **Baker McKenzie**

Baker McKenzie has expanded its Energy, Mining and Industrials practice with the hire of **Kathy Honeywood** from Clifford Chance. Honeywood's practice incorporates M&A transactions, corporate finance and joint ventures, particularly in the energy and resources, and retail sectors. She returns from Singapore, where she served as head of Clifford Chance's South East Asia Corporate practice.

✦ **Bargate Murray**

Boutique luxury asset law firm Bargate Murray has expanded its real estate offering with the hiring of **Nicholas Maestri** from Stratford based firm Bowling & Co. He joins as head of property, having been head of residential property at Bowling.

✦ **Bishop & Sewell**

Bishop & Sewell has expanded its immigration offering with the hire of **Charles Green** from US firm Fragomen. Green, who joins as the new head of immigration, specialises in private client, corporate, litigation and international protection work.

✦ **Cooley**

Tax lawyer **David Wilson** has joined US firm Cooley from Davis Polk. Wilson joins the firm as a partner, having previously held the position of Counsel. His broad tax practice incorporates public and private mergers, acquisitions, spin-offs and reorganizations.

✦ **Davitt Jones Bould**

Boutique real estate firm Davitt Jones Bould has expanded with the hire of **Melanie Greer-Walker** as a partner. Greer-Walker joins the firm from Stone King, where she was a consultant solicitor.

✦ **Dechert**

Dechert has expanded its white-collar crime offering with the hire of **Roger Burlingame** from US disputes and investigations firm Kobre & Kim. Burlingame, a former US federal prosecutor, works across white-collar criminal defence, internal investigations and regulatory enforcement with particular specialism in US cross-border investigations.

✦ **Dentons**

Dentons has hired tax lawyer **James Meakin** from Charles Russell Speechlys, and finance lawyer **Howard Barrie** from Eversheds Sutherland. Meakin operates a broad tax practice with particular focus on corporate and real estate transactions. Barrie is a projects and project finance specialist with significant experience in Africa, and he rejoins the firm having previously worked at Dentons for 19 years.

✦ **DLA Piper**

DLA Piper has hired corporate lawyer **Martin Nelson-Jones** from Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer. Nelson-Jones, an M&A specialist, previously served as head of infrastructure and transport at Freshfields until 2017.

✦ **DWF**

DWF has hired finance lawyer **Martin Pugsley** from Willkie Farr & Gallagher as its new head of financial services, as well as real estate lawyer

Andrew Edwards from Greenberg Traurig and insurance lawyer **Iftikhar Ali** from Simmons & Simmons. Pugsley, who specialises in aviation finance, acquisition finance, trade and project finance, SPACs and DCM, joins from Willkie Farr's Milan office where he was head of the Italian Banking practice. Edwards's real estate practice is a mix of investment, development and forward funding. Ali, who had been head of construction all risks at Simmons, addresses construction, power and engineering claims.

◆ Eversheds Sutherland

Eversheds Sutherland has made four lateral hire moves this edition, expanding: its Tax team with the hire of **Paul Beausang** from Morgan Lewis & Bockius; its Corporate Claims team with the hire of **Louise Bland** from Ellison Solicitors; its Employment team with the hire of **Sophie White** from boutique firm Abbiss Cadres; and its Financial Services team with the hire of **Ben Watford** from specialist funds firm MJ Hudson. Beausang, who joins as head of real estate tax, specialises in real estate tax structuring and transactional execution. Bland advises primarily on injury claims as well as indemnity and coverage issues. White operates a broad employment practice across the healthcare, technology, engineering, real estate, and financial services industries. Watford practises the formation, liquidation and financing of investment funds and held the position of head of hedge funds at MJ Hudson.

◆ Farrer & Co

Farrer & Co has bolstered its Tax practice with the addition of **David Gubbay** from RPC. Gubbay is a corporate tax specialist who will operate broad general tax practice across a range of sectors.

◆ Fladgate

Fladgate has hired litigation lawyer **David Breslin** from Gowling WLG. Breslin, who had served as head of both the International Arbitration and Insurance teams at Gowling, maintains a broad

contentious practice across the insurance, financial services, energy, and international trade sectors.

◆ Fox Williams

Fox Williams has acquired real estate lawyer **Scott Keown** from CMS. Keown joins as a partner, having been a senior associate at his former firm and operates a broad commercial real estate practice with particular focus on foreign investors in the UK.

◆ Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer

Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer has re-launched its London Patent Litigation team with the hire of **Christopher Stothers**, as part of a team move from Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer. Stothers joins the Magic Circle firm along with a Counsel and two associates.

◆ Gordon Dadds

Gordon Dadds has hired litigator **Melanie Hart** from Harbottle & Lewis. Hart joins the firm as a partner, having previously been a senior associate, and focuses her work particularly in the tech, media, and entertainment sectors.

◆ Gowling WLG

Gowling WLG has hired financial services regulation partner **Ian Mason** from DLA Piper, where he was a legal director. Mason, who will serve as the new head of financial services and regulatory at the firm, operates both a contentious and non-contentious practice and previously worked as a partner at Baker McKenzie and a department head at the FSA.

◆ Harbottle & Lewis

Harbottle & Lewis has made two hires in the form of private client lawyer **Jonathan Burt** from boutique private client firm Marcus Sinclair and technology, advertising, and data protection lawyer **Sacha Wilson** from Bristows. Burt focuses on tax succession planning, investment structures, and trusts. Wilson is noted for his

work in data protection, particularly data privacy in relation to marketing and digital advertising. He joins the firm as a partner having been a senior associate at Bristows.

◆ **Hogan Lovells**

Hogan Lovells has hired capital markets lawyer **Jennifer O’Connell**. O’Connell joins the firm as a partner, having previously served as head of structured products and derivatives legal at investment bank Crédit Agricole.

◆ **Irwin Mitchell**

Irwin Mitchell has expanded its Employment practice with the hire of a team from Bindmans. Head of employment and professional discipline, **Shah Qureshi**, joins along with **Shazia Khan** and **Emilie Cole**. Qureshi operates a broad practice incorporating employment law, discrimination law, and professional discipline. Khan specialises in working for senior executives, and Cole represents professionals in high-value and complex whistleblowing actions.

◆ **Hausfeld & Co**

Boutique disputes firm Hausfeld & Co has acquired commercial litigator **Lucy Pert** from litigation funder Harbour Litigation Funding. Pert, who held the position of head of litigation at Harbour, joins as a partner and will focus her work on financial services, contentious restructuring and insolvency.

◆ **Haynes & Boone**

Haynes & Boone has acquired a two-partner international disputes team from fellow US firm Andrews Kurth Kenyon with the hire of arbitration specialists **Melanie Willems** and **Markus Elsy**. Willems was former managing partner at Andrews Kurth and head of international arbitration, and operates a broad arbitration practice with particular experience in the energy, projects and engineering sectors. Elsy also focuses his practice on energy and projects, as well as construction and infrastructure

matters. These partners have a longstanding working relationship, both moving from US firm Howrey to Chadbourne & Parke in 2010, then joining Andrews Kurth in 2013.

◆ **Jenner & Block**

US firm Jenner & Block has launched its corporate crime offering with the hire of **Christine Braamskamp**, head of investigations, enforcement and white-collar crime at K&L Gates. Braamskamp focuses her practice on multi-jurisdictional white-collar cases, covering both high-profile trials and internal investigations. She joins as the firm’s new co-chair of investigations, compliance and defense.

◆ **Kirkland & Ellis**

Kirkland & Ellis has launched its London Intellectual Property Litigation practice with the hire of Allen & Overy IP partner **Nicola Dagg**. Dagg, who had served as global head of IP at her former firm, focuses her work on patent litigation and breach of confidence disputes.

◆ **Latham & Watkins**

Latham & Watkins has hired regulatory lawyer **Carl Fernandes** from Linklaters. Fernandes, a specialist in financial regulation, has practised in both London and Hong Kong, and was formerly Linklaters’ Asian head of financial regulation.

◆ **Linklaters**

Linklaters has hired outgoing Director of Public Prosecutions **Alison Saunders** into its Business Crime team. Saunders, who will join the firm as a partner after completing her tenure as DPP in October, originally qualified as a barrister.

◆ **Locke Lord**

US firm Locke Lord has hired employment partner **Nick Dent** from Clyde & Co. Dent operates a broad practice in the financial and professional services, and media sectors with particular experience in collective redundancies.

✦ **Maples Teesdale**

Boutique real estate firm Maples Teesdale has expanded its real estate finance offering with the acquisition of Irwin Mitchell real estate finance lawyer **Rohan Campbell**. Campbell focuses on investment and development financing, refinancing, and loan restructuring.

✦ **Mayer Brown**

Mayer Brown has hired finance lawyer **Stuart Brinkworth** from Fried Frank. Brinkworth specialises in debt funds and leveraged finance and joins the firm to head the European Leveraged Finance team.

✦ **MFB**

Shipping specialist law firm MFB has hired **Kevin Cooper** from Ince & Co. Cooper has a wide shipping practice encompassing casualty and dry shipping, contentious yachts and superyachts and regulatory work, particularly in the field of anti-corruption.

✦ **Morgan, Lewis & Bockius**

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius has hired finance lawyer **Paul Denham** from Dorsey & Whitney. Denham focuses his practice on finance and restructuring, particularly leveraged and acquisition financing.

✦ **Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe**

US firm Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe has hired litigation lawyer **Mark Beeley** from Vinson & Elkins. Beeley, who operates an international arbitration practice, specialises in representing clients in the energy sector.

✦ **Paul Hastings**

Paul Hastings has hired four partners this round up: TMT lawyer **Sarah Pearce** from Cooley; financial services lawyer **Arun Srivastava** from Baker McKenzie; and corporate lawyers **Anu Balasubramanian** and **Roger Barron** from DLA Piper and Linklaters respectively. Pearce's practice spans technology, privacy and data and

she is noted as an expert on the recently implemented GDPR provisions. Srivastava's practice covers financial services regulatory matters and he joins as head of regulatory and fintec payments, having been head of financial services regulatory at his previous firm. Balasubramanian is a private equity specialist, particularly in relation to mid-market work, and will lead the Private Equity team at her new firm. Barron focuses his practice on mergers and acquisitions, primarily within the energy, utilities and telecoms sectors.

✦ **Pinsent Masons**

Pinsent Masons has hired structured finance lawyer **Carl Posern** from Linklaters. Posern, who joins as a partner having been a managing associate at Linklaters, is dual qualified in England and Wales and Germany, and specialises in German capital market transactions.

✦ **Reed Smith**

Reed Smith has hired Mishcon de Reya lawyer **Nick Harris** into its Real Estate department and Taylor Vinters lawyer **Howard Womersley Smith** into its IT, Tech and Data team. Harris, who specialises in commercial real estate, complex development work and high-value investment sales and acquisitions joins the firm as a partner, having previously held the role of legal director at his former firm. Womersley Smith, who works on fintec, and data supply and protection, also joins the firm as a partner having held the role of both consultant and head of fintec and data, at his previous firm.

✦ **Ropes & Gray**

Ropes & Gray has hired finance lawyer **Carol Van der Vorst** from Goldman Sachs. Van der Vorst joins the firm as a partner, having served as the managing director of the loan negotiation group at the investment bank. Her practice has a focus on structuring and negotiating complex debt financing transactions.

- ✦ **Royds Withy King**
Royds Withy King has expanded its dispute resolution offering with the acquisition of **Jamie Lester** from Hunters Solicitors. Lester has particular focus on professional negligence, risk management, insolvency, insurance, intellectual property and group action trusts.
- ✦ **RPC**
RPC has hired commercial contracts lawyer **Paul Joukador** from Hogan Lovells to join its IT, IPO and Media group. Joukador advises clients across a range of sectors including technology, retail, fashion and transport.
- ✦ **Simkins**
Media and commercial law firm Simkins has hired real estate lawyer **Simon Graham** from US firm Latham & Watkins where he was Counsel. Graham maintains a broad real estate practice covering investment transactions, developments, and leasing.
- ✦ **Simmons & Simmons**
Simmons & Simmons has hired real estate lawyer **Simon Gardiner** from Pinsent Masons. Gardiner advises on investment transactions, as well as range of developments including mixed-use, residential, student accommodation, office, and retail.
- ✦ **Stephenson Harwood**
Stephenson Harwood has added to its Pensions practice with the hire of **Stephen Richards** from Allen & Overy. Richards, who joins as a partner having been a senior associate at his former firm, focuses his work on non-contentious pensions matters, advising employers, trustees, and insurance companies.
- ✦ **Stewarts**
Stewarts has launched its new Financial Crime and Investigations practice with the hire of barrister **Richard Kovalevsky QC** from 2 Bedford Row Chambers. Kovalevsky operates a broad corporate crime practice with particular specialism in insider dealing and bribery.
- ✦ **Stone King**
National firm Stone King has expanded its Charity and Social Enterprise group with the hire of **Julian Blake** from Bates Wells Braithwaite. Blake, who had served as head of Charity & Social Enterprises at his former firm, will expand both the firms Social Enterprise and Social Finance services.
- ✦ **Travers Smith**
In a rare lateral move for this City blue blood Travers Smith has hired real estate lawyer **Alex Millar** from US firm Jones Day. Millar specialises in commercial real estate investment, development, and regeneration.
- ✦ **Veale Wasbrough Vizards**
National firm Veale Wasbrough Vizards has hired healthcare lawyer **Mark Jarvis** from Capsticks. Jarvis, who undertakes contractual, commercial, corporate and procurement work for both NHS and private sector clients, joins the firm as partner, having previously held the title of senior lawyer.
- ✦ **Wedlake Bell**
Wedlake Bell has bolstered its Corporate and Capital Markets practice with the hire of both **Nigel Taylor** and **Martin Thomas** from Watson Farley & Williams. Taylor operates a broad corporate practice with focus on the rail industry. Thomas focuses on Capital Markets, covering IPOs and secondary offerings of equity and debt.
- ✦ **Weightmans**
Weightmans has added to its litigation offering with the hire of **Tristan Feunteun**. Feunteun, who specialises in litigating cartel damages actions, joins from litigation funder Burford Capital, where he had served as a vice-president.

✔ **Wildgen**

Luxembourg business law firm Wildgen have launched a representative office in London with the hire of financial services and funds lawyer **Mark Shaw** from Chenavari Investment Managers. Shaw, who joins the firm as office head and partner, having been senior legal counsel at Chenavari, will initially operate the office alone, practicing Luxembourg law for UK companies with interests in business opportunities there.

✔ **Winckworth Sherwood**

Winckworth Sherwood has hired employment lawyer **Bettina Bender** from CM Murray. Bender operates a broad contentious and non-contentious employment practice, with a specialisation in contentious partnership law.

✔ **White & Case**

White & Case has expanded its Mergers & Acquisitions practice with the addition of **Dominic Ross** from Ashurst, its Litigation practice with the hire of **Chris Brennan** from Addleshaw Goddard, and its Banking practice with the hire of **Shane McDonald** from real estate asset manager Hudson Advisors, an affiliate of private equity firm Lone Star Funds. Ross advises both listed and private corporate clients on M&A, equity capital markets and unlisting rule transactions. Brennan, who undertakes contentious financial regulatory work, served as head of the FCA Investigations and Enforcement team at his former firm. McDonald, who previously held the in-house position of senior vice president and head of financing investments at Hudson, will work primarily in the field of leveraged finance.

To see previous issues of the Partner Moves round up click [here](#).

✔ **The Specialist Partner Team**



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