

Lateral Partner Moves in London

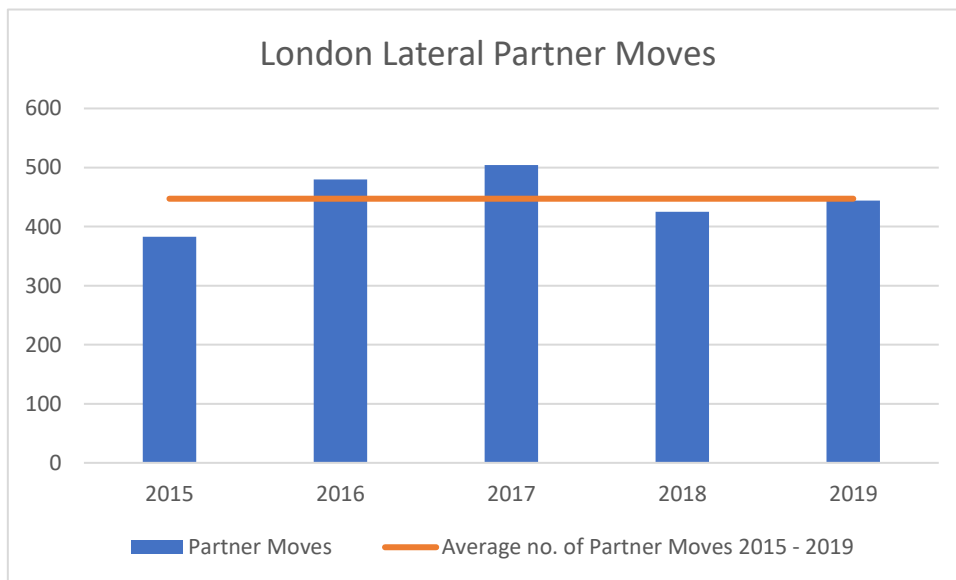
 November -
December 2019

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.

This edition concludes our Lateral Partner Moves for 2019 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 2019**

2019 saw a total of 444 announced lateral partner moves – 4% up on the 425 moves we saw in 2018 and just 1% off the cumulative five-year average (447). An impressive level of activity bearing in mind the five-year average included the “record years” of 2016 and 2017, where the 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 2019 was surprisingly robust bearing in mind the backdrop of economic uncertainty from an escalating global trade war, fraught BREXIT negotiations, and, until the December’s general election, the inherent instability of the UK’s hung parliament.



Whilst plenty of firms hired five or more partners in 2018, the most acquisitive firm in London was Dentons which snapped up no fewer than 14 laterals.

✦ **Top partner recruiters in London 2019**

• Dentons	14
• Fieldfisher	13
• Akin Gump	9
• Baker McKenzie	9
• Goodwin Proctor	9
• Shoosmiths	9
• DLA Piper	8
• Kirkland & Ellis	8
• TLT	8

✦ **Significant team moves in 2019**

Aside from the founding of new shipping boutique **Preston Turnbull**, which launched by tearing out a five (or possibly six) partner team from **Clyde & Co**, there were two other large team moves announced in 2019 - both by US law firms. **Crowell & Moring** acquired a very eclectic, five-partner team, comprising disputes, restructuring, infrastructure and debt finance, from **Squire Patton Boggs**, and **Goodwin Proctor** made a five-partner raid on **Taylor Wessing** - stealing a team comprising corporate technology, life sciences and tax.

✦ **Also of note in 2019**

- September saw the long-awaited arrival of US AM Law 100 firm **Alston & Bird** which kicked off its City offering by nabbing three partners from two fellow US firms;
- 26% of the lateral moves recorded were female partners – a proportion that has remained more-or-less constant over the past three years;
- 4% of all moves – 20 in all - were in-house lawyers moving into law firm partnership positions;
- Including those moving from in-house, 104 lawyers moved from non-partner roles into partnership (23% of the total number of moves in 2019).

◆ **November - December 2019**

Despite 2019 turning out to be a very strong year for partner recruitment, this bi-monthly round-up contains 44 lateral partner moves – sharply down on the 61 we saw during the same time period in 2018 and 29% fewer than the cumulative five-year average for the same period – 62.

Top hirers in this edition were **Stephenson Harwood**, which nabbed four partners - including a three-partner private equity team from **Charles Russell Speechlys**, and US firm **Brown Rudnick**, which hired three insolvency/restructuring partners.

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

- ✦ **Ashurst**
Ashurst nabs planning and environment partner **Claire Dutch** from Hogan Lovells. Joining as the new head of planning, Dutch will bring her expertise in highways law and major regeneration projects.
- ✦ **Baker McKenzie**
Baker McKenzie welcomes Kirkland & Ellis lawyer **Justin Hutchinson** into its private equity team. Hutchinson focuses on representing clients in private equity investments. A US lawyer, Hutchinson also advises on M&A transactions and securities offerings.
- ✦ **Brown Rudnick**
Three restructuring lawyers move to Brown Rudnick this roundup. **Richard Obank** and **Colin Ashford** join from the Leeds office of DLA Piper. Obank is known for his work on retail restructuring and rescue deals, Ashford, also from DLA Piper, is experienced in handling contentious matters. **Monika Lorenzo-Perez** joins from Reed Smith, where she was counsel. She has expertise across a variety of sectors including project finance, retail, infrastructure, energy and natural resources and follows Charlotte Moller ([announced in our October 2019 edition](#)).
- ✦ **Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft**
Cadwalader launches a corporate crime practice with the hire of two lawyers from its US counterparts. **Mark Beardsworth**, co-head of Brown Rudnick's global white collar defense and government investigations practice group, joins the New York firm, whilst **Kevin Roberts** defects from Morrison Foerster.
- ✦ **Cripps Pemberton Greenish**
Employment lawyer **Melanie Stancliffe** joins Cripps Pemberton Greenish from Irwin Mitchell. Stancliffe advises on terminations, boardroom disputes and discrimination claims.
- ✦ **DLA Piper**
Construction litigation duo **Caroline Pope** and **Bob Maynard** join DLA from BCLP. Pope and Maynard have over 30 years of experience across the dispute resolution medium. Both are experienced in utilities disputes, with Maynard being particularly skilled in forensic investigation work and Pope, expert determination.
- ✦ **Edwin Coe**
Private client lawyer **Matthew Barnett** joins Edwin Coe as a partner from Harbottle & Lewis where he was a senior associate.
- ✦ **Eversheds Sutherland**
Eversheds makes two hires this period. Previous head of corporate at Simmons & Simmons, **Giles Dennison**, joins Eversheds' M&A group. Dennison has a particular focus on the TMT and consumer sectors. Technology lawyer **Simon Lightman** joins from US firm Morgan Lewis & Bockius. Lightman advises on outsourcings and procurements.
- ✦ **Fieldfisher**
Life sciences lawyer **Janita Good** joins Fieldfisher as co-head of life sciences after 14 years at Osborne Clarke, where she headed the UK life sciences and healthcare practice. Good advises on corporate and intellectual property transactions.
- ✦ **Fladgate**
Private client lawyer **Mark Spash** joins from Blake Morgan where he was head of succession and tax for four years. Spash's practice focuses on inheritance tax and estate planning for high-net-worth individuals.
- ✦ **Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson**
Two hires this round-up for the New York firm; US capital markets lawyer **John Satory** joins from Paul Weiss, where he was counsel, and international arbitration partner **James Barratt** joins from Squire Patton Boggs. Satory focuses on

capital market transactions and US securities law, whilst Barratt's practice has a particular focus on disputes in Latin America and Asia Pacific.

✦ **Gide Loyrette Nouel**

Leading energy lawyer **Colin Graham**, previously at Watson Farley Williams, has joined the elite French law firm's project development team. Graham, a polyglot fluent in French, Spanish and Mandarin, has specialised in oil and gas, LNG and power and resources throughout his career which spans London, Hong Kong, Japan and Toronto.

✦ **Goodwin Procter**

Goodwin Procter welcomes M&A and private equity partner **Carl Bradshaw** from fellow US firm Kirkland & Ellis. Bradshaw has experience across an eclectic range of industries.

✦ **Haynes and Boone**

A second energy lawyer for Haynes and Boone this year, **Rob Patterson** joins from fellow US firm Vinson & Elkins. Patterson works with oil and gas, power, petrochemicals, LNG and financings.

✦ **Hill Dickinson**

Clinical negligence specialist **Rebecca Hunt** joins Hill Dickinson after 16 years at Capsticks.

✦ **Hogan Lovells**

Equity capital markets lawyer, **Raj Panasar** has joined Hogan Lovells from Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton after more than 20 years at the firm. Panasar represents multiple issuers on IPOs and London listings.

✦ **Latham & Watkins**

Two hires for Latham this period. Finance lawyer, **Stephen Curtis** joins from Clifford Chance. Curtis advises clients on a broad range of structured finance transactions, with a particular emphasis on regulated utility and infrastructure transactions. **Patrick Mitchell**, who focuses on

the sports, entertainment and media sectors, joins from DLA Piper.

✦ **Linklaters**

Tax partner **Chris Smale** returns to Linklaters having qualified at the firm in 2006. Smale, who advises funds, financial sponsors and corporates, joins from Kirkland & Ellis. Smale's move appears to be an inadvertent swap for Linklaters tax partner Mavnick Nerwal whose poaching by Kirkland was reported in our [last edition](#).

✦ **Maurice Turnor Gardner**

Another move within the private client space this round-up, **Paul Whitehead** leaves BCLP to join boutique private client firm MTG. Whitehead specialises in international wealth structuring and wills and estate planning.

✦ **Mayer Brown**

Mayer Brown recruits **Matthew Mortimer** to its tax team from New York firm Milbank where he was a special counsel. Mortimer advises on a broad range of corporate tax including structured products, debt restructurings, M&A and investment fund formation.

✦ **Mishcon de Reya**

Patrick Harney leaves his role as head of the private client department at West End firm Forsters to join Mishcon's private client team.

✦ **Osborne Clarke**

Osborne Clarke has hired project finance/PFI lawyer **Nigel Drew** from DLA Piper. Drew has experience in domestic and international infrastructure, energy and extraction projects.

✦ **Pinsent Masons**

Civil fraud and tax litigator **Andrew Sackey** joins Pinsent Masons' litigation, regulatory and tax team from HMRC where he was the former head of the department's offshore corporate and wealth enforcement team.

- ✔ **Proskauer Rose**
Former Ropes & Gray Counsel, **Kirsten Lapham** joins fellow US firm Proskauer Rose as a partner in the funds group. Lapham is a financial services regulatory lawyer, specialising in the asset management/alternative funds sector.
- ✔ **Simmons & Simmons**
Simmons & Simmons has made two new hires this edition: Finance lawyer **Kirsty Barnes** joins from Gowling WLG, where she was UK head of banking and finance. Barnes specialises in leveraged and real estate finance and corporate banking. **Lisa Dinwiddy** joins the private funds team from Addleshaw Goddard where she was a legal director, Dinwiddy is now focusing her practice on real estate and emerging market funds.
- ✔ **Schillings**
Reputation and privacy boutique Schillings has hired former Deputy Director of the National Cyber Security Centre - **Peter Yapp** - to head up its cyber team.
- ✔ **Shoosmiths**
Shoosmiths has hired two real estate lawyers. Former legal director at Clyde & Co, **Choisanne Man**, joins as a partner alongside K&L Gates senior associate **Peter Alger**. Man is a real-estate all-rounder and Alger is best known for his work on acquisitions and disposals for institutional investors.
- ✔ **Stephenson Harwood**
Stephenson Harwood has hired a quartet of lawyers this round-up. A three-partner private equity team, led by co-head of corporate **Malcolm MacDougall**, joins from Charles Russell Speechlys. Accompanying MacDougall are fellow Charles Russell Speechlys corporate partners - **Richard Coleman** and **Adam Crossley**. The firm has also recruited finance lawyer **Don Brown** from Ashurst, where he was counsel. Brown has particular expertise in secured and asset-based lending, receivables financing, and speciality finance.
- ✔ **Squire Patton Boggs**
Squire Patton Boggs has added energy lawyer **Peter Stewart** to its energy and natural resources team. Stewart joins from Clyde & Co and acts for oil companies, governments and state entities in emerging markets. His practice spans non-contentious and contentious energy and infrastructure projects.
- ✔ **Taylor Wessing**
Taylor Wessing has recruited tax lawyer **Liz Wilson** from Squire Patton Boggs where she was a director. Wilson has experience in private equity, real estate, hotels and leisure and is dual qualified as a chartered tax adviser.
- ✔ **TLT**
Banking partner **Rich Hughes** joins TLT's banking and finance department from Norton Rose Fulbright, where he spent just under five years. Hughes has a wide range of finance expertise.
- ✔ **Weil Gotshal & Manges**
Restructuring lawyer **Neil Devaney** joins Weil Gotshal's European restructuring practice from Akin Gump in a "leadership role". Devaney specialises in cross-border finance, restructuring and insolvency.

Related links:

- ✔ [Previous editions of Lateral Partner Moves in London](#)
- ✔ [Quantifying your following and writing an effective business plan](#)
- ✔ [Specimen partner business plan template](#)
- ✔ [The Partnership Track and Moving for Immediate Partnership](#)
- ✔ [Legal directory rankings and their effect on lawyer recruitment](#)
- ✔ [Restrictive Covenants and Moving on as a Partner](#)

✔ **The Specialist Partner Team**



Scott Gibson
Director
scott.gibson@edwardsgibson.com



Sloane Poulton
Director
sloane.poulton@edwardsgibson.com



Mark Coates
Senior Consultant
mark.coates@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 +44 (0) 20 7153 4903

REPRESENTATION – SEARCH – TEAM MOVES

www.edwardsgibson.com