

# Law Firm Partner Moves in London



September -  
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Welcome to the 65<sup>th</sup> edition of law firm partner moves, from the specialist partner team at 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 were **87** partner hires - 23% up on last year (**71**), and almost exactly in line with the statistical average for the same period over the past five years (**86**). In terms of laterals - there were **65** (38% up on the **47** we saw last year).

The most acquisitive firm this edition was US outfit **Greenberg Traurig** which hired 8 partners including, in what will almost certainly be the largest single team move of the year, a septet of litigators from **Mishcon de Reya**. The move is an extension of [Greenberg’s raid last year](#), which saw it launch a disputes offering with a two-partner heavyweight team from, the soon to be listed, London firm.

New York headquartered **Willkie Farr & Gallagher** was the second most prolific hirer snatching a quintet of laterals – including a market leading three-partner competition disputes team from **Quinn Emmanuel** – a firm usually more accustomed to being an apex predator in the lateral disputes market. In addition, newly created verein **Advant**, together with **Gibson Dunn & Crutcher** and **White & Case** nabbed three-partner teams from **Grimaldi Studio Legale**, **Vinson & Elkins** and **Dechert** respectively.

#### Top partner recruiters in London September – October 2021

|                            |   |
|----------------------------|---|
| ◆ Greenberg Traurig        | 8 |
| ◆ Willkie Farr & Gallagher | 5 |
| ◆ Eversheds Sutherland     | 4 |
| ◆ White & Case             | 4 |
| ◆ Ashurst                  | 4 |
| ◆ Advant                   | 3 |
| ◆ Gibson Dunn & Crutcher   | 3 |
| ◆ Kirkland & Ellis         | 3 |
| ◆ Mayer Brown              | 3 |
| ◆ McDermott Will & Emery   | 3 |
| ◆ Vinson & Elkins          | 3 |

#### Also of note in this edition

- ◆ Four firms hired from in-house: **Eversheds Sutherland** (Chevron), **Hagens Berman** (Volvo), **Mayer Brown** (Barclays), **McDermott Will & Emery** (Deloitte).
- ◆ **30%** of all hires were female
- ◆ **25%** of all moves were non-partners moving into partnership.

**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.**

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

- ✦ **Advant**  
 Newly created verein Advant - an association of three European law firms: Itana (France), Beiten Burkhardt (Germany) and Nctm (Italy) - hires three laterals from Italian headquartered Grimaldi Studio Legale. Making the move are Italian and English qualified finance trio **Giacomo Serra Zanetti**, **Riccardo Sallustio** and **Fabio Pizzoccheri**.
- ✦ **Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld**  
 International trade specialist **Naboth van den Broek** arrives from Washington DC outfit Wilmer Hale. Van den Broek, who will work out of Akin Gump's London, Washington and Geneva offices, advises companies and governments on issues at the intersection of international law, policy, government and strategy.
- ✦ **Ashurst**  
 Four hires for the silver circle firm this edition: Disputes lawyer **Nathan Willmott** from BCLP; structured products lateral **Daniel Franks** from Norton Rose Fulbright; US capital markets specialist **Jacques McChesney** from Shearman & Sterling, where he was Of Counsel; debt capital markets specialist **Helen Jones** from Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer, where she was counsel. Willmott, who heads BCLP's litigation and investigations team and co-heads it's banking sector, specialises in financial services disputes and investigations. Franks is a derivatives and structured finance specialist, with a particular focus on the fintech space. New York qualified McChesney, who was previously a partner at both Shearman & Sterling and Latham & Watkins, specialises in issuer and underwriter high yield debt. Jones focuses on corporate secured bank / bond financing transactions and has a particular specialism in the infrastructure sector.
- ✦ **Charles Russell Speechlys**  
 Corporate and equity capital markets specialist **David Collins** joins from Dentons, where he was co-chair of the global corporate group. Collins' experience encompasses a broad range of corporate advisory and transactional work including: IPOs, public and private M&A, and corporate joint ventures.
- ✦ **Clyde & Co**  
 Aviation boutique and Paul Hastings scion, REN Legal, has been acquired by Clyde & Co, with aviation finance specialist **Norman Fraser** and aviation disputes lawyer **Richard Mumford** joining as laterals. Fraser's expertise includes debt finance and the acquisition, financing, and leasing of portfolios of aircraft and engines. Mumford specialises in finance and leasing disputes, aircraft repossession, debt recovery and fraud.
- ✦ **CMS**  
 The European firm welcomes IP specialist **Ben Hitchens** from US firm Locke Lord. Hitchens manages large trademark portfolios and has a particular focus on trademark and copyright disputes.
- ✦ **DAC Beachcroft**  
 Insurance and reinsurance lawyer **Sherry Goodman-Smith** joins from Simmons & Simmons, where she was of counsel. Goodman-Smith specialises in insurance and reinsurance policy coverage disputes.
- ✦ **DLA Piper**  
 Leading commercial real estate "name" **James Knox** joins the global firm from BCLP. Knox's experience and reputation in corporate real estate spans top-end investment market, distressed real estate, joint ventures and cross border investments.
- ✦ **Eversheds Sutherland**  
 Four hires - one lateral and three verticals - for the international firm this edition: corporate specialist **Jon Gill** from TLT in Bristol;

restructuring lawyer **Eda Demirel** from DLA Piper, where she was global director; energy specialist **Andrew Duckworth** from oil giant Chevron in Houston; and pensions lawyer **Michael Jones** from Pinsent Masons, where he was legal director. Gill focuses on private equity, venture capital and technology M&A. Demirel – who is New York, German and English qualified – specialises in international corporate reorganisations. Duckworth, who was senior counsel at Chevron, has a wide range of transactional, regulatory and disputes experience in the energy sector. Jones advises trustees, pension schemes and financial institutions on a range of non-contentious pensions matters.

◆ **Fieldfisher**

Two hires for the tech-focused European firm this edition. US qualified entertainment specialist **Stephen Saltzman** arrives from Paul Hastings and corporate lawyer **Thomas Colmer** joins from PwC, where he was a director. Saltzman, who specialises in international distribution, co-production and co-financing agreements, was Chair of the Asia and Europe entertainment practice at Paul Hastings and will head up the international entertainment group at his new firm. Colmer works primarily in the technology, financial services and life sciences sectors focusing on high-growth entities.

◆ **Fladgate**

Financial services lawyer, **Kate Troup**, joins the funds, finance and regulation practice from Charles Russell Speechlys. Troup's expertise lies in the investment management and private banking sectors.

◆ **Fox Williams**

The City firm welcomes consumer credit and payments specialist **Peter Finch** from Hogan Lovells, where he was a senior associate in the banking, lending and payments team.

◆ **Gateley**

The listed firm welcomes contentious restructuring and insolvency specialist **Rebecca Hume** from US claimant boutique Kobre & Kim, where she was based in the Cayman Islands. Hume specialises in cross border asset recovery, and international enforcement matters.

◆ **Gibson Dunn & Crutcher**

The West Coast firm welcomes a three-partner private equity team from US rival Vinson & Elkins comprising laterals **Federico Fruhbeck** and **Robert Dixon**, along with vertical hire **Alice Brogi**, who was counsel. Fruhbeck, joins as head of private equity in Europe and co-chair of the projects and infrastructure practice group. The trio advises on a range of transactions for corporate and private equity clients with a particular focus on transactions in the infrastructure sector.

◆ **Glovers**

The West End real estate boutique hires property litigator **Paul Dench** from Field Seymour Parks in Reading. Dench advises clients on contentious property issues, primarily within the retail, hospitality, gaming, entertainment, and leisure industries.

◆ **Goodwin Procter**

Two hires this round-up for the Boston-born outfit: capital markets partner **Ariel White-Tsimikalis** from BCLP, where she co-led the global banking sector group; and data, privacy and cybersecurity specialist **Lore Leitner** from fellow US firm Wilson Sonsini, where she was of counsel. White-Tsimikalis advises investment banks, corporations, and private equity funds on equity capital markets transactions and ESG matters. Leitner's move is part of a wider transatlantic data and cyber team hire led by Boston-based **Omer Tene**.

✦ **Greenberg Traurig**

The global firm welcomes eight new partners this edition - a septet of disputes émigrés, from, the soon to be floated, Mishcon de Reya, together with restructuring and finance lateral, **John Houghton** from Latham & Watkins, where he was the former global co-chair of the restructuring and special situations practice. The Mishcon team comprises - civil fraud defence lawyers: **Kathryn Garbett, Claire Broadbelt, Annabel Thomas, Martin Shobbrook** and **Hannah Blom-Cooper**; head of white-collar crime and investigations, **Jo Rickards**, and financial services disputes specialist **Matt Hancock**, who is elevated from legal director at Mishcon. Garbett and Broadbelt will co-chair Greenberg's civil fraud and business disputes practice, while Rickards will lead the firm's white-collar defence group. The seven-partner scoop follows on from [Greenberg's raid last year](#) which saw it snatch litigation heavyweights **Mohammed Khamisa QC** and **Masoud Zabeti**, who headed Mishcon's leading banking and finance disputes group. Houghton, who will Chair the London restructuring & bankruptcy team, advises creditors, sponsors and corporates on international restructurings and insolvencies.

✦ **Hagens Berman**

The US class action specialist, which launched its City outpost in late 2020, hires Volvo's head of litigation, **Kelda Groves**. Groves is set to lead the ongoing emissions group action against Mercedes.

✦ **Haynes & Boone**

The Texas-headquartered outfit snags a brace of finance laterals this round-up in the form of **Martin Pugsley**, from DWF, and **Conrad Purcell** from Bird & Bird. Pugsley predominately focuses on debt capital markets, Euro Bonds and SPACs. Purcell, a project finance specialist, acts for funders, sponsors and governments on energy and infrastructure projects.

✦ **Herbert Smith Freehills**

Financial services regulatory specialist **Marina Reason** arrives from Linklaters, where she was managing associate. Reason advises on all aspects of financial markets regulation for financial institutions, including asset managers, broker-dealers and investment and retail banks.

✦ **Holman Fenwick Willan**

White-collar crime and investigations duo **Barry Vitou** and **Anne-Marie Ottaway** decamp Greenberg Traurig for the shipping and international trade firm. Vitou and Ottaway bring a practice covering all aspects of corporate crime, including compliance, investigations, and money laundering.

✦ **Kennedys**

Insurance lawyer **Simon Durkin** joins the international insurance specialist from Weightmans. Durkin focuses his practice on policy coverage and disputes, acting exclusively for (re)insurers in the UK and globally.

✦ **King & Spalding**

Incentives and benefits specialist, **Robert Marshall**, arrives at the Atlanta headquartered firm from US rival, Jones Day. Joining its global human capital and compliance team, Marshall will continue advising multinational companies on executive compensation and equity plan issues.

✦ **Kirkland & Ellis**

The Chicago-spawned powerhouse double taps the magic circle to swipe private equity duo **Keir MacLennan** and **Vincent Bergin**, from Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer along with financial services specialist **Julia Dixon** from Linklaters. MacLennan and Bergin undertake M&A, carve-outs, take-privates and exits for both financial sponsors and corporates. Dixon advises banks, asset managers and other financial institutions on an eclectic range of contentious and non-contentious financial services matters.

- ✦ **KPMG**  
The big four professional services outfit hires corporate reorganisation lawyer, **Richard Needham** from Baker McKenzie. Needham advises on planning and implementation of cross-border business reorganisations.
- ✦ **LALIVE**  
The Swiss disputes boutique hires arbitration and litigation specialist **Genevieve Poirier** from Skadden, Arps, where she was counsel. Poirier specialises in cross-border disputes in the telecommunications, oil and gas, insurance, shipping and financial services sectors.
- ✦ **Latham & Watkins**  
Contentious cyber and privacy specialist **James Lloyd** switches from Orrick after two years at the firm to join the litigation and trial department. Lloyd's practice focuses on cyberattacks, crisis response, data breaches, regulatory enforcement and follow-on class actions.
- ✦ **Mayer Brown**  
The global firm makes three hires this edition; Finance laterals **Andy Kolacki** and **Myles Mantle** arrive from DLA Piper and Haynes & Boone respectively, and financial regulatory specialist **Musonda Kapotwe** joins from Barclays, where she was a director. Kolacki specialises in acquisition/leverage finance and restructurings. Mantle, an energy and infrastructure project finance specialist, initially joins in London but is slated to re-locate to the project finance team in Tokyo in 2022. Kapotwe advises on regulatory matters in banking, capital markets and derivative transactions.
- ✦ **McDermott Will & Emery**  
The Chicago-headquartered firm welcomes three laterals this edition: storied corporate tax partner **Kevin Cummings**, from Deloitte; US and English qualified capital markets specialist **Siddhartha Sivaramakrishnan**, from Herbert Smith in Singapore; and corporate lawyer **Kashif Siddiqui** from Squire Patton Boggs. Cummings, a former BLP partner and Allen & Overy alumnus who was UK tax leader for hedge funds and fintechs at Deloitte, advises on a wide range of corporate tax issues, with a particular focus on alternative funds and related matters; he joins to head-up McDermott's UK tax offering. Sivaramakrishnan represents underwriters, issuers and vendors on a wide range of US and international equity and debt capital markets transactions. Siddiqui advises on cross-border M&A, private equity, investment funds, joint ventures and restructurings.
- ✦ **Mishcon de Reya**  
The soon to be listed City firm hires real estate finance specialist **Francisca Sepúlveda** from Reed Smith. Sepúlveda advises funds and financial institutions on real estate investment and development financing.
- ✦ **Morgan Lewis**  
The US firm makes a vertical hire by welcoming project finance lawyer **Seyfi Can Kandemir** from White & Case, where he was an associate. Seyfi Can advises on a range of project finance matters across the power, infrastructure, mining, and oil and gas sectors.
- ✦ **Norton Rose Fulbright**  
Restocking its derivatives practice, the international verein hires **Yusuf Battiwala** from Dentons. Focusing on derivatives and structured finance (conventional and Islamic), Battiwala advises banks, corporates, funds, and industry bodies.
- ✦ **Payne Hicks Beach**  
The London firm hires disputes lawyer **Paul Dorrans** from Simmons & Simmons, where he was a consultant. Dorrans predominately advises on financial services disputes, contentious regulatory investigations, fraud, and financial crime.

✦ **Pinsent Masons**

In a vertical move Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer's IP counsel **Gina Bicknell** joins the IP transactions group at the national firm. Bicknell focuses her practice on a range of IP/IT and commercial issues, with a particular specialism in IP transactions in the pharmaceutical/healthcare sector.

**Proskauer Rose**

The New York headquartered firm welcomes finance lawyer **Barry Newman** who switches from Travers Smith. Newman's practice focuses primarily on leveraged finance and infrastructure investments advising private equity sponsors, corporate borrowers, infrastructure investors and banks.

✦ **Reed Smith**

Finance and restructuring partner **Kathleen Garrett** joins Reed Smith from Irish outfit Arthur Cox. Garrett has built her practice specialising in finance and corporate transactions, as well as insolvency procedures, restructuring and workouts.

✦ **Rosenblatt**

The listed firm hires corporate crime lawyer **Anil Rajani** from RadcliffesLeBrasseur. Rajani specialises in white collar crime acting for individuals and organisations in relation to corporate fraud and regulatory matters.

✦ **RPC**

The insurance heavy international firm augments its corporate insurance offering with the hire of **William Hogarth** from Clyde & Co. Hogarth specialises in commercial, regulatory and transactional work for major insurers, reinsurers, and brokers.

✦ **Shoosmiths**

The national firm welcomes two laterals to its shiny new City office: White collar crime lawyer **Daren Allen**, from Dentons, and corporate/funds

lawyer **Barry Stimpson**, from Womble Bond Dickinson. Allen, who was head of business crime and investigations at Dentons, undertakes a wide range of corporate crime and investigations matters. Stimpson, who advises on a mix of partnership law and funds matters, joins to head up the investment funds offering.

✦ **Simmons & Simmons**

Two hires this addition for Simmons & Simmons: competition partner **Mark Jephcott** relocates from Herbert Smith Freehills in Singapore; and financial services regulatory specialist **Oliver Irons** arrives from Hogan Lovells, where he was counsel. Jephcott undertakes a mix of merger control advisory and contentious anti-trust matters. Irons, specialises in payments regulatory matters working with financial institutions, disruptors, cryptoasset firms and e-commerce platforms.

✦ **Stephenson Harwood**

Restructuring and insolvency lawyer **Tim Crocker** emerges at Stephenson Harwood a year after departing his former firm Allen & Overy. Crocker acts for creditors, debtors, insolvency officeholders and trustees on non-contentious aspects of financial restructurings and formal insolvency proceedings.

✦ **Taylor Wessing**

International arbitration specialist **Karel Daele** arrives from Mishcon de Reya, where he was head of international arbitration. Daele undertakes both investor state and commercial arbitration in the mining, energy and infrastructure space with a particular focus on sub-Saharan Africa.

✦ **Trowers & Hamlins**

Real estate finance lawyer **Chen Ikeogu** arrives at the storied real estate firm from Maples Teesdale. Ikeogu advises a wide variety of lender and borrower clients across a number of sectors.

✦ **Vinson & Elkins**

The Houston headquartered firm swipes three laterals this round-up. Construction disputes duo **Roberta Downey** and **Angus Rankin** arrive from Hogan Lovells alongside corporate tax specialist **Peita Menon**, from White & Case. Downey joins as co-head of the international construction group – both she and Rankin specialise in disputes arising from energy, power, and major infrastructure projects. Menon, who advises on private equity, M&A, restructuring, real estate and cross-border tax matters, will lead the Texas firm’s London and EMEA tax practice.

✦ **Watson Farley & Williams**

The international firm nabs Akin Gump’s energy group co-head **Julian Nichol** for its projects group. Nichol works with sponsor-side clients on the development, financing, acquisition and disposal of power, upstream oil and gas, waste-to-energy and infrastructure projects, with particular expertise in emerging markets.

✦ **White and Case**

Prodigal sons ... after a 4 to 5 year stretch at Dechert, former White & Case private equity duo, **Ross Allardice** and **Mark Evans**, re-join their former firm alongside **Tony Brown**, yet another alumnus of the New York firm, who is elevated from senior associate to partner. Also joining is Italian qualified capital markets lawyer, **Evgeny Scirtò Ostrovskiy**, from Kirkland & Ellis, where he was an associate. Allardice, Evans and Brown undertake a range of private equity focused transactions including: fund acquisitions, restructurings, consensual work-outs, joint ventures, and public M&A. Ostrovskiy has a broad practice encompassing high-yield, debt and

equity offerings, restructurings, private placements and other forms of finance.

✦ **Willkie Farr & Gallagher**

The New York outfit nabs a quintet of laterals this addition. Quinn Emmanuel competition disputes trio **Boris Bronfentrinker**, **Nicola Chesaites** and **Elaine Whiteford** join alongside international arbitration lawyer **Duncan Speller**, from Wilmer Hale, and corporate insurance specialist **Melanie James**, from DLA Piper. Bronfentrinker co-headed the UK competition litigation offering at Quinn Emmanuel, where he led on some of the most high-profile anti-trust matters in Europe. Chesaites, is a dual qualified English barrister and Belgium Advocaat who, like Whiteford, focuses on contentious EU, competition and regulatory matters. Speller specialises in commercial arbitration and his arrival marks the launch of the New York firm’s UK international arbitration practice. James, who was DLA Piper’s insurance co-chair, advises on a wide range of corporate and regulatory insurance matters. James’ arrival is part of a double transatlantic swoop on DLA Piper which also loses James’ fellow insurance co-chair, **Prakash Paran**, to Wilkie Farr’s New York office.

✦ **Wilson Sonsini**

The Silicon Valley tech disruptor adds a rare lateral to its national security practice swiping regulatory lawyer **Michael Casey** from Kirkland & Ellis. Casey, who is dual US and English qualified, specialises in national security and investment matters focusing on investigations and regulatory compliance related to economic sanctions, export controls, money laundering and corruption.

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✔ **The Specialist Partner Team**



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