


Law Firm Partner Moves in London

 July - August 2021
Issue no. 64

Welcome to the 64th 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.

July to August is traditionally a quiet time for the announcement of law firm partner moves and this edition is no exception. There were **52** hires - 4% up on last year (**50**), but exactly in line with the statistical average for the same period over the past five years. In terms of laterals - partner-to-partner hires - there were **33** (15% down on the **39** we saw last year).

Undoubtedly the most significant move this edition was **Sidley Austin’s** restocking of its private equity offering with a three-partner lateral team from **Vinson & Elkins**. The move marks a fight-back by the Chicago headquartered outfit following its [loss last year of an even larger private equity team to Goodwin Procter](#).

Top partner recruiters in London July – August 2021

✦ Kirkland & Ellis	3
✦ Sidley Austin	3
✦ EY	3

In addition **Addleshaw Goddard, ASAFO & Co, DLA Piper, Eversheds Sutherland, Howard Kennedy, Kingsley Napley, Latham & Watkins, Michelmores, Paul Hastings** and **White & Case** each hired two partners a-piece.

Also of note in this edition

- ✦ Two firms hired from in-house - **Fieldfisher** (Bank of New York Mellon) and **White & Case** (Morgan Stanley)
- ✦ **31%** of all hires were female
- ✦ **37%** 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](#)

✦ **Addleshaw Goddard**

Addleshaw Goddard snares a brace of finance partners this addition: leveraged finance lawyer **Ewen Scott** arrives from Jones Day and structured finance partner **Carl Posern** joins from Pinsent Masons. Scott advises on cross-border, bilateral and syndicated financings, refinancings and restructurings, whilst Posern advises on financing of receivables-producing businesses.

✦ **Allen & Overy**

The magic circle firm elevates US qualified finance lawyer **Brad Weyland** from Latham & Watkins, where he was counsel. Weyland focuses on leveraged finance, primarily high yield bonds and bridge lending on behalf of private equity, investment bank and corporate clients.

✦ **ASAFO & Co**

The Africa-dedicated international law firm welcomes project finance duo **Andrew Thomas** and **Winston Bell-Gam** from HFW. Thomas advises on the financing of projects with a particular emphasis on the power, pipeline, infrastructure, healthcare and transportation sectors. Bell-Gam's practice focuses on the acquisition, financing and project development of projects across Africa, the Middle East, Europe and Asia.

✦ **Ashurst**

Data protection specialist **Rhiannon Webster** joins as head of data protection and information from DAC Beachcroft, where she was also head of information law. With a focus on the financial services sector, Webster advises on data security breach management and data protection compliance.

✦ **Avonhurst**

White & Case's head of litigation **John Reynolds** joins the London firm to head its new disputes offering. Reynolds has a broad litigation practice with a particular focus on finance disputes.

✦ **Baker McKenzie**

The global verein adds finance lawyer **Oliver Jefferies** from Stephenson Harwood, where he was a senior associate. Jefferies advises lenders and sponsors on real estate finance.

✦ **Bindmans**

Privacy lawyer **Monika Sobiecki** joins the London firm from Dentons, where she was a senior associate. Sobiecki's experience includes handling international cyber incidents and building privacy frameworks for organisations.

✦ **Bird & Bird**

The tech focused firm hires corporate finance lawyer **Nick O'Donnell** from Baker McKenzie. O'Donnell advises on cross-border public and private M&A and equity capital markets across a broad range of sectors.

✦ **Bristows**

In a vertical move IP and trademark lawyer **Nellie Jackson** returns to Bristows after five years at Birketts, where she was a legal director. Jackson specialises in brand protection and exploitation, international trademark portfolio management, and IP disputes.

✦ **Cripps Pemberton Greenish**

Private client lawyer **Victoria Fairley** arrives from RadcliffesLeBrasseur, where she was head of tax and private client. Fairley advises on estate tax and succession planning.

✦ **Dentons**

Litigation specialist **Louisa Caswell** is set to join the global firm from Addleshaw Goddard as its new UK head of disputes. Caswell, who heads the London commercial disputes team at Addleshaws, advises on contractual disputes, product liability, fraud and professional negligence.

✦ **DLA Piper**

Two hires for the global firm this edition: tax lawyer **Jason Collins** joins as head of international tax disputes from Pinsent Masons where he was head of litigation, regulatory and tax; and environment lawyer **Nick Rock** joins as international co-head of safety, health and environment & product compliance, from Reed Smith, where he was head of the EME environmental law group. Collins represents corporate and individual clients who are the subject of a tax audit in all aspects of direct tax and VAT, as well as tax treaty and state aid disputes. Rock specialises in environmental, health & safety, product regulatory, chemicals, ESG and climate change laws.

✦ **Eversheds Sutherland**

The international firm adds to its disputes offering with two vertical hires this round-up: **Phillip Richardson** joins from Linklaters, where he was a managing associate, and **Sheena Buddhdev** arrives from US firm Akin Gump, where she was senior counsel. Richardson's practice focuses particularly on TMT disputes, as well as accountancy investigations and enforcement proceedings. Buddhdev advises on banking and financial disputes, restructuring and contentious regulatory issues.

✦ **EY**

The professional services firm welcomes a trio of partners this edition: tax lawyer **Stuart Sinclair** joins from US outfit Akin Gump; data protection specialist **Gita Shivarattan** arrives from Ashurst, where she was counsel; and financial services regulatory specialist **Monica Gogna** joins after leaving Dechert last year amidst allegations of discrimination against her former firm. Sinclair, who has particular expertise in credit funds, advises on tax issues around fund formations and the structuring of cross-border transactions. Shivarattan, who will lead the legal data protection team, specialises in data protection, privacy and cyber security. Gogna, who joins as

head of the legal regulatory team, advises on compliance and regulatory issues related to the financial services industry.

✦ **Fieldfisher**

Competition and investigations lawyer **Miguel Vaz** joins from Bank of New York Mellon, where he was managing counsel. Vaz's practice focuses on UK, EU and international competition law, large scale corporate investigations and regulatory remediations.

✦ **Fladgate**

The London pocket battleship welcomes corporate lawyer **David Harrison** from Shoosmiths. Harrison specialises in the structuring and execution of acquisitions, disposals and fundraisings.

✦ **Greenwoods GRM**

The national firm hires disputes lawyer **Russell Strong** as head of its marine and international trade practice from London firm Zaiwalla & Co. Strong specialises in commercial litigation and international arbitration, and his practice focuses on commodities and dry shipping.

✦ **Herbert Smith Freehills**

Insurance disputes lawyer **Will Glassey** re-joins the firm after 21 years at Mayer Brown. Glassey specialises in professional negligence defending claims against solicitors, barristers, pensions actuaries, and property professionals.

✦ **Howard Kennedy**

Two vertical hires for the London firm this edition: corporate lawyer **Marc Proudfoot** arrives as head of investment trusts from Scottish firm Dickson Minto, where he was an assistant solicitor; and private client lawyer **Reshmi Manekporia** joins from BCLP, where she was an associate director. Proudfoot specialises in investment trusts and wider corporate matters. Manekporia's expertise includes international wealth structuring, tax and trusts.

✦ **Irwin Mitchell**

Employment lawyer **Deborah Casale** arrives from Slater and Gordon, where she was head of employment. Casale advises on non-contentious and contentious claimant matters.

✦ **Jones Day**

The global firm welcomes finance lawyer **Abradat Kamalpour** from Ashurst. Kamalpour, who starts in London but is slated to relocate to the San Francisco office, has a particular focus on the Middle East. His practice encompasses fintech, debt capital markets, structured and Islamic finance.

✦ **Kingsley Napley**

The London firm makes two hires this edition: private client lawyer **Laura Harper** joins from McDermott Will & Emery, where she was an associate; and regulatory partner **Craig Baylis** joins from BCLP. Harper advises families and trustees on a wide variety of UK tax, trust law and international estate planning issues. Baylis works in the hospitality and licensing field and is an advocate in court and tribunal matters.

✦ **Kirkland & Ellis**

The Chicago born firm makes three vertical hires this round-up: funds lawyer **Amy Fox** from rival US outfit Simpson Thacher & Bartlett, where she was counsel; regulatory lawyer **Ruth Knox**, who was a managing associate at Linklaters, and finance lawyer **Usman Khan**, who was an associate at Paul Hastings. Fox advises global large-cap funds on the structure and terms of executive carried interest, co-investment and other incentive arrangements. Knox advises on ESG (environmental, social and governance) matters that arise in corporate and project finance transactions. Khan specialises in complex real estate finance, and has spent time on secondment with Starwood.

✦ **Latham & Watkins**

The expansive global firm bags a brace of finance laterals this edition welcoming structured finance specialist **Alex Martin**, from Weil, Gotshal & Manges, and project finance lawyer **Tom Bartlett**, from White & Case. Martin has an eclectic range of structured products experience, with a particular focus on CLOs. Bartlett focuses on emerging markets project, receivables and trade-related financings across various sectors including oil & gas, power, renewables and satellite telecommunications.

✦ **McDermott Will & Emery**

The Chicago headquartered set-up hires energy lawyer **Merrick White** from King & Spalding. White advises oil and gas clients on energy-related development projects and acquisitions, notably in Asia and Africa.

✦ **Michelmores**

Two hires this edition for the Exeter headquartered outfit: restructuring & insolvency lawyer **Benn Richards** arrives from Clarke Willmott; and private client disputes lawyer **Lorraine Jeffery** joins from BDB Pitmans, where she was a legal director. Richards advises on a range of contentious and non-contentious insolvency related matters. Jeffrey specialises in resolving disputes arising from wills, estate administrations, and trusts.

✦ **Paul Hastings**

The West Coast firm snatches two laterals this round up: funds lawyer **Ted Craig** arrives from Dentons, where he was the UK head of private funds, and leveraged finance lawyer **Adrian Chiodo** joins from Latham & Watkins. Craig advises fund sponsors on the structuring and establishment of private funds and their related investment programs. Chiodo's practice focuses on cross-border leveraged finance including US and European bank and corporate financings.

✦ **Quinn Emanuel**

Litigation lawyer **Ravi Nayer** joins the US disputes specialist from Brown Rudnick. Nayer's practice focuses on collective action litigation, as well as procedures and governance policies relating to bondholder disputes.

✦ **RPC**

Insurance casualty specialist **Lucy Dyson** joins from DAC Beachcroft. Dyson's practice focuses on the energy, mining, manufacturing and hospitality sectors.

✦ **Seddon's**

Corporate lawyer **Ben Gillespie** arrives at the West End firm from DLA Piper. Gillespie advises on equity investments, group reorganisations, joint ventures and mergers and acquisitions.

✦ **Shakespeare Martineau**

Restructuring lawyer **Frank Bouette** joins the national firm from EMW Law. Bouette advises on contentious and non-contentious matters including administrations, contract terminations and exit strategies.

✦ **Sidley Austin**

Chicago outfit Sidley Austin restocks its private equity offering with a three-partner lateral team from Vinson & Elkins, hiring **Paul Dunbar**, **Dan Graham** and **Emilie Stewart**. Dunbar focuses on M&A and real estate private equity, Graham advises on an eclectic mix of transactional work and Stewart specialises in cross-border acquisition finance.

✦ **Squire Patton Boggs**

The international verein welcomes trade finance specialist **Robert Parson** from Clyde & Co. With expertise in commodity and trade finance law, Parson advises on cross-border financing arrangements for banks, traders and exporters.

✦ **Stephenson Harwood**

International arbitration specialist **Chris Bailey** arrives at the GAR rated firm from the Tokyo office of King & Spalding. Bailey, who focuses predominately on commercial arbitration with particular expertise in energy and construction disputes, joins in London before transferring to Singapore next year.

✦ **Travers Smith**

Acquisition and infrastructure finance specialist **Ben Thompson** arrives from Weil, Gotshal & Manges, where he was counsel. Thompson advises on large-scale infrastructure and acquisition finance, acting for sponsors, banks and institutional lenders.

✦ **White & Case**

Two hires for the New York firm this edition; commercial litigation specialist **Lawson Caisley** arrives from Allen & Overy, where he was chair of the cybersecurity group, and project finance lawyer **George Kazakov** joins from Morgan Stanley, where he was global investment counsel. Caisley has a wide range of experience including corporate crime, cyber security breaches and fund management disputes. Kazakov advises on private equity, M&A and finance transactions with a focus on the infrastructure sector.

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- ✔ [The Partnership Track and Moving for Immediate Partnership](#)
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✔ **The Specialist Partner Team**



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