

Law  
Firm  
Partner  
Moves  
in  
London

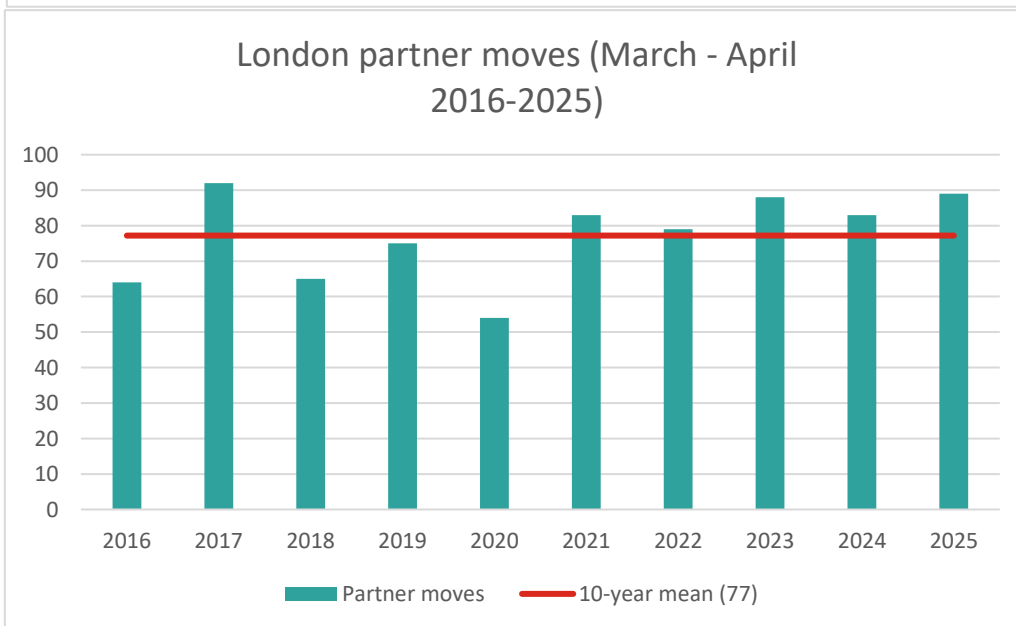
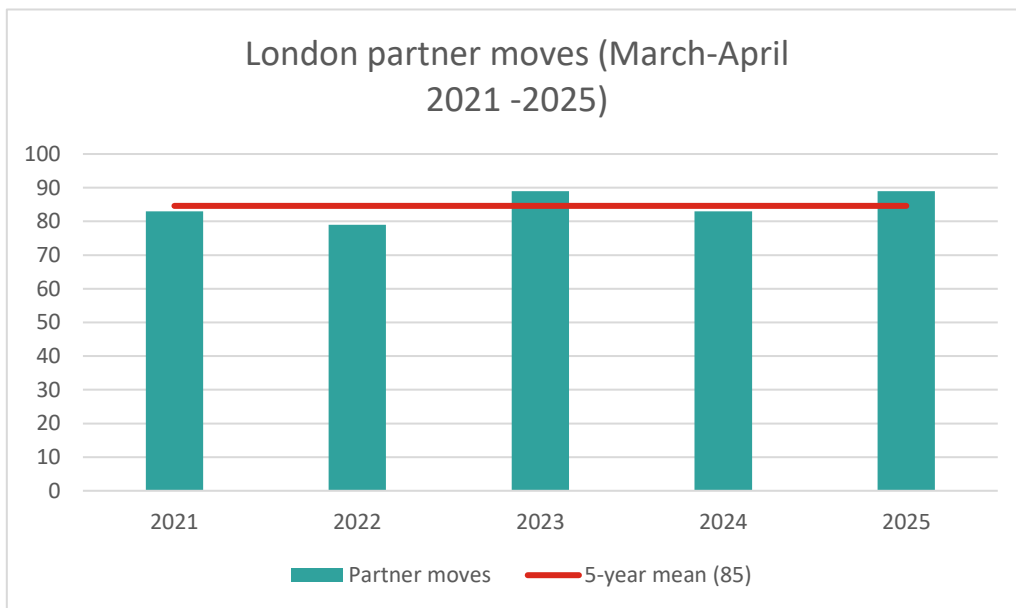
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◆ March – April  
2025 Issue  
No. 86

Welcome to the 86<sup>th</sup> 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. Our records go back to 2007, and this is [our methodology](#).

◆ **March - April 2025**

This bi-monthly round-up contains **89** partner moves, which is **7%** up on the **83** we saw for the same period last year; **5%** up on the cumulative five-year average (**85**); and **15%** up on the cumulative ten-year average of (**77**) for the same period.



The most coveted firm this edition was **Sidley Austin** which hired 5 partners, followed by **Edwin Coe** and **Milbank** which hired 4 partners each. Next up was **Joseph Hage Aaronson, Kirkland & Ellis, Latham & Watkins, Paul Weiss, Proskauer Rose** and **Travers Smith** which hired 3 partners apiece.

◆ **Top partner recruiters in London March - April 2025**

• <b>Sidley Austin</b>	<b>5</b>	(5 laterals)
• <b>Edwin Coe</b>	<b>4</b>	(4 laterals)
• <b>Milbank</b>	<b>4</b>	(3 laterals)
• <b>Joseph Hage Aaronson</b>	<b>3</b>	(3 laterals)
• <b>Kirkland &amp; Ellis</b>	<b>3</b>	(0 laterals)
• <b>Latham &amp; Watkins</b>	<b>3</b>	(3 laterals)
• <b>Paul Weiss</b>	<b>3</b>	(2 laterals)
• <b>Proskauer Rose</b>	<b>3</b>	(2 laterals)
• <b>Travers Smith</b>	<b>3</b>	(1 lateral)

In addition, eleven firms hired 2 partners each: **Ashurst, Baker Botts, Baker McKenzie, Clyde & Co, DAC Beachcroft, Dentons, Greenberg Traurig, McDermott Will & Emery, Mills & Reeve, Paul Hastings** and **Simmons & Simmons**.

**A&O Shearman** saw the highest attrition this edition, haemorrhaging 6 laterals – 2 to Latham & Watkins and one each to: Gibson Dunn, King & Spalding, Linklaters and McDermott Will & Emery. Two firms saw the departure of 4 serving partners: **JMW Solicitors** (one each to: Blake Morgan, Edwin Coe, Fox Williams and PCB Byrne); and **White & Case** (3 to Milbank and one to Paul Hastings). Three firms lost 3 partners apiece: **Akin** (one each to: Latham & Watkins, Paul Weiss and Proskauer Rose); **Quinn Emanuel** (all to Joseph Hage Aaronson); and **Weil** (all to Sidley Austin).

◆ **Firms with largest attrition in March – April 2025 (partnership to partnership moves only)**

• <b>A&amp;O Shearman</b>	<b>6</b>
• <b>JMW Solicitors</b>	<b>4</b>
• <b>White &amp; Case</b>	<b>4</b>
• <b>Akin</b>	<b>3</b>
• <b>Quinn Emanuel</b>	<b>3</b>
• <b>Weil</b>	<b>3</b>



### ◆ Team hires March – April 2025

The most sizeable multi-partner team move this edition was **Milbank’s** hire of a four-partner infrastructure team (four laterals and one vertical) from White & Case. This was followed by two separate three-partner moves: **Joseph Hage Aaronson’s** hire of a construction team from Quinn Emanuel; and **Sidley Austin’s** hire of a private funds team from Weil. In addition, six firms hired two partner teams: **Baker Botts** (projects and energy from Vinson & Elkins); **DAC Beachcroft** (real estate from Macfarlanes); **Greenberg Traurig** (construction and finance from Reed Smith); **Latham & Watkins** (finance from A&O Shearman); **Sidley Austin** (capital markets from Latham & Watkins)\*; and **Simmons & Simmons** (insurance from Kennedys).

\* In what appears to be a rolling raid, these two hires are the ninth and tenth finance/capital markets laterals to join the Illinois firm from Latham in as many months.

### ◆ Other Fun Facts March – April 2025

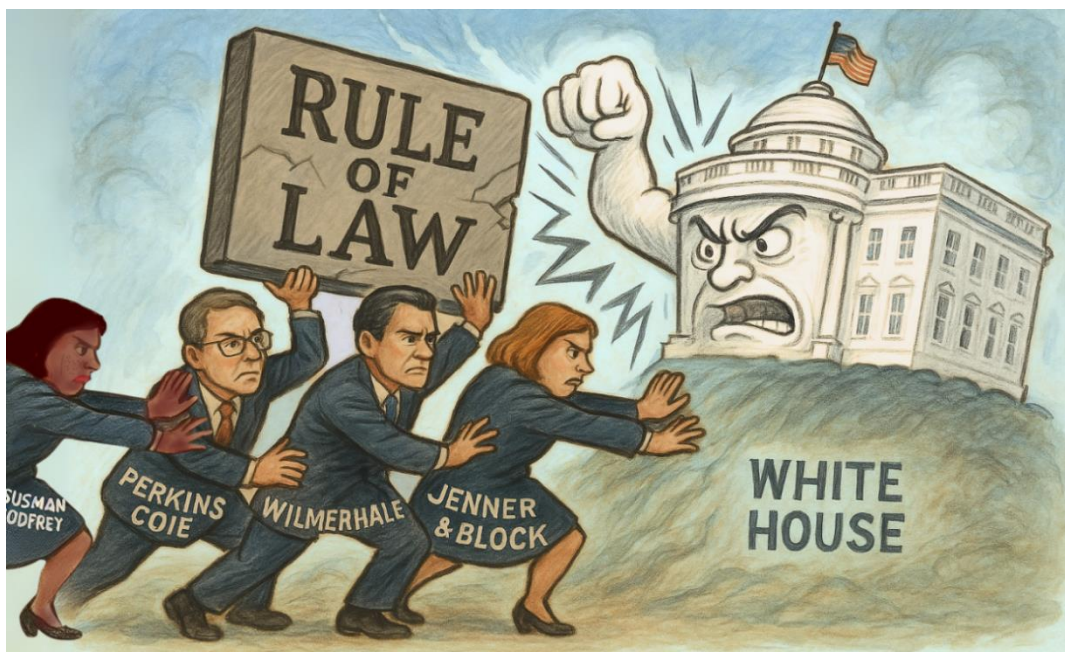
- **30%** of moves this edition were female (**27**).
- **3** firms hired from in-house or business: **Bindmans** (from Motion Picture Solutions), **CMS** (from Abbott Laboratories) and **Travers Smith** (from Livingbridge).
- **22%** of all moves (**20**) were moves from non-partnership roles (either moves from in-house or non-partners elevated to partnership upon moving from another law firm).

### ◆ US Big Law’s Brave “Few”

More than 40% of the hires in this publication are by US founded law firms which, in many sectors of the market, now dominate in London. As such, we can always hope that we will look back at the unprecedented assault by the White House on Big Law as a very serious, yet narrowly avoided, threat to the rule of law. Perhaps when it’s all over some eloquent jurist will utter something suitably Churchillian along the lines of, *“Never in the field of jurisprudential conflict was so much owed by so many to so few”*.

We can hope that the quartet of Big Law firms - **Perkins Coie, Jenner & Block, Susman Godfrey** and **Wilmer Hale**, bravely fighting back against the Trump Administration's seemingly illegal executive orders, which appear to have singled them out for simply performing their constitutionally protected activities, will succeed. In view of the very real threat to the rule of law, and the existential, and immediate, risk to their own businesses, they and their fellow law firm advisers, deserve the approbation and support, of not just the legal services industry, but of us all.

The orders, which also target the clients of these law firms, and even appear to restrict their lawyers from entering courtrooms, have been called a "functional death sentence", so (unsurprisingly) they were all temporarily stayed ahead of additional hearings; and, in May, a Federal Judge found the Executive Order against Perkins Coie to be unconstitutional. Unfortunately, whilst it seems probable that the rest of the quartet will also overturn the more vexatious provisions within the orders, for the rule of law, this will likely prove a pyrrhic victory. As demonstrated by the scramble of other Big Law firms to settle with the administration, the reality is that, going forward, all major commercial law firms will be more particular about which clients and matters they can take on. This is because, despite protestations to the contrary, most existing clients will not want to get caught in the crossfire by continuing to instruct a law firm which has incurred the ire of an administration which has shown itself perfectly capable of targeting that law firm's clients simply by association. Whilst it may sound trite to use the term "justice" in the context of billion-dollar law firms, the ramifications for justice are nonetheless chilling.



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At stake is an issue which transcends right-wing vs left-wing politics. Asset owning capitalists have as much to lose from the breakdown in the rule of law as the indigent left, nor, despite the administration's demands that all law firms drop DEI policies, is it about culture wars; even arch liberals can find Big Law's constant grandstanding on DEI a tad wearing. As the White House executive orders unashamedly make clear, it is about singling out for vengeance those law firms whose employees and partners have, at some time, taken an adverse position to the current administration or its causes. A mixture of political vengeance and, more importantly for the rule of law, a warning to lawyers not to represent clients or causes in opposition to the administration.

... Yikes!

Most senior lawyers admit privately to being appalled by these attacks. Moreover, as Edwards Gibson has previously argued, [the financial success of Big Law is predicated entirely on the rule of law](#). So why has Big Law, that immensely powerful and well-connected collective, been so spectacularly ineffective in standing up for its own interests? And why, when **Perkins Coie, Jenner & Block, Susman Godfrey** and **Wilmer Hale** have decided to fight the administration, did the much more powerful super elite New York firm **Paul Weiss** take a different tack and, together with a host of peer and near peer rivals, settle with the White House?

The answer lies in three interconnected developments in Big Law: (i) the inherent fragility of the law firm partnership model which, post financial crisis, has become even less cohesive; (ii) the increasing reliance by Big Law on private capital clients to drive its stratospheric profitability; and (iii) (thanks to (i) and (ii)) the increased ease in which individual rainmaker partners can switch law firms, taking all of their lucrative private capital clients with them.

To learn just how structurally unstable the US super elite law firms have become over the past ten years (and why some probably had no choice but to make inglorious settlements with the White House) please follow the link to our recent article [Big Law Jenga: Why Private Capital Stars are a Tragedy for the Rule of Law](#). Unfortunately, head-hunters are part of the problem!

...[SCROLL BELOW FOR OUR FULL MARCH – APRIL 2025 REPORT](#)

**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



◆ **Ashurst**

A brace of laterals for the international firm which bags: non-contentious financial services regulatory specialist **Max Savoie** from Sidley Austin; and real estate lawyer **Lee Foxcroft** from Mishcon de Reya. Savoie specialises in global payments and fintech. Foxcroft covers real estate investment, with a particular focus on data centres, technology and the senior living sectors.

◆ **Baker Botts**

Texas two-step. Project finance and energy duo **Nabil Khodadad** and **Alistair Wishart** arrive from fellow Houston headquartered outfit Vinson & Elkins, where Wishart was a counsel. Khodadad, who joins as international head of project finance at his new firm, advises on projects across oil and gas, conventional and renewable power, mining and infrastructure. Wishart focuses on traditional energy, petrochemicals, and energy transition projects and has particular expertise negotiating engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) contracts.

◆ **Baker McKenzie**

Arriving at the global verein are two laterals: corporate lawyer **Michal Berkner** from McDermott Will & Emery; and competition specialist **Marie Leppard** from Euclid Law. Berkner, who only arrived at [McDermott Will & Emery last year](#), is New York and English qualified and specialises in cross-border M&A, with a particular angle in the life sciences, healthcare and technology sectors. Leppard covers EU, UK and multijurisdictional merger control, foreign direct investment, cartel investigations, abuse of dominance and antitrust compliance matters.

◆ **Bindmans**

In-house corporate lawyer **Gabrielle Plews** joins the London firm from Motion Picture Solutions, where she was general counsel. Plews joins as the new head of corporate & commercial.

◆ **Blake Morgan**

Commercial lawyer **Jonathan Askin** joins from fellow national firm JMW Solicitors. Askin advises on commercial contracts, data protection and intellectual property in both the private and public sectors.

◆ **Browne Jacobson**

Making the switch to the national firm is disputes lateral **Danielle Carr** from Rosenblatt. Carr, who joins as head of commercial dispute resolution in London, advises an eclectic client base on commercial litigation, arbitration and mediation.

◆ **Clyde & Co**

Two hires for the insurance flavoured firm which welcomes: corporate crime savant **Sam Tate** from RPC, where he was co-head of white-collar crime and compliance; and corporate insurance lateral **Marcella Hill** from Brazilian firm Campos Mello Advogados, where she was head of insurance. Tate, who joins his new firm as global head of regulatory and investigations, advises on corruption, fraud, sanctions, money laundering, investigations, asset-tracing and FCA enforcement. Hill covers complex insurance matters, from corporate transactions and reorganisations to claims and regulatory issues.

◆ **CMS**

The global giant adds life sciences regulatory specialist **Amélie Chollet** from Abbott Laboratories, where she was legal regulatory counsel, EMEA. Chollet will advise on regulatory matters in the health care and life sciences sectors.

◆ **Cripps**

The South-East firm elevates real estate lawyer **Adam Carney** from Pinsent Masons, where he was a legal director. Carney advises on development, investment and asset management across the retail, leisure, and office sectors.

- ◆ **Crowell & Moring**  
 A TMT hire for the DC headquartered outfit as it welcomes lateral **Emma Wright**, from Harbottle & Lewis, where she led the technology, data and digital team. Wright counsels on commercial and regulatory issues related to AI, emerging technologies and tec procurement.
- ◆ **DAC Beachcroft**  
 Double Tap! The national firm hires a two-partner real estate team (one lateral and one vertical) from Macfarlanes in the form of **Gerald Kelly** and **Jim Roberts**, who was senior counsel. The duo, who previously [moved together from Ashurst](#), advise on a wide range of development and investment matters, with a particular angle on the residential market, counselling house builders and investors on mixed-use and private rental development schemes.
- ◆ **Dechert**  
 Private equity specialist **Joseph Dennis** joins the global firm from Herbert Smith Freehills. Dennis advises an eclectic range of market participants on: leveraged buyouts, venture and growth capital investments, disposals, reorganisations and management incentive arrangements.
- ◆ **Dentons**  
 Two vertical hires for the global leviathan as it elevates: competition lawyer **Richard Brown** from Travers Smith, where he was a senior counsel; and private equity real estate specialist **Kathryn Alexander** from Simpson Thacher, where she was an associate. Brown advises on merger control, foreign direct investment, competition compliance, distribution arrangements and competition investigations. Alexander covers corporate real estate, advising on M&A and joint venture transactions in the real asset space.
- ◆ **Druces**  
 The London firm welcomes insolvency lawyer **Jeff Roberts** from the recently demised Memery Crystal. Roberts, who joins the disputes resolution team, focuses on contentious insolvency matters.
- ◆ **Edwin Coe**  
 A quartet of laterals for the London firm which adds: private client lawyer **Jeremy Curtis** from Cripps; litigation specialist **Laura Clatworthy** from Rosenblatt; TMT lawyer **Dennis Lee** from Broadfield (previously BDB Pitmans); and IP specialist **Lakmal Walawage** from JMW Solicitors. Curtis advises high-net-worth families on all aspects of tax, trust and estate planning. Clatworthy, who joins as head of digital assets, covers a wide range of commercial litigation with an angle on digital assets. Lee, who was head of IP at his old firm, has expertise in IP rights, licensing, commercial contracts and contentious and non-contentious IT. Walawage, who was also head of IP at his previous firm, focuses on contentious IP, including breach of confidence and defamation disputes.
- ◆ **Farrer & Co**  
 Private client lateral **Alexandra Ruffel** makes the switch to the London firm from Irwin Mitchell. Ruffel is a specialist in cross-border personal tax planning advising high-net worth individuals, family offices and trustees on tax, trusts and asset-structuring.
- ◆ **Fieldfisher**  
 The European firm elevates derivatives and structured finance lawyer **Shanthi Vignasen** from A&O Shearman, where she was a counsel. Vignasen advises banks, buy-side clients and corporates across all forms of derivative transactions including rates, FX, commodities, equities and longevity.
- ◆ **Fladgate**  
 A singular addition for the mid-town firm as it welcomes energy lateral **Jonathan Cohen** from Howard Kennedy. Cohen specialises in renewable and low carbon transactions, advising a wide range of market participants.



- ◆ **Fox Williams**  
 IP lateral **Lucy Marlow** arrives at the City firm from JMW Solicitors. Marlow, who has a particular focus on sports and emerging technology clients, advises on trademarks, copyright, passing off, patents and design matters.
- ◆ **Fried Frank**  
 Corporate tax lateral **Oliver Currall** makes the switch to the New Yorker from Sidley Austin, where he was UK head of tax. Currall advises on UK and international tax structuring, with a particular focus on cross-border private equity and M&A transactions, and the structuring and operation of global investment funds.
- ◆ **Gibson Dunn**  
 A&O Shearman’s global head of real estate finance **Mark Manson-Bahr** defects to the Los Angeles headquartered outfit. Bahr, a legacy Allen & Overy “lifer” advises lenders and sponsors on the financing of pan-European real estate assets across all classes including data centres, offices, hotels, the care sector and student accommodation.
- ◆ **Greenberg Traurig**  
 A multi-disciplinary duo join the US firm from Reed Smith in the form of: non-contentious construction specialist **Richard Ceeney**; and finance lawyer **Kevin-Paul Deveau**. Ceeney counsels a wide range of market participants on the delivery of large-scale infrastructure projects, particularly within the transport, power, renewable energy and oil and gas sectors. Deveau advises banks, alternative lenders, asset managers, and borrowers on a mix of direct lending, private credit, acquisition finance and distressed financings.
- ◆ **HCR Law**  
 A vertical hire for the national firm which welcomes white collar crime specialist **Ben Ticehurst** from Squire Patton Boggs, where he was a legal director. Ticehurst, who joins the insurance, risk and regulatory team, advises corporates and individuals on fraud, bribery, and corruption investigations.
- ◆ **Haynes Boone**  
 The Texas-born outfit welcomes corporate lawyer **Lesley Gregory** from the, now defunct, Memery Crystal where she was the Chair. Gregory covers private and public M&A, alternative capital raising strategies and deal structuring.
- ◆ **Jones Day**  
 Energy lateral **Paul Jones** arrives at the global leviathan from Addleshaw Goddard. Jones’ work is largely transactional advising integrated energy companies, independent developers, and funds on M&A, joint ventures, fundraising, and project development in the energy sector.
- ◆ **Joseph Hage Aaronson**  
 ... soon to be **Joseph Hage Aaronson & Bremen**. Three partners - **James Bremen**, **James Mayers** and **Mark Grasso** – defect from Quinn Emanuel to launch a contentious construction offering at fellow elite disputes boutique. Bremen, who leads the team, and was chair of construction and engineering at Quinn Emanuel, joins his new firm as its presiding partner giving the firm its new eponym. The trio all advise on international construction disputes typically arising out of energy, healthcare and transport projects, with a particular focus on the Middle East.
- ◆ **King & Spalding**  
 Disputes lateral **Jonathan Swil** arrives at the Atlanta headquartered outfit from A&O Shearman. Swil, who was a partner at legacy Shearman & Sterling, advises on a range of commercial litigation, investigations and contentious insolvency matters, with a focus on the financial services industry.

◆ **Kirkland & Ellis**

A trio of verticals for the Chicago-spawned powerhouse which elevates: corporate savant **Jay Swain** from Freshfields, where he was a senior associate; private funds lawyer **Vincent Herjean** from Simpson Thacher, where he was an associate; and tax lawyer **Jennifer Maskell** from PWC, where she was a director. Swain advises private equity sponsors and other global financial investors on public and private M&A, co-investments, internal reorganisations and corporate governance matters. New York qualified Herjean, covers the structuring and operation of alternative investment funds, with a primary focus on European evergreen funds, private wealth funds and the “retailisation” of private funds. Maskell will lead the tax policy, knowledge and strategic business development initiatives for the London office.

◆ **Latham & Watkins**

Three laterals for the West Coast firm which adds: structured finance/ CLO duo **Franz Ranero** and **James Smallwood** from A&O Shearman; and corporate tax specialist **Serena Lee** from Akin. Ranero and Smallwood advise on cross-border structured finance and structured products transactions, with a particular focus on collateralized loan obligations (CLOs) and bespoke funding solutions. Lee counsels corporates, asset managers, and financial institutions on all aspects of corporate tax, with a particular angle on investment fund matters.

◆ **Lewis Silkin**

The London firm elevates trademark specialist **Jade MacIntyre** from Deloitte Legal, where she was the (non-partner) head of trademarks. MacIntyre, who previously acted solely as a trademark attorney and only recently qualified as a solicitor, advises on trademark selection, clearance searches and enforcement.

◆ **Linklaters**

International arbitration lateral **Matthew Hodgson** joins the magic circle outfit from A&O Shearman. Hodgson, who is English, Hong Kong, New York qualified, joins as head of public international law in London; he specialises in cross-border investment disputes acting for both states and investors.

◆ **McDermott Will & Emery**

A brace of laterals for the Chicago headquartered firm as it bags: corporate tax lawyer **Alex Jupp** from Skadden; and restructuring and finance specialist **Kathleen Wong** from A&O Shearman. Jupp, who joins as head of UK tax, covers a broad range of transactional and non-transactional tax matters including acquisitions, restructurings, capital raising, tax governance, and inchoate dispute resolution. Wong, who was a partner at legacy Allen & Overy, advises on hedge fund, emerging market and sovereign debt linked financings and restructurings.

◆ **Milbank**

A four-partner infrastructure team (comprising three laterals and one vertical) defects from fellow New Yorker White & Case. The team comprises: corporate lawyers **Tim Sheddick** and **Tom Pound**, alongside infrastructure finance lawyers **Katie Hicks**, who becomes the co-head of the European infrastructure investor practice, and **Jonathan Toffolo**, who was an associate. The team advise sponsors and lenders on infrastructure acquisition financings and refinancings. Sheddick, Pound and Hicks have stuck together throughout various moves, joining White & Case [from Shearman & Sterling in 2021](#), and [Shearman & Sterling from Baker McKenzie in 2019](#).

◆ **Mills & Reeves**

The Cambridge spawned national firm adds: pensions lateral **Carol Dick** from Osborne Clarke; and corporate vertical **James Foster** from Wilson Sonsini, where he was an associate. Dick advises

scheme sponsors and trustees on all aspects of their pension arrangements. Foster, who specialises in technology and life science transactions, advises on M&A, fundraisings, JVs and company law matters.

◆ **Morgan Lewis**

In a vertical hire, corporate tax specialist **Andrew Callaghan** arrives at the US firm from Milbank, where he was a special counsel. Callaghan advises institutional investors, management teams, and portfolio companies on the tax aspects of domestic and international corporate and finance transactions.

◆ **Orrick**

Restructuring lateral **Prav Reddy** makes the switch from fellow US firm Katten. Reddy advises office holders, creditors, debtors, banks and distressed companies through transactional corporate and personal insolvency matters focusing on office holder driven contentious work including fraud, undervalue, preference, misfeasance and avoidance actions.

◆ **Paul Hastings**

Arriving at the Los Angeles-born firm this edition are two laterals: corporate infrastructure specialist **George Kazakov** from White & Case; and private funds lawyer **Catherine Gokah** from Kirkland & Ellis. New York qualified Kazakov, who is part of a wider raid on White & Case (which sees Paul Hastings open an office in Abu Dhabi), advises infrastructure funds, private equity funds and other financial sponsor clients on domestic and cross-border acquisitions, disposals, joint ventures, co-investments and restructurings. Gokah counsels sponsors on the formation and operation of private investment funds across multiple asset classes, with a focus on infrastructure and real estate as well as advising on carried interest arrangements and secondaries transactions.

◆ **Paul Weiss**

Three new faces (two laterals, one vertical) for the Wall Street firm which welcomes: **Richard Hornshaw** from Akin to launch its European disputes offering; funds finance specialist **Cameron Roper**, from Proskauer Rose; and corporate tax lawyer **Deeksha Rathi** from Slaughter and May, where she was an associate. Hornshaw, who was head of Akin's international disputes group, advises investment firms and financial institutions on cross-border disputes, with a particular focus on finance and securities matters. Roper, who is Paul Weiss' first funds finance partner in London, advises both fund managers and financial institutions on fund finance and general lending matters. Rathi covers the tax aspects of corporate and finance transactions but also has experience of tax disputes, and standalone advisory matters.

◆ **PCB Byrne**

The fraud and disputes boutique hires disputes lawyer **Matthew Wescott** from JMW Solicitors. Wescott advises on a range of commercial and insurance litigation.

◆ **Penningtons Manches Cooper**

Real estate lawyer **Will Fraser** jumps ship from Womble Bond Dickinson. Fraser advises on a mix of commercial real estate (primarily investment and development matters) as well as real estate financing - acting for both lenders and borrowers.

◆ **Pillsbury**

The US firm launches a London restructuring offering with the hire of **Natasha Atkinson** from DWF, where she was head of restructuring. Atkinson specialises in distressed insolvency transactions and restructurings as well as insolvency litigation.

◆ **Proskauer Rose**

Three hires (two laterals and one vertical) for the New Yorker as it welcomes: restructuring lateral **Clare Cottle** from Akin; and two private funds

specialists - **Duncan Woollard** from Paul Hastings (where he was European head of funds), and **Delphine Jaugey** from Skadden, where she was counsel and head of secondaries. Cottle advises private equity houses and financial institutions on cross-border and domestic debt restructurings, special situations funding and direct loans. Woollard specialises in private funds, working across asset classes and on strategies including private equity, private credit, real assets and activist funds. Jaugey, who is English and Luxembourg qualified, advises on GP and LP-led secondary transactions and liquidity solutions.

◆ **Russell-Cooke**

Private client lateral **Angharad Lynn** arrives at the London headquartered firm from VWV. Lynn covers the full range of estate planning and administration.

◆ **Shoosmiths**

Making the switch to the national firm is real estate finance specialist **James Salford** from Bird & Bird. Salford, who was head of real estate finance at his old firm, has a particular angle in the hotels and leisure space acting on behalf of borrowers and lenders.

◆ **Sidley Austin**

The Chicago headquartered firm adds five new laterals as it welcomes: a three-partner funds team from Weil comprising **Ed Gander, Stephen Fox** and **Peter Boulle**; and capital markets duo **David Stewart** and **Vladimir Mikhailovsky** from Latham & Watkins. Gander (who was head of private funds at his old firm and joins his new firm with the same title) and his team, specialise in advising fund managers on the formation, fundraising, and operation of private investment funds across a diverse range of asset classes, including private equity, infrastructure, real estate, credit, and funds of funds. The team also provides counsel on secondary transactions, GP-stake acquisitions, and co-investment vehicles, offering solutions to both fund managers and

institutional investors. Texas-qualified Stewart, who was co-chair of corporate at Latham, specialises in cross-border debt and equity capital markets, including transactions involving publicly traded securities, in the US and internationally. Mikhailovsky counsels issuers and underwriters in capital markets and finance transactions across the full spectrum of the capital structure. Stewart and Mikhailovsky's hire marks Sidley's ninth and tenth swipe at rival Latham & Watkins in as many months.

◆ **Simmons & Simmons**

A two-partner insurance disputes team, in the form of **Ingrid Hobbs** and **Tim McCaw**, defects to the City blue blood from insurance flavoured outfit Kennedys. Hobbs, an insurance coverage specialist, advises on multi-jurisdictional disputes and crisis management, particularly in the food & drink and automotive industries. McCaw covers property, casualty, and excess liability claims, with a particular angle in pharmaceutical and agrochemical risks written on the Bermuda form. The duo, who both advise insurers, previously [moved together from Mayer Brown in 2017](#).

◆ **Squire Patton Boggs**

Financial services regulatory émigré **Monica Gogna** joins the international verein from EY Law, after the Big Four outfit announced a series of redundancies in its legal arm. Gogna, who was head of financial services regulation at EY Law, advises on a range of matters including regulatory authorizations, group entity re-organizations, mergers and acquisitions, product development, distribution advice and governance.

◆ **Taylor Wessing**

Finance lateral **Matt Williams** makes the switch to the international firm from DWF. Williams who joins the banking and finance team, will focus on credit M&A, special situations and other restructuring and corporate finance matters.

◆ **TLT**

The Bristol-headquartered outfit elevates financial services regulatory specialist **Andrzej Wieckowski** from PwC, where he was a director. Wieckowski advises on regulatory requirements relating to banking, payments, and digital assets.

◆ **Travers Smith**

Three hires for the City blue blood as it continues its restock welcoming: new head of restructuring and insolvency, **Mandip Englund** from Fried Frank; corporate lawyer **Jeremy Dennison**, who returns to his old firm from mid-market private equity outfit Livingbridge, where he was General Counsel; and new head of property disputes, **Robert Payne** from CMS, where he was a senior associate. Englund counsels on the full spectrum of restructuring and insolvency covering financial restructuring, distressed investing and formal insolvency. Dennison, who was a senior associate at Travers Smith before moving in-house, will likely advise on private equity and transactional M&A. Payne's experience encompasses high court litigation and managing client portfolios on contested and uncontested lease renewals, insolvency and development issues.

◆ **Trowers & Hamlins**

After twenty-seven years, construction disputes lawyer **Rob Wilson** decamps to the international firm from CMS. Wilson is a dual English and Scottish qualified solicitor advocate, with a particular angle in the energy, power and renewables sectors covering construction litigation, arbitration and mediation.

◆ **Vedder Price**

The Chicago spawned firm launches a UK disputes offering with the hire of litigation lawyer **Helen Biggin** from A&O Shearman, where she was a counsel. Biggin covers commercial and corporate litigation, contentious insolvency and civil fraud

matters, with a focus on the shipping and aviation sectors.

◆ **VWV**

Private client lawyer **Rod Smith** joins the national firm from Brecher, as its new head of estates, tax and trusts in London. Smith, who specialises in residence and domicile, advises on a wide range of estates and trust matters.

◆ **Wedlake Bell**

The City firm adds corporate lateral **Hollie Gallagher** from Broadfield (formerly BDB Pitmans). Gallagher provides entrepreneurs and businesses with a broad range of corporate and commercial advice at all stages of the corporate life cycle.

◆ **Weil**

Private equity lawyer **Simon Saitowitz** defects to the New York firm from Ropes & Gray which he joined as part of a three-partner [team move from Fried Frank in 2022](#). Saitowitz, advises on private equity, M&A, co-investments and joint ventures, with a particular angle on GP-led secondary transactions.

◆ **White & Case**

Prodigal son... the New York firm hires private equity lawyer **Henry Birch** from Kirkland & Ellis. Birch who trained at the firm, focuses on transactional private equity matters and advises sponsor-held portfolio companies between buyout and exit.

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