


Lateral Partner Moves in London

 November -
December 2018

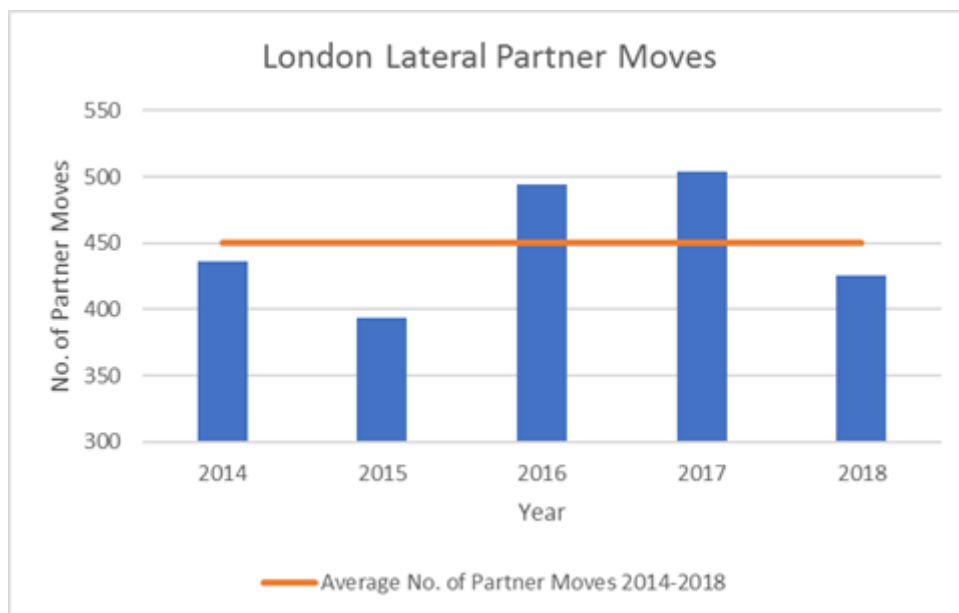
Welcome to the latest round-up of lateral partner moves in the legal market from Edwards Gibson; where we look back at announced partner-level recruitment activity in London over the past two months and give you a ‘who’s moved where’ update.

This edition concludes our Lateral Partner Moves for 2018 and we have included some facts and figures below comparing the year’s partner-level recruitment activity with that of over the past five years.

✦ **A summary of 2018**

2018 saw a total of 425 announced lateral partner moves – 6% down on the cumulative five-year average and a whopping 16% down on the record 504 we saw in 2017.

Although the market in 2018 was clearly softer than in the preceding two years, it should be remembered that both the 2016 and 2017 figures were significantly elevated due to the distorting impact of the insolvent collapse of King & Wood Mallesons’ European Verein. Indeed, the appetite of London law firms for hiring laterals in 2018 was surprisingly robust bearing in mind the economic uncertainties of a looming global trade war, fraught BREXIT negotiations, and the prospect of a snap general election arising from the inherent instability of the UK’s hung parliament.



There were no large (five-partner plus) team moves announced in 2018. The largest single team hire was by **Milbank**, which kicked off the year by raiding fellow New York firm Cadwalader Wickersham & Taft for a four-partner restructuring/ insolvency team.

Whilst plenty of firms hired six or more partners in 2018, the most acquisitive firm by far was **White & Case** which snapped up an astonishing 17 laterals.

◆ Top partner recruiters in London 2018

- **White & Case** 17
- **Fladgate** 11
- **Eversheds** 9
- **DWF** 9
- **Baker McKenzie** 8

In addition, **Latham & Watkins**, **Mayer Brown**, **Morgan Lewis**, **Osborne Clarke** and **Pinsent Masons** each hired 7 partners, and **Addleshaw Goddard**, **Ashurst**, **Charles Russell Speechlys**, **DLA Piper**, **Greenberg Traurig**, **Fieldfisher**, **Irwin Mitchell**, **Kirkland & Ellis**, **Milbank**, **Simmons & Simmons**, and **Stephenson Harwood** all managed to snare a respectable half-dozen laterals.

◆ Other stats from 2018

- 26% of the lateral moves we recorded were female partners – a similar number to the 25% we saw in 2017;
- 110 lawyers moved from non-partner roles into partnership in 2018 (26% of the total number of moves) – the highest proportion we have ever recorded.

◆ November-December 2018

This bi-monthly round-up contains 61 lateral partner moves – almost exactly the same as the 60 we saw over the same period last year. **Womble Bond Dickinson** and US firm **Greenberg Traurig**, which has continued its aggressive European expansion, hired 3 partners a-piece. However, the most acquisitive firm in this edition was **Fladgate**, which hired 4 partners, making it the runner-up for the highest number of London laterals in 2018.

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

✔ **Addleshaw Goddard**

Addleshaw Goddard continues to expand its Financial Regulation practice with the hire of **Steven Francis**. Francis was an associate partner in the regulatory team at Ernst & Young, and advises clients on various non-contentious matters relating to investigations and enforcement.

✔ **Ashfords**

Ashfords has strengthened its commercial offering with the hire of **Sarah Williamson** from Boyes Turner. Williamson specialises in technology and digital media related matters including data protection and privacy.

✔ **Bates Wells Braithwaite**

Bates Wells Braithwaite has recruited Penningtons Manches' head of professional regulation, **Nicole Curtis**, who will bring with her a team of two consultants and an associate. Curtis advises clients on regulatory, disciplinary, and public law matters.

✔ **Beale & Company**

Insurance boutique Beale & Company has hired BLM professional indemnity duo **Keith Lonsdale** and **Michael Salau** into its Construction Insurance team. Lonsdale headed the Lloyds and London Market sector at his previous firm and specialises in construction related disputes. Salau was head of the Construction & Environmental sector at BLM and advises on both contentious and non-contentious matters.

✔ **Bevan Brittan**

Bevan Brittan has hired real estate lawyer **Wendy Wilks** from Dentons to head the firm's Housing team. Wilks focuses on property development and finance work for clients in the housing, property, and care sectors.

✔ **Bird & Bird**

Bird & Bird has made two partner hires in this round-up: energy and projects specialist **Conrad Purcell** from Eversheds Sutherland, and corporate lawyer **James Baillieu** who joins from

Norton Rose Fulbright where he was of counsel. Purcell advises on the financing aspects of energy and infrastructure projects. Baillieu advises clients in the life sciences, healthcare, and technology sectors on a variety of corporate transactions.

✔ **Brecher**

Real estate boutique Brecher has bolstered its Property Finance team with two new partner hires: **Charles Bezzant** from Hamblins and **Kate George**, a senior associate from Stephenson Harwood. Bezzant advises clients on financing for development projects, as well as funding for investment properties and portfolios. George advises on a range of debt transactions within the real estate sector.

✔ **Browne Jacobson**

Browne Jacobson has appointed DWF regulatory partner **Jeremy Irving** as head of financial services. Irving has experience advising on legal and compliance risk within the financial services industry, particularly in relation to insurance.

✔ **Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft**

Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft has acquired Dentons' head of fund finance **Samantha Hutchinson**, who joins to co-lead the firm's European Fund Finance team.

✔ **Charles Russell Speechlys**

Charles Russell Speechlys has welcomed Eversheds Sutherland senior associate **David Paxton** into its Real Estate practice as a partner. Paxton specialises in real estate development.

✔ **CMS**

CMS has grown its Infrastructure and Project Finance team with the addition of two new partners: Dentons rail and transport specialist **David Moore** and Shearman & Sterling finance lawyer **Paul Simpson**, who was counsel at his previous firm. Moore advises on railway franchises, infrastructure development,

procurement, and regulation. Simpson advises on energy financing transactions.

✔ **Crowell & Moring**

Crowell & Moring has reportedly acquired litigation specialist **Robert Weekes** from Squire Patton Boggs, where he had previously been UK managing partner. Weekes specialises in fraud and contentious asset-based lending.

✔ **Dechert**

Dechert has boosted its global finance practice with the addition of structured products lawyer **Cameron Mitcham** joins from Allen & Overy, where he was counsel. Mitcham specialises in collateralised loan obligations (CLOs), acting for managers, arrangers, originators, investors, and other deal parties.

✔ **DLA Piper**

Hogan Lovells counsel **Anna Mills** has joined DLA Piper as a partner in its Litigation & Arbitration practice. Mills has experience advising on multi-party dispute resolution and international arbitration in the construction, engineering, transport, and energy sectors.

✔ **DWF**

DWF has hired Clyde & Co's global co-head of reinsurance **David Abbott** as head of London markets. Abbott advises insurers on trade credit and political risk and has extensive experience in reinsurance. He also advises the London and international markets on energy matters.

✔ **Eversheds Sutherland**

Eversheds Sutherland has welcomed two new partners: indirect real estate lawyer **Stewart Womersley**, who has joined the firm's Corporate team from Addleshaw Goddard, and white-collar crime lawyer **Steve Smith**, who will help rebuild the firm's Corporate Crime and Investigations team. Womersley advises on the establishment, operation, and management of funds, as well as a variety of corporate real estate transactions.

Smith joins from Nomura, where he was deputy head of financial crime for EMEA, and he was also previously a senior lawyer in the FCA's enforcement division.

✔ **Fieldfisher**

Fieldfisher has welcomed **Matthew Williams** as co-head of its Energy and Natural Resources practice. Williams joins the firm from Orrick where he was co-head of the European Energy practice and he will split his time between Fieldfisher's London and Birmingham offices. His practice covers M&A, restructuring, and derivatives transactions in the energy and commodities sector, with a particular focus on projects involving solar and wind-powered energy.

✔ **Fladgate**

Fladgate has appointed four new partners: restructuring and insolvency lawyer **Daniel Martin**, who left Ropes & Gray earlier this year, IT outsourcing specialist **Tim Wright** from Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman, Osborne Clarke associate director **Ben Drew**, and CMS senior associate **James Norton**, both of whom have joined the firm as partners. Martin specialises in transactional restructuring and insolvency. Wright was head of the London Sourcing and Technology Transactions practice and former managing partner of the London office of Pillsbury, and has expertise in outsourcing, cloud, digital, technology, and commercial contracts. Drew specialises in financial services disputes, contentious insolvency matters, and fraud litigation. Norton has joined the firm's Real Estate team, following former CMS partners Alan Karsberg and Simon Kanter ([highlighted in our last edition](#)).

✦ **Fox & Partners**

Employment boutique Fox & Partners has hired employment lawyer **Ivor Adair** from Slater & Gordon. Adair advises clients on a range of contentious and non-contentious employment matters including partnership and data protection law.

✦ **Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson**

Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson has strengthened its corporate M&A offering with the hire of **Ian Lopez** from Norton Rose Fulbright. Lopez advises on general corporate finance matters including both public and private M&A, equity capital markets transactions, and corporate restructurings

✦ **Goodwin Procter**

Goodwin Procter has welcomed **Sophie McGrath** into its Life Sciences and Technology group from fellow US firm Brown Rudnick. McGrath focuses on the venture capital and private equity sector, advising companies at all stages of development on a variety of corporate matters including private and public financings, mergers and acquisitions, public offerings, and restructurings.

✦ **Gowling WLG**

Gowling WLG has recruited Stephenson Harwood's environment and planning head, **Ben Stansfield**. Stansfield has expertise advising clients in relation to renewable energy projects, international environmental law, and environmental planning, permitting, and licencing.

✦ **Greenberg Traurig**

Greenberg Traurig has hired three partners in this round-up: Ropes & Gray leading real estate sector duo **Partha Pal** and **Carol Hopper**, and Pinsent Masons white-collar crime lawyer **Anne-Marie Ottaway**. Pal has extensive experience in complex structured products and the financing of real estate assets, while Hopper advises funds, investors, and other financial services providers

on complex domestic and international real estate transactions. Ottaway has experience in white-collar crime and investigations relating to fraud, bribery, and corruption, and was previously a prosecutor at the SFO. She will re-join former colleague Barry Vitou, who left Pinsent Masons to launch Greenberg's London white-collar crime practice earlier this year.

✦ **Hausfeld**

Hausfeld has welcomed commercial litigation lawyer **Michael Bywell** from Arnold & Porter. Bywell has a particular focus advising clients in the technology sector on complex litigation matters including those relating to large-scale outsourcing projects, data protection, and cybersecurity.

✦ **Haynes and Boone**

Corporate energy lawyer **Anna Nerush** has joined Haynes and Boone from Addleshaw Goddard where she was co-head of the Central Asia business group. Nerush specialises in advising on upstream, midstream, and downstream oil and gas projects across multiple jurisdictions, as well as having a focus on the renewables industry.

✦ **Hogan Lovells**

Hogan Lovells has appointed Ashurst senior associate **Antonia Croke** as a partner in its Global Litigation practice. Croke's experience covers cross-border litigation and investigations including contractual, corporate, insolvency, fraud, and employment related disputes. She will join the firm in London initially before transitioning to its Hong Kong office next year.

✦ **Howard Kennedy**

Howard Kennedy has hired insolvency and fraud litigation expert **Dominic Offord** from Browne Jacobson, where he was the national head of commercial dispute resolution and insolvency.

✦ **Irwin Mitchell**

Irwin Mitchell has appointed Withers special counsel **Philip Barth** as a partner and head of immigration. Barth advises high-net-worth individuals and corporations on immigration matters.

✦ **Jenner & Block**

US firm Jenner & Block continues to expand its Investigations, Compliance and Defense practice with the hire of **Paul Feldberg** from K&L Gates, who will rejoin former colleague Christine Braamskamp who moved to the firm from K&L Gates earlier this year.

✦ **King & Spalding**

King & Spalding has made two hires: corporate lawyer **Derek Meilman** from Hogan Lovells, and **Robert Dedman** who joins as a partner from Navigant Consulting where he was senior director in the Global Investigations and Compliance group, and who is also the former Head of Enforcement at the Bank of England. Meilman has joined the firm's Corporate, Finance and Investments practice and specialises in corporate transactions, with a particular focus on the energy and infrastructure, and consumer retail sectors. Dedman has joined the firm's Special Matters and Government Investigations team, and his practice focuses on financial regulation, white-collar crime, and internal investigations.

✦ **Mayer Brown**

Mayer Brown has hired Clifford Chance senior associate **Ashley McDermott** as a partner. McDermott will join the firm's Banking & Finance practice, where he will focus on export, trade, and multilateral financings, particularly in the commodities, energy, and infrastructure sectors.

✦ **Osborne Clarke**

Osborne Clarke has welcomed restructuring and insolvency lawyer **Will Gunston** from Dentons. Gunston re-joins Osborne Clarke having

previously trained and worked as an associate at the firm.

✦ **Payne Hicks Beach**

Payne Hicks Beach has appointed private client specialist **Simon Blackburn** from Macfarlanes as a partner in its Landed Estates and Agriculture team.

✦ **Penningtons Manches**

Penningtons Manches has made two hires in the form of corporate finance partner **Sebastian Orton** from Eversheds Sutherland, and planning lawyer **Tim Johnson** from Shoosmiths. Orton advises banks, private and public companies, and other financial institutions on a range of matters including IPOs, secondary fund-raising, M&A, and public company takeovers. Johnson's expertise covers both contentious and non-contentious planning and infrastructure matters.

✦ **Ropes & Gray**

Ropes & Gray has hired contentious financial services regulatory lawyer **Rosemarie Paul** from Akin Gump. Paul advises clients on regulatory investigations and enforcement proceedings involving the FCA and the PRA, and was previously a member of the FSA's Enforcement and Financial Crime Department.

✦ **Rosenblatt**

Rosenblatt has recruited Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner litigation associate **Joseph McCormick** as a partner in its Dispute Resolution practice.

✦ **Schulte Roth & Zabel**

Schulte Roth & Zabel has announced the hire of Macfarlanes senior counsel **Emily Brown** who joins the firm's Investment Management group as a partner. Brown advises both sponsors and institutional investors on a range of matters including fund formations, fund investments, and co-investments across a wide variety of asset classes.

✦ **Shearman & Sterling**

Shearman & Sterling has expanded its Project Development & Finance practice with the addition of Baker McKenzie infrastructure funds duo **Tim Sheddick** and **Katie Hicks**. Sheddick specialises in both public and private infrastructure M&A, as well as equity capital markets transactions, and Hicks, who was of counsel at her previous firm, joins the team as a partner.

✦ **Simmons & Simmons**

Simmons & Simmons has strengthened its structured finance and derivatives practice with the hire of Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer's **James Grand**. Grand, a leading name in collateralised loan obligations (CLOs), will lead the CLO team at his new firm.

✦ **Simpson Thacher & Bartlett**

White-shoe New York firm Simpson Thacher & Bartlett has announced a rare partner hire: Clifford Chance private equity lawyer **Amy Mahon**. Mahon will re-join ex-colleagues Adam Signy and Jason Glover, who moved to Simpson Thatcher from Clifford Chance in 2009 and 2010 respectively.

✦ **Stephenson Harwood**

Energy lawyer **Marc Hammerson** has returned to Stephenson Harwood, having previously been a partner at the firm before leaving to join Akin Gump in 2011. Hammerson specialises in oil and gas transactions including LNG and pipelines/infrastructure projects and power generation, particularly in Africa and the Middle East.

✦ **Thomas Cooper**

Boutique maritime and trade firm Thomas Cooper has welcomed Clyde & Co legal director **George Mingay** as a partner in its International Trade and Commodities Group. Mingay's practice covers disputes within the oil and gas, metals, mining, and soft commodities sectors, as well as

advising on non-contentious, regulatory, and compliance issues.

✦ **Vedder Price**

Finance lawyer **Robert Bradshaw** has joined US firm Vedder Price from Dechert. Bradshaw advises private equity sponsors, portfolio companies, financial institutions, and credit funds on a range of acquisition and leveraged finance transactions.

✦ **White & Case**

White & Case has welcomed two new partners: Weil Gotshal & Manges' London head of banking, **Mark Donald**, and Taylor Wessing's head of financial services regulatory, **Jonathan Rogers**. Donald focuses on advising both sponsors and banks on acquisition finance transactions, as well as having experience of real estate finance and fund financing. Whilst Rogers specialises in FCA regulation with a particular focus on advising clients in the asset management, private banks, payments, and consumer lending sectors.

✦ **Womble Bond Dickinson**

Womble Bond Dickinson has hired three new partners: insurance specialist **Tim Barr** from DWF, immigration expert **Andrew Tingley** from Kingsley Napley, and banking and finance lawyer **Matthew Williams** who joins from Ashurst, where he was counsel.

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

◆ The Specialist Partner Team



Scott Gibson

Director

scott.gibson@edwardsgibson.com



Sloane Poulton

Director

sloane.poulton@edwardsgibson.com

At Edwards Gibson the specialist partner team provides:

- ◆ Confidential partner representation and consultation
- ◆ A search service flexible to our client's requirements
- ◆ Advice on team moves

Based in the heart of the City of London, Edwards Gibson is a dedicated legal recruitment consultancy specialising in private practice partner hires, team moves and in-house lawyer recruitment. We pride ourselves on the depth and clarity of information we provide and has an unrivalled knowledge of the markets in which we work.

Please contact us on: 020 7153 4903

REPRESENTATION – SEARCH – TEAM MOVES

www.edwardsgibson.com