

# Lateral Partner Moves in London



 May - June 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.

There are a total of 71 lateral partner moves hires in this edition – a 5% increase on this time last year but an 8% decrease on the statistical average (77) for the same period over the past 5 years.

Nevertheless, perhaps surprisingly in view of the economic and political uncertainties arising from the global economy and Brexit, year to date, we have recorded 244 lateral partner moves – 6% up on the five year average at the same half year point.

The most dramatic move in this edition was **Goodwin Procter’s** five-partner raid on **Taylor Wessing** stealing a team comprising corporate technology, life sciences and tax. Two firms hired three partner teams: **Dechert** (which took a mixed finance and disputes team from fellow US firm **Sidley**) and **Kennedys** which scooped up an insurance/re-insurance trio from **Norton Rose Fulbright**.

In addition to the above five firms: **Akin Gump**, **Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner**, **Gowling WLG**, **Hill Dickinson**, and **Willkie Farr** made two partner team hires.

#### **Top partner recruiters in London May – June 2019**

- ◆ **Goodwin Procter: 5**
- ◆ **Kirkland & Ellis: 4**
- ◆ **Dechert: 3**
- ◆ **Kennedys: 3**
- ◆ **Gowling WLG: 3**

#### **Also of note in this edition**

- ◆ 20% of all moves were from non-partners moving into partnership (including all four partner hires at **Kirkland & Ellis**);
- ◆ Two firms hired partners from in-house: **Dentons** (Hilton Hotels) and **Fieldfisher** (Morgan Stanley);
- ◆ 24% of all partner moves were women.

**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 hired finance lawyers **Peter Crichton** from McDermott Will & Emery, and **Zoe Connor** from Haynes and Boone. Crichton specialises in syndicated, leveraged and structured finance transactions, and restructurings. Connor has experience in a variety of funds finance products.

✦ **Akin Gump**

Two more funds lawyers have joined Akin Gump from O'Melveny & Myers: **John Daghlian** and **Mary Lavelle**, who was counsel and joins as a partner. Daghlian's expertise includes private equity funds and portfolio transactions, management buy-outs, and domestic flotations. Lavelle has experience in private equity funds, fund formation, investment management, and secondary transactions. Daghlian and Lavelle's hire follows that of two other funds partners from O'Melveny & Myers: Aleksander Bakic and Daniel Quinn (reported in [Edwards Gibson Partner Moves March – April 2019](#)).

✦ **Baker McKenzie**

Baker McKenzie has recruited Ashurst project finance energy lawyer **Philip Thomson**. Thomson's expertise includes development and financing of large-scale projects in the oil and gas, petrochemical and power sectors.

✦ **BLM**

BLM has recruited insurance disputes lawyer **Dileep Pisharody** from Rosling King. Pisharody has experience in construction and insurance disputes involving professional indemnity and financial lines insurance policies.

✦ **Boodle Hatfield**

Real estate lawyer **Rajeev Joshi**, whose experience covers real estate investment, development and finance, joins Boodle Hatfield from K&L Gates.

✦ **Bracewell**

Bracewell has recruited energy lawyer **Nina Howell** as a partner from King & Spalding, where she was counsel. Howell has extensive experience representing energy companies across the oil and gas sectors and specifically in the LNG sector, advising clients on major LNG import and exports across several geographies and is a leading authority in unitisations.

✦ **Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner**

Energy lawyers **Rod Chooramun** and **John Conlin** join Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner from Watson Farley & Williams. Chooramun specialises in UK and international M&A, joint ventures and projects in the oil and gas sector, and Conlin in cross-border upstream oil and gas mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures and projects.

✦ **Clyde & Co**

Aviation lawyer **Roger Whipp** has joined Clyde & Co from Kennedys, where he led the commercial aviation team. Whipp has expertise in commercial issues, including fleet replacement projects, aircraft leasing, and engine-related matters.

✦ **CM Murray**

Employment lawyer **Merrill April** has joined employment boutique firm CM Murray from Memery Crystal. April advises employers on contentious workplace disputes.

✦ **Cohen & Gresser**

**Graeme Bell** has joined US firm Cohen & Gresser as its new head of private equity from DAC Beachcroft. Bell's experience includes private equity, M&A and restructuring matters across the Middle East and Sub Saharan Africa region.

✦ **Collyer Bristow**

Employment lawyer **Andrew Granger** has joined Collyer Bristow from Taylor Wessing. Granger's experience includes recruitment, dismissals,

restructuring, employee relations, and contract negotiations.

◆ **Dechert**

Dechert has nabbed disputes lawyer **Simon Fawell** and two finance lawyers – **John McGrath** and **Aparna Sehgal** – from Sidley. Fawell focuses on structured finance disputes and contentious regulatory matters, and McGrath represents funds and other buy-side parties in relation to a variety of securitization and structured finance transactions. Sehgal specialises in real estate finance.

◆ **Dentons**

Dentons has hired **Simon Middleton** from Simmons & Simmons and **Chris Heath** from Hilton Hotels, where he was vice president and senior counsel. Middleton focuses on acquisition finance, syndicated and bilateral lending, structured financings and debt restructurings. Heath specialises in the acquisition, development, financing and restructuring of hotels and leisure facilities.

◆ **Devonshires**

Devonshires has welcomed insurance lawyer **Stephen Netherway** from CMS. His experience includes insurance and reinsurance disputes, coverage issues and claims.

◆ **DLA Piper**

DLA Piper has recruited corporate lawyer **Tracey Renshaw** from Clifford Chance's Perth office, which she founded and where she served as co-head of the global oil and gas group. Renshaw specialises in M&A matters in the oil and gas and mining sectors.

◆ **Druces LLP**

Druces has hired real estate finance lawyer **Samantha Hook** from Howard Kennedy.

◆ **Faegre Baker Daniels**

Corporate lawyer **Amy Comer** has joined Faegre Baker Daniels from fellow US firm Crowell & Moring. Comer has experience in M&A, joint ventures, restructurings, and project financing transactions.

◆ **Farrer & Co**

Farrer & Co have welcomed employment lawyer **Anna Birtwistle** from CM Murray. Birtwistle has expertise in employment and partnership law, with an interest in cross-border matters.

◆ **Fieldfisher**

Two lawyers have joined Fieldfisher's energy practice as partners: **Rashpaul Bahia** from Morgan Stanley where he was a senior legal consultant, and **Mark Nash** from Orrick where he was a senior associate. Bahia focuses on energy and commodities trading and transactional matters, and Nash's experience includes the development and financing of project financed assets in the infrastructure and renewables sectors.

◆ **Fladgate**

Fladgate has appointed **Helen Cox** as a partner in its Tax team from Mishcon de Reya, where she was a senior associate. Cox advises on personal and corporate tax matters both domestically and internationally.

◆ **Fox Williams**

Corporate lawyer **Dearbhla Quigley** has joined Fox Williams from Watson Farley & Williams. Quigley specialises in equity capital markets, M&A and private fundraisings.

◆ **Gateley Plc**

Gateley has announced the hire of CMS tax lawyer **Jim Hillan**. Hillan focuses on corporate tax, real estate tax, share schemes and VAT.

◆ **Goodwin Procter**

Five lawyers have departed Taylor Wessing for Goodwin Procter. Corporate lawyers **Adrian Rainey**, who was head of the UK corporate technology group, and **David Mardle**, who was co-head of the international corporate practice, join alongside life sciences lawyers **Malcolm Bates** and **Tim Worden**, and tax lawyer **Rob Young**, who was Taylor Wessing's head of tax. Rainey focuses on venture capital and M&A transactions in intellectual property-rich industries. Mardle specialises in life sciences, technology and European venture capital. Bates has expertise in life sciences and the commercialisation of intellectual property rights. Worden advises life sciences companies on licensing deals, R&D and clinical trial agreements, and other regulatory matters. Young advises on venture capital taxation, real estate, and corporate real estate transactions.

◆ **Gowling WLG**

Gowling WLG has hired rising star real estate lawyer **Nick Mumby** from Fladgate, and two IP litigation lawyers – **Huw Evans** and **Jon Ball** – from Norton Rose Fulbright. Mumby has expertise in complex development projects, working extensively for corporate vehicles (particularly Luxembourg structures) and property funds. Evans and Ball focus on IP and patent litigation.

◆ **Hill Dickinson**

Hill Dickinson has secured a double energy hire: **Mark Aspinall** and **Paul Sinnott** join the firm from Eversheds Sutherland. Aspinall focuses on the midstream and downstream oil sector, and Sinnott advises on matters within the physical and derivatives markets.

◆ **Howard Kennedy**

Construction lawyer **Jeffrey Brown** has joined Howard Kennedy from Veale Wasbrough Vizards. Brown focuses on the resolution of construction

disputes by litigation, arbitration, and mediation.

◆ **Irwin Mitchell**

Irwin Mitchell has recruited insolvency and restructuring lawyer **Kunal Gadhvi** from Edwin Coe. Gadhvi focuses primarily on transactional work such as business sales and acquisitions, cross-border insolvency, and antecedent transaction recoveries.

◆ **Kennedys**

Kennedys has nabbed a trio of litigation lawyers to join its Insurance team from Norton Rose Fulbright: **Patrick Foss**, **Chris Zavos** and **Jo Ward**, who was of counsel and joins as a partner. Foss and Zavos focus on marine, energy, power and political risks/violence claims and Ward advises on marine insurance/reinsurance and shipping litigation.

◆ **King & Wood Mallesons**

King & Wood Mallesons has welcomed back real estate lawyer **John Danahy**, who moves from Squire Patton Boggs and is expected to start in July. Danahy focuses on major real estate transactions and energy and infrastructure projects.

◆ **Kirkland & Ellis**

Kirkland & Ellis has hired four Funds/Financial Services partners, all of whom were previously associates at their respective firms. Private equity funds lawyers **Jacqueline Eaves**, **Benjamin Harding** and **Chris Townsend**, from Debevoise & Plimpton, Clifford Chance and Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson respectively, join alongside financial services lawyer **Revathi Raghavan** from Allen & Overy.

◆ **Kobre & Kim**

Litigation lawyer **Nick Cherryman** has moved to US disputes boutique Kobre & Kim from King & Spalding. Cherryman specialises in complex, high-value international arbitration and commercial disputes.

- ✦ **Marriott Harrison**  
Real estate lawyer **Stephen Whittaker** has joined Marriott Harrison from Weightmans. Whittaker has expertise in property secured lending and retail.
- ✦ **Mayer Brown**  
Mayer Brown has nabbed CMS' head of energy, projects and constructions group **Bob Palmer**. Palmer's experience focuses on M&A and projects in the international up and midstream space.
- ✦ **McDermott Will & Emery**  
Litigation lawyer **Andrew Savage** has joined McDermott Will & Emery from Watson Farley & Williams, where he was head of disputes. Savage advises on commercial and finance litigation, as well as international arbitration.
- ✦ **Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe**  
Tax lawyer **Jonathan Rosen** has joined Orrick as a partner from Akin Gump, where he was senior counsel. Rosen has expertise in corporate and finance transactions, M&As, restructurings, and funds and investment structures.
- ✦ **Pinsent Masons**  
Pinsent Masons has recruited **Robert Vidal** from Taylor Wessing, where he was UK head of competition, EU and trade. Vidal specialises in competition law matters within the life sciences, pharmaceuticals and technology sectors.
- ✦ **Proskauer Rose**  
Private equity funds lawyer **Leith Moghli** has left Reed Smith for Proskauer Rose. Moghli advises on the formation of investment vehicles, with a focus on private equity and venture infrastructure.
- ✦ **PwC**  
The legal practice of PwC has recruited non-contentious financial services specialist **Kevin King** as a new partner from fellow 'Big Four' professional service organisation KPMG, where he was a director.
- ✦ **RPC**  
RPC has recruited restructuring and insolvency lawyer **Paul Bagon** from Rosenblatt.
- ✦ **Russell-Cooke**  
Real estate lawyer **Robert Lusher** has moved to Russell-Cooke from Cannings Connolly. Lusher specialises in transactional commercial property work.
- ✦ **Seddon**  
Insolvency lawyer **Suzanne Jones** has joined Seddon as a partner from Howard Kennedy, where she was a senior associate. Jones has experience in contentious and non-contentious insolvency related matters.
- ✦ **Shoosmiths**  
Shoosmiths has hired planning lawyer **Karen Howard** from DLA Piper. Howard focuses on planning and development.
- ✦ **Sidley**  
Sidley has recruited corporate lawyer **Nigel Wilson** from offshore law firm Maples Group. Wilson covers both multijurisdictional debt and equity capital markets.
- ✦ **Squire Patton Boggs**  
Former Ashurst managing partner **James Collis** has left the firm to join Squire Patton Boggs. Collis specialises in general banking law, cross-border acquisitions and financial products.
- ✦ **Stephenson Harwood**  
Disputes lawyer **Justin McClelland** has joined Stephenson Harwood from US firm Winston & Strawn. McClelland focuses on contentious financial regulation, economic crime, and corporate investigations.

✦ **TLT**

TLT Solicitors has recruited technology lawyer **Gareth Oldale** from Sharpe Pritchard, where he was head of Technology and Data, and corporate lawyer **Patrick Somers** from Foot Anstey. Oldale advises on IT and business process outsourcing and procurement. Somers advises on corporate transactions specialising in the energy and infrastructure sectors.

✦ **Vedder Price**

Corporate lawyer **Andrew Harris** and a team of lawyers will be joining US firm Vedder Price from Arnold & Porter Kaye Scholer. Harris specialises in private equity and private equity M&A transactions.

✦ **Willkie Farr & Gallagher**

Willkie Farr & Gallagher has recruited private equity duo **David Arnold** and **Gavin Gordon** from Kirkland & Ellis. Arnold focuses his practice on cross border mergers and acquisitions and corporate restructuring transactions, and Gordon on leveraged buyouts, mergers and acquisitions, and infrastructure transactions.

✦ **Winston & Strawn**

Tax partner **Ed Denny** has joined Winston & Strawn as its UK head of tax. Denny focuses on the tax aspects of corporate finance transactions and structures including mergers and acquisitions of public and private companies. Denny joins from Orrick - where he was also UK head of tax - and follows corporate energy lawyer Anthony Riley (reported in [Edwards Gibson Partner Moves March – April 2019](#)).

✦ **Womble Bond Dickinson**

Real estate lawyer **Nicola Giddens** has joined Womble Bond Dickinson from DWF. Giddens has experience in specialised sectors such as retail, student accommodation, hospitality, housebuilding, institutional funds and healthcare.

**Related links:**

- ✓ [Previous editions of Lateral Partner Moves in London](#)
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- ✓ [Specimen partner business plan template](#)
- ✓ [The Partnership Track and Moving for Immediate Partnership](#)
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✓ **The Specialist Partner Team**



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