

Law  
Firm  
Partner  
Moves  
in  
London



 July – August 2022  
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Welcome to the 70<sup>th</sup> (platinum) edition of Law Firm Partner Moves in London, 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 – August 2022

It is passing strange that in the context of: rising interest rates, skyrocketing inflation, a global energy crisis, international trade tensions, 1970’s-style industrial unrest, crippling government debt, UK political chaos, the fracturing of the post-World War Two global rules-based system ... not to mention a full scale European land war, that law firm partner recruitment remains at near record levels. This bi-monthly round-up contains **60** partner moves – up **13%** on the **53** we saw for the same period in 2021 (and **15%** and **19%** more than the cumulative five-year and ten-year averages for the same period – **51** and **49** respectively).



The most dramatic hire this edition was **Paul Hastings'** raid on fellow West Coaster **Latham & Watkins** for a four partner finance team comprising of no less than Latham's global vice-chair of banking along with both of the co-chairs of its London finance team. The move, part of a quintet of hires by Paul Hastings announced over the past couple of months, is partially offset by the departure of two finance laterals to Atlanta headquartered **King & Spalding**.

In a still rare, but clearly no longer unprecedented move, **Slaughter and May** loses another lateral in their prime - corporate lawyer **Robert Chaplin** - to **Skadden Arps**. Coming so soon after the loss of corporate star **Murray Cox to fellow New Yorker Weil Gotshal last year**, even the once immutable partnership that is Slaughter and May must be asking questions; after all *to lose one corporate lateral, Ms Finkler, may be regarded as a misfortune; to lose both looks like carelessness* - that or, more likely, the realisation that elite US firms can now routinely raid even England's finest on its home turf.

#### ✔ Top partner recruiters in London July – August 2022

- **Paul Hastings** hired 5 laterals
- **Davitt Jones Bould, DLA Piper, DWF, Freshfields, King & Spalding, Kirkland & Ellis, Mayer Brown, RPC, Shearman & Sterling, Skadden, Watson Farley & Williams** and **Withers** (12 firms) hired two partners-a-piece

#### ✔ Now you see me ...

One potential move which we have not reported in this round-up but which was (fleetinglly) reported in The Lawyer, complete with a detailed press release, before the article was withdrawn without trace, was the announcement that **Covington & Burling** had hired disputes lateral **Stephen Surgeoner** into its insurance team from **Dechert**.

#### ✔ Also of note in this edition

- **33%** of all hires were female
- **22%** of all moves were non-partners moving into partnership, including moves from in-house

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.

**Scott Gibson, Director** [scott.gibson@edwardsgibson.com](mailto:scott.gibson@edwardsgibson.com) or +44 (0)7788 454 080

**Sloane Poulton, Director** [sloane.poulton@edwardsgibson.com](mailto:sloane.poulton@edwardsgibson.com) or +44 (0)7967 603 402

**Mark Coates, Senior Consultant** [mark.coates@edwardsgibson.com](mailto:mark.coates@edwardsgibson.com) or +44 (0)7541 666 856

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- ✦ **Akin Gump**  
The Texan-born firm swipes energy specialist **Alex Harrison** from Hogan Lovells to head its energy renewables and transition team. Harrison, who also headed the power, renewables and energy team at his previous firm, has a practice which spans all forms of renewables as well as liquefied natural gas to power.
- ✦ **Allen & Overy**  
Bolstering its corporate offering, the magic circle outfit welcomes **Harsh Pais** from Indian law firm Trilegal, where he co-headed the corporate practice. Pais, who will lead the firm's India corporate practice, advises multinational corporations and private equity funds investing into India with a particular focus on energy, technology and financial services.
- ✦ **Armstrong Teasdale**  
In a vertical hire, the St Louis headquartered set-up elevates immigration specialist **Ben Xu** from Irwin Mitchell, where he was senior associate. Xu deals with UK immigration and nationality matters, particularly those with complex personal and business immigration issues.
- ✦ **Blake Morgan**  
Planning specialist **Karen Cooksley** joins the national firm as head of planning, from alternative law firm W Legal. Cooksley's expertise spans residential and mixed-use developments, with a particular angle on housing and social value in development projects.
- ✦ **Brown Rudnick**  
The Boston-born outfit swipes energy specialist **James Douglass**, who joins as co-chair of the energy transition group, from K&L Gates. Douglass' practice focuses on energy transition, oil & gas, infrastructure, and resources.
- ✦ **Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner**  
Litigation specialist **Ravi Nayer** makes his third move in two years, arriving at the Anglo-American firm from US disputes boutique Quinn Emmanuel. Nayer's practice focuses on group litigation predominately on behalf of financial services institutions.
- ✦ **Buckles Solicitors**  
Corporate commercial lateral **David Egan** arrives at the Cambridge born firm from Keystone Law. Egan's practice encompasses M&A, JVs, corporate finance, banking and project finance.
- ✦ **Charles Russell Speechlys**  
Private client tax specialist **Nicola Saccardo** arrives from the London office of Italian tax boutique Maisto e Associati's. Saccardo, who is dual Italian and English qualified, advises high-net-worth individuals and family offices on Italian tax, including trusts and estate tax planning.
- ✦ **Davitt Jones Bould**  
The real estate boutique makes two hires, one lateral and one vertical, this round-up: construction lawyer **Stuart Nash** joins from Rosenblatt; and agricultural property specialist **Nicola Boaden** arrives from Thomson Reuters, where she was a senior editor. Nash advises on both contentious and non-contentious construction matters. Boaden will specialise in agricultural real estate.
- ✦ **Deloitte Legal**  
Financial services regulatory lawyer **Clare Jenkinson** arrives at the big four professional services firm from HSBC, where she was head of markets and security services compliance. Jenkinson specialises in non-contentious financial services, financial markets, and investment banking (including investment research), with a particular focus on wealth and asset management, both professional and retail.

- ✦ **Dentons**  
 The global verein elevates commercial real estate specialist **John Arey** from Ashurst, where he was a senior associate. Arey acts for property companies, investors and funds across a range of investment and development, private equity and corporate real estate deals.
- ✦ **DLA Piper**  
 Two hires this roundup for the global firm: financial regulatory specialist **Karen Butler** arrives from Reed Smith; and tax lawyer **Stuart Walsh** joins from Pinsent Masons, where he was head of tax disputes and interventions. Butler advises on a wide range of EU and UK financial services legislation and compliance matters from perimeter/authorisation issues to Brexit planning and structuring. Walsh has particular experience in VAT and excise duty disputes.
- ✦ **DWF**  
 The listed firm snags a brace of laterals this edition: defamation, data protection and privacy specialist **Tim Smith** is welcomed from BLM, where he was head of TMT; and real estate lawyer **Damian Fleming** joins from BCLP, where he managed the Manchester office. Smith's practice is a mix of defamation and data protection, whilst Fleming advises on a range of real estate investment matters.
- ✦ **Eversheds Sutherland**  
 Employment lawyer **Hannah Mahon** arrives at the Anglo-American outfit from boutique employment firm GQ Littler. Mahon focuses on contentious employment with a particular angle advising financial institutions and tech companies.
- ✦ **Fasken**  
 The Toronto-spawned firm boosts its corporate offering with lateral **Leon Miller** from Womble Bond Dickinson. Miller advises on both corporate finance transactions, spanning the UK capital markets (especially AIM) as well as private equity, typically involving high growth companies.
- ✦ **Fieldfisher**  
 White collar crime specialist **Priyanka Kapoor** arrives at the European firm from fraud boutique PCB Byrne. Kapoor advises on bribery and corruption, anti-money laundering, civil fraud, asset recovery and conducting internal investigations.
- ✦ **Freshfields**  
 Swiping two laterals this round-up, the magic circle firm welcomes leveraged finance lawyer **Carol Van der Vorst** from Ropes & Gray and restructuring lawyer **Lisa Stevens** from Kirkland & Ellis. Van der Vorst advises financial sponsor clients on cross-border debt financing transactions. Stevens advises investment funds, financial institutions and corporate borrowers on private credit/special situations and cross-border restructurings.
- ✦ **Ince**  
 The listed firm welcomes property disputes lateral **Tim Foley** from Fladgate. Foley, who joins as head of property, acts for retailers, investors, developers and high-net-worth individuals on a range of contentious commercial property matters.
- ✦ **Irwin Mitchell**  
 The national firm expands its IP practice with the vertical hire of White & Case senior associate **Marcus Collins**. Collins advises across all aspects of IP, with a particular focus on international brand protection, trademark prosecution and IP litigation.
- ✦ **Kennedys**  
 The insurance heavy international firm reinforces its corporate offering with **Matthew Poli** from (now defunct) BLM. Poli's practice covers a range

of corporate matters with an emphasis on share and asset sales and purchases alongside corporate restructurings.

◆ **King & Spalding**

The Atlanta headquartered firm bags a brace of finance laterals, swiping **Richard Kitchen** and **Amin Doulai** from Paul Hastings (which itself hires a four-partner finance team from Latham & Watkins this edition). Kitchen's practice focuses on acquisition and leveraged finance, general banking and alternative credit transactions. Doulai advises on cross-border leveraged finance, banking and restructuring transactions.

◆ **Kirkland & Ellis**

Bolstering its investment funds offering, the Chicago-spawned powerhouse bags **Catherine Gokah** from Ashurst and **Louisa Cobbe** from BCLP. Gokah advises asset managers, institutional investors, entrepreneurs and family offices on the structuring and raising of UK and international private investment funds. Cobbe advises investors and managers on matters relating to indirect real estate structures, with a focus on the formation and ongoing operation of both open-ended and close-ended funds and joint ventures.

◆ **Lee & Thompson**

The media, technology and creative industry firm hires employment and immigration lateral **Danielle Lobel-Weiss** from Teacher Stern, where she was head of immigration. Lobel-Weiss supports both employers and employees on a mix of employment and immigration matters.

◆ **Macfarlanes**

The City blue-blood hires tax lateral **Sophie Donnithorne-Tait** from Akin Gump. Donnithorne-Tait advises investment funds on the tax issues relating to the establishment of fund structures and asset management businesses, as well as on the tax implications of financial restructurings.

◆ **Mayer Brown**

Two lateral hires for the global firm this round-up: private equity specialist **Paul Rosen** joins from fellow US outfit Katten; and finance lawyer **Ronan Mellon** arrives from DLA Piper. Rosen's experience covers leveraged buyouts, growth capital investments, distressed acquisitions and restructurings. Mellon's practice spans structured finance, securitisation and debt capital markets, including CLOs, bonds, credit-linked notes, repackagings and derivatives.

◆ **McDermott Will & Emery**

The Chicago headquartered firm elevates disputes specialist **Jack Thorne** from Paul Hastings, where he was a senior associate. Thorne advises on commercial litigation, arbitration and corporate insolvencies.

◆ **Mishcon de Reya**

The London firm snags asset-based finance lateral **Steven Geerlings** from Dentons. Geerlings advises on insolvency issues and commercial and acquisition finance transactions for asset-based lenders.

◆ **Ontier**

The Iberian flavoured firm welcomes **James Dixon** who relocates from Cayman Island firm Priestleys, where he was a senior associate. Dixon's experience includes: shareholder disputes, fund disputes, cross-border insolvency litigation and arbitration.

◆ **Osborne Clarke**

Bolstering its cyber, tech and data disputes team, the Bristol-born firm welcomes insurance and cyber disputes lateral **Philip Tansley** from Shoosmiths. Tansley's experience spans insurance coverage disputes, cyber incident response and technology and privacy litigation.

✦ **Paul Hastings**

Five laterals for the LA firm this edition. A dramatic raid on fellow US West Coaster, Latham & Watkins, sees Paul Hastings bag a four partner finance team comprising: Latham's global vice chair of banking **Ross Anderson**, along with the co-chairs of its London finance department - **Mo Nurmohamed** and **Karan Chopra** - and an additional finance lateral **Rob Davidson**. Also joining is contentious IP specialist **Jason Raeburn** who is welcomed by the LA firm from Baker McKenzie. The banking quartet, which has an angle on leveraged finance, private equity finance, and cross-border acquisition finance, sees one of its own - Nurmohamed - elevated to global co-chair of the finance practice. Raeburn's practice focusses on technology disputes, often relating to trade secrets and copyright in the fields of software development and licensing, cloud and AI-related implementations.

✦ **Penningtons Manches Cooper**

The London and south-east focused firm elevates IP specialist **Duncan Curley** from Innovate Legal, where he was director. Curley advises on IP disputes, including patents, trademarks, designs and confidential information as well as assisting companies in the life sciences sector on freedom to operate and market entry.

✦ **Pillsbury**

The US outfit bolsters its corporate offering with energy specialist **Greg Hammond** from Dentons. Hammond advises on energy and natural resources matters representing parties in corporate finance and projects transactions, including M&A, private equity, equity capital markets and joint ventures.

✦ **Pinsent Masons**

As part of its merger with Luxembourg firm Wildgen, its sole London resident partner – funds specialist **Mark Shaw** – finds himself welcomed by the national firm. Shaw specialises in the

structuring and distribution of regulated and unregulated funds.

✦ **Quinn Emanuel**

The US disputes powerhouse snags RPC's head of competition, **Lambros Kilaniotis**, to co-head its UK competition practice. Kilaniotis advises on all aspects of EU and UK competition law, with a focus on contentious competition matters such as market investigations, cartel investigations (including dawn raids) and competition litigation (including follow on damages actions).

✦ **RPC**

Two hires for the London headquartered firm this edition: TMT lateral **Tania Williams** is welcomed from Deloitte Legal; and **Arash Rajai** joins the real estate and construction team from Herbert Smith Freehills, where he was senior associate. Williams advises both customers and suppliers on a broad range of technology-based transactions, with a focus on IT service, hardware and software procurement, large scale technology projects and outsourcing. Rajai specialises in non-contentious construction and engineering matters including real estate development and energy projects.

✦ **Shearman & Sterling**

The white-shoe firm poaches two laterals this roundup: energy specialist **Julia Derrick** from Ashurst; and corporate lateral **Michael Mountain** from fellow New Yorker White & Case. Derrick specialises in M&A, project development and commercial contracts - with a particular focus on upstream oil & gas and LNG. Mountain advises on M&A, private equity, joint ventures and special situations.

✦ **Shoosmiths**

In a vertical hire, incentives and benefits specialist **Dan Sharman** joins the national firm from Osborne Clarke, where he was an associate director. Sharman advises on employee incentive

arrangements, ranging from share options, share ownership, cash-based schemes and employee benefit trusts.

◆ **Skadden**

The New York firm welcomes two magic circle emigres, including pulling off that rarest of all hires in the London market - a lateral in their prime from Slaughter and May. All set to join are corporate lawyer **Robert Chaplin**, from Slaughter and May and international arbitration specialist **Kate Davies QC** from Allen & Overy. Chaplin has a wide ranging corporate, commercial, M&A and financing practice, particularly in the insurance and asset management sectors. Davies has expertise in both international commercial and investment treaty arbitration and public international law, and she has acted on disputes across a range of sectors including energy, telecommunications, automotive, technology, construction and pharmaceuticals.

◆ **Smith, Gambrell & Russell**

Asset finance specialist **Adrian Beasley** joins the Atlanta headquartered firm's global transport practice from White & Case. Beasley advises on international asset finance and leasing transactions with a particular emphasis on the aviation industry.

◆ **Squire Patton Boggs**

The international verein adds to its disputes team with lateral **Christian Toms** from Brown Rudnick. Toms acts for and against investment banks, hedge funds, pension funds and other investors as well as individuals and corporates across a range of sectors including technology, construction, motor racing and pharmaceuticals.

◆ **Trowers & Hamlins**

Employment specialist **Vanessa James** arrives at the top 40 firm from Exeter headquartered

Ashfords. James' practice covers the full remit of contentious and non-contentious employment law including matters relating to discrimination, equal pay, TUPE and whistleblowing.

◆ **Watson Farley & Williams**

The international firm makes two hires (one lateral and one vertical) this roundup: construction specialist **Theresa Mohammed** is welcomed from Trowers & Hamlins; and disputes lawyer **Sarah Ellington** joins from DLA Piper, where she was legal director. Mohammed specialises in contentious construction for both domestic and international clients investing and developing in the UK. Ellington advises on cross-border disputes and crisis management for governments, international organisations and corporates.

◆ **White & Case**

In a vertical hire, the New York firm elevates corporate lawyer **Di Yu** from Slaughter and May, where she was an associate. Yu, whose experience spans public and private M&A, JVs, equity raisings and corporate reorganisations, joins the global M&A team.

◆ **Withers**

The high-net-worth international firm swipes corporate duo **Philip Watkins** and **Victoria Rodley** from Brown Rudnick, where the latter was counsel. Both Watkins and Rodley's practices have a particular emphasis on private equity transactions, M&A, strategic investments, and joint ventures.

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✔ **The Specialist Partner Team**



Scott Gibson  
Director  
[scott.gibson@edwardsgibson.com](mailto:scott.gibson@edwardsgibson.com)  
+44 (0) 7788 454080



Sloane Poulton  
Director  
[sloane.poulton@edwardsgibson.com](mailto:sloane.poulton@edwardsgibson.com)  
+44 (0) 7967 603402



Mark Coates  
Senior Consultant  
[mark.coates@edwardsgibson.com](mailto:mark.coates@edwardsgibson.com)  
+44 (0) 7541 666856

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