

Law Firm Partner Moves in London



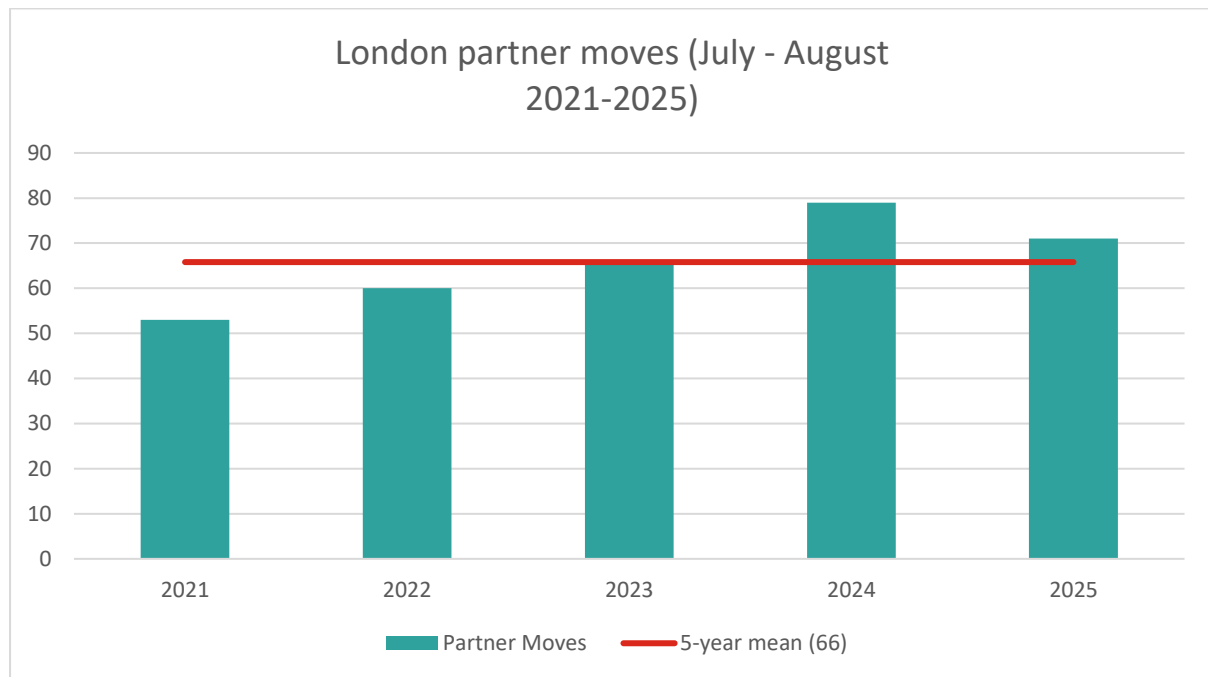
July –
August 2025
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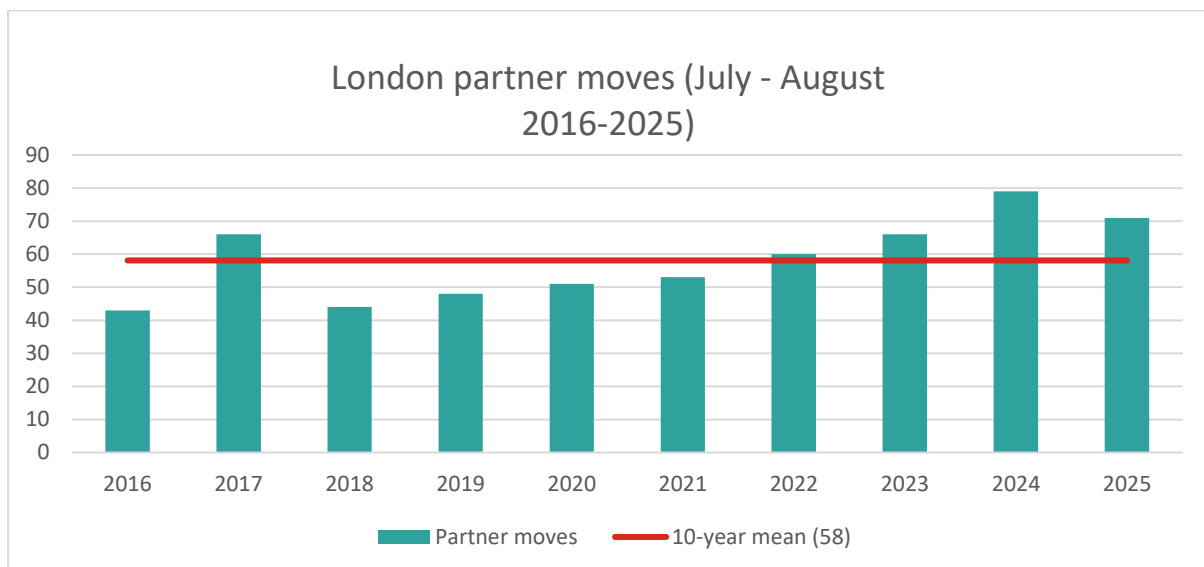
Welcome to the 88th edition of Law Firm Partner Moves in London, from the specialist partner team at Edwards Gibson, where we look back at announced partner-level recruitment activity in London over the past two months and give you a ‘who’s moved where’ update. Our records go back to 2007, and this is [our methodology](#).

July – August 2025

Last year’s July–August publication broke records with the highest number of partner moves for the same period since we began tracking in 2007.

Although this summer didn’t quite reach that historic peak, it still delivered a very strong showing with **71** partner moves and, whilst this was **10%** down on last year’s historic high of **79**, it remains the second busiest July–August period on record—**8%** above the five-year average of **66**, and **22%** above the ten-year average of **58**.





The most covetous firms this round-up were: **Charles Russell Speechlys**, **Hill Dickinson**, **Mayer Brown**, and **Proskauer** which all hired three partners apiece.

✦ **Top partner recruiters in London July – August 2025**

Charles Russell Speechlys	3	(3 laterals)
Hill Dickinson	3	(2 laterals)
Mayer Brown	3	(3 laterals)
Proskauer	3	(3 laterals)

In addition, eight firms, hired two partners each: **Blake Morgan**, **Crowell & Moring**, **DLA Piper**, **Freshfields**, **Goodwin Procter**, **Gowling WLG**, **Jones Day** and **Signature Litigation**.

✦ **Firms with largest attrition July – August 2025 (partnership to partnership moves only)**

Dechert	4
EY Law	3
White & Case	3

Dechert saw the highest attrition this edition, losing four partners (three to Mayer Brown and one to DLA Piper); followed by **EY Law** which lost three (two to Jones Day and one to Greenberg Traurig); and **White & Case**, which also lost three (to DLA Piper, Latham & Watkins, and Proskauer).

In addition, eight firms lost two serving partners each: **A&O Shearman, Cadwalader, Doyle Clayton, Eversheds Sutherland, Goodwin Procter, Hill Dickinson, Paul Hastings** and **Ropes & Gray**.



◆ Team hires July – August 2025

The most sizable multi-partner team hire this edition was **Mayer Brown**'s lift out of a three-partner private capital team from **Dechert** comprising both co-heads of global leveraged finance and a corporate M&A lateral.

Elsewhere, four firms welcomed two-partner teams: **Freshfields** (private equity real estate) from Ropes & Gray; **Hill Dickinson** (direct real estate) from Taylor Wessing; **Crowell & Moring** (IP/Patents) from Dentons; and **Jones Day** (energy and infrastructure) from the [seemingly hapless EY Law](#).

◆ Two Big Law Summer Weddings ... and an Anniversary

Having announced their banns in November last year, Anglo-Australian outfit **Herbert Smith Freehills** (HSF) and New York-headquartered **Kramer Levin** finally tied the knot on 1 June, forming **Herbert Smith Freehills Kramer** (HSF Kramer) — a global law firm with combined revenues of over \$2 billion and more than 2,700 lawyers.

Then, after an even shorter courtship, Chicago leviathan **McDermott Will & Emery** and the much smaller, funds-focused New York firm **Schulte Roth & Zabel** (SRZ) announced their tie-up in May and got hitched on 1 August, creating **McDermott Will & Schulte** — a \$2.8 billion outfit with 1,700 lawyers.



There has been much commentary on both mergers — overwhelmingly positive for HSF Kramer, and positively effusive for McDermott Will & Schulte. Both tie-ups involved much larger, multi-office out-of-towners (Herbert Smith Freehills and McDermott Will & Emery) effectively acquiring high-quality Manhattan bolt-ons, thereby dramatically boosting their presence in Big Law’s most important city: New York.

“... many commentators believe that the key to survival in Big Law is to be big”

Compared to their larger suitors — HSF and McDermott Will & Emery (founded in 1882 and 1934 respectively) — the New York cousins, born a year apart in the late 1960s, were relative newcomers. While not “white shoe,” both were quality outfits, with the more profitable SRZ widely considered a Wall Street firm. That said, both New Yorkers had likely seen better days and, in a market where many commentators believe that the key to survival in Big Law is to be *big*, their respective tie-ups may just have saved them from some unfortunate future mésalliance — or a shotgun wedding.

When law firms merge, there is often elevated partner attrition — both immediately before and after the coupling — as practice overlaps, client conflicts, partner egos, and issues around relative contribution almost always come into play.

Both the HSF Kramer and McDermott Will & Schulte mergers fully integrated the legacy firms' profit pools — i.e., they did not “cheat” by using Swiss Verein-type structures. For McDermott Will & Schulte, the financial combination was comparatively straightforward, as both legacy firms had similar profitability and overwhelmingly generated revenue in the U.S.

For HSF Kramer, however, the financial gymnastics of creating a “one-size-fits-all” equity spread for a firm with three sizable — and very different — global profit centres will likely prove an ongoing challenge. Indeed, history tells us that unless management pays careful attention to this fraught issue, partner perceptions around relative contribution — whether justified or not — may prompt disgruntled laterals from both legacy firms to defect to rivals.

“When law firms merge, there is often elevated partner attrition — both immediately before and after the combination — as practice overlaps, client conflicts, partner egos, and issues around relative contribution almost always come into play”.

◆ The London nuptials

Their honeymoon in London should provide very few direct snags for either newly married couple. Since Kramer Levin had no presence in town, there will be no attrition arising from London office integration. More broadly, any European issues stemming from Kramer Levin's only other overseas office — a small Paris outpost — were sidestepped when the office was spun off to **Morgan Lewis & Bockius** in December 2024.

Aside from potential friction around the integration of senior management at McDermott Will & Schulte — due to both legacy London managing partners sharing responsibility for the local office — the tie-up appears to be a match made in Big Law heaven. SRZ's West End office was comparatively bonsai (27 lawyers), nearly all of whom focused on private funds — in particular hedge funds — and related support. By contrast, McDermott Will & Emery's London office fielded an increasingly capable private capital-flavoured bench which, while three times larger than SRZ's, completely lacked a partner-level private funds offering.

✦ **Paper Anniversary – A&O Shearman turns one**

While Manhattan’s Big Law community was busy celebrating the nuptials and bidding farewell to both Kramer Levin and Schulte Roth & Zabel this summer, another of its own — the white-shoe patrician **Shearman & Sterling** — marked the anniversary of its union with UK Magic Circle outfit **Allen & Overy**. The celebration came in the form of its first fully integrated financial results, released in August, following the formation of **A&O Shearman** on 1 May 2024. [For a summary of what each party brought to that gilded wedding see: [So, it’s A&O Shearman!](#)]



The A&O Shearman results were mixed. On the one hand, combined revenue was slightly greater than the sum of its parts. On the other, profits per partner — at £2 million — were 10% down on those of legacy Allen & Overy in its final year of trading. That said, those figures had been buoyed by the one-off disposal of **aosphere**, a legal and compliance data subscription platform, to private equity house Inflexion.

Last year, the newly merged firm announced plans to cut its global partnership by 10% in order to eliminate practice overlaps, reduce exposure to less profitable sectors and geographies, and ultimately boost profits. At the same time the firm eliminated its non-equity partner tiers and moved

over to an all-equity partnership structure. Such wide-ranging restructures are both distracting and expensive in the short term, so maintaining revenue — let alone like-for-like profits per partner, as the firm insists it has — is, in many respects, impressive.

That said, although A&O Shearman is now a top 10 global firm by revenue, its profits per partner remain modest by US Big Law standards. If the firm wants to continue competing in the US — let alone be part of the global elite — it will need to show, by next year, clear evidence that its painful restructure is adding to the bottom line. Otherwise, it risks losing more key partners it would far rather keep.

“... although A&O Shearman is now a top 10 global firm by revenue, its profits per partner remain modest by US Big Law standards”

In London, the impact of the merger has already been felt. Since the merger went live, **24 partners** have left the firm — comprising **17** from legacy Allen & Overy and **7** from legacy Shearman & Sterling — between May 2024 and August 2025*. In contrast, the firm has welcomed just **6 new partners** during the same period: **5** from rival firms and **1** from in-house.

Although A&O Shearman has publicly committed to downsizing its global partnership, Edwards Gibson estimates that 13 to 15 of the departing partners were not part of the firm’s intended reduction — suggesting a possibly more disruptive fallout than planned.

Still some disruption was inevitable and, just like any new marriage, law firm mergers come with a bit of chaos — mismatched habits, name changes, and the occasional identity crisis. All three Big Law newlyweds — A&O Shearman, HSF Kramer, and McDermott Will & Schulte — will doubtless discover that, whilst “*marriage is hard work: it’s waking up every day and choosing each other*”... it does have its compensations.

*By comparison in the nearly two and a half years prior to the tie-up (calendar years 2022, 2023 and the four months prior to the “go live” date on 1 May 2024) the two firms combined, lost a total of 22 partners to rivals in London, with legacy Allen & Overy losing 8 and, an increasingly unstable, Shearman & Sterling losing 14.

✍ **Other Fun Facts July – August 2025**

- **24%** of moves this edition were female (**17**).
- 4 firms hired from in-house: **Simmons & Simmons** (from Millennium Capital Partners), **Blake Morgan** (from Nursing and Midwifery Council), **Olaniwun Ajayi** (from Abu Dhabi National Oil Company), and **Clifford Chance** (from Amazon).
- **28%** 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).

[SCROLL BELOW FOR OUR FULL JULY – AUGUST 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

✦ **Addleshaw Goddard**

In a vertical hire, the international firm elevates construction and engineering disputes specialist **Charlie Aitchison** from Vinson & Elkins, where he was a counsel. Aitchison advises owners, developers, contractors, consultants and insurers on construction related arbitration and litigation, in the energy, infrastructure, and industrial sectors.

✦ **Baker McKenzie**

Private equity real estate lateral **Mark Thompson** makes the switch to the globalverein from Mishcon de Reya. Thompson advises on a range of real estate investments and private equity transactions, including mergers, acquisitions, disposals and joint ventures.

✦ **BCLP**

The global firm expands its corporate tax offering with the lateral hire of **David Klass** from Hill Dickinson. Klass practice centres on the corporate tax aspects of M&A, financing transactions and fund structuring.

✦ **Birketts**

The top 50 UK firm welcomes technology lateral **Ian Williamson** from EY Law. Williamson advises on commercial contracts, technology agreements and data monetisation, acting for both domestic and international clients.

✦ **Blake Morgan**

Two hires for the national firm this round-up which welcomes: restructuring and insolvency lawyer **Imran Aslam** from JMW Solicitors; and healthcare regulatory specialist **John Lucarotti** from the Nursing and Midwifery Council, where he was assistant director. Aslam advises on domestic and cross-border restructurings and distressed investments, including in real estate and financial services. Lucarotti covers regulatory law and policy within the healthcare sector.

✦ **Broadfield**

The firm formerly known as BDB Pitmans hires planning vertical **Michael Dempsey** from Addleshaw Goddard where he was a managing associate. Dempsey advises developers, public sector entities and third parties on residential, commercial, retail, master-planning and infrastructure projects.

✦ **Browne Jacobson**

In a vertical hire, the national firm elevates international arbitration specialist **Bernhard Maier** from disputes boutique Signature Litigation, where he was a counsel. Maier, who is an adjunct professor at Kings College, advises on commercial and investment treaty arbitrations.

✦ **Burges Salmon**

Aviation specialist **Chloe Challinor** makes the switch to the Bristol headquartered firm from Stephenson Harwood, where she was a counsel. Challinor specialises in aviation-related litigation, acting for airlines, lessors and manufacturers on contentious matters across the sector.

✦ **Cadwalader**

Boosting its London leveraged finance offering, the Wall Street firm is joined by lateral **Edward Holmes** from Paul Hastings. New York and English qualified Holmes focuses on leveraged loan and capital markets transactions, with an emphasis on representing underwriters and arrangers in high-yield debt offerings, acquisition financing syndicated lending and restructurings.

✦ **Charles Russell Speechlys**

A trio of laterals for the London headquartered firm which welcomes: corporate crime lawyer **Richard Burger** from WilmerHale, where he was co-head of the investigation and criminal litigation team; commercial contracts specialist **Mark Dewar** from DLA Piper, where he was head of commercial contracts; and corporate lateral **Greg Stonefield** from Eversheds Sutherland. Burger advises on domestic and

international regulatory enforcement and criminal investigations, with a focus on corporate crime, securities enforcement and financial services compliance. Dewar handles regulatory and risk issues across the supply chain, particularly in the consumer products sector with a sub-niche in ESG. Stonefield focuses on corporate finance, including IPOs and public and private M&A, with experience spanning financial services, real estate, oil and gas, mining and technology.

✦ **Clifford Chance**

Reclaiming one of its own, **Elizabeth Sinclair** is elevated by the magic circle firm from Amazon where she was senior competition counsel. A Clifford Chance *alumna*, Sinclair's expertise spans UK and EU antitrust law, merger control, investigations and regulatory frameworks with a focus on tech regulation.

✦ **Collyer Bristow**

The London firm elevates private client lawyer **Carly Russell** from Lawrence Stephens, where she was a director. Russell advises high net worths and fiduciaries on succession, asset protection and tax, as well as contentious private client matters.

✦ **Cooley**

The Silicon Valley outfit brings in M&A lateral **Jonathan Cohen** from Ashurst. Cohen, who was co-head of tech M&A at his former firm, advises high-growth and technology-centred businesses and investors on UK and cross-border transactions with experience in digital banking, fintech, digital healthcare, edtech and renewables.

✦ **Crowell & Moring**

A double hire for the Washington D.C firm as it welcomes a two partner IP/ patent team from Dentons comprising lateral **Justin Hill** and vertical **Marie Jansson Heeks**, who was a senior associate. The duo, who are both patent

attorneys, focus on strategic patent portfolio management and IP policy.

✦ **DAC Beachcroft**

The insurance flavoured firm expands its professional risk team with the addition of **Julian Smart** from Clyde & Co in Birmingham. Smart, a professional indemnity specialist, also covers civil fraud and corporate crime recovery.

✦ **DLA Piper**

Two new faces for the global leviathan which strengthens its private equity and international finance capabilities with the lateral hires of: corporate partner **Chris Field** from Dechert; and finance partner **Sudhir Nair** from White & Case. Field, previously co-head of Dechert's private equity team, advises investors including PE houses and sovereign wealth funds on cross-border transactions across the UK and Europe. Nair acts for lenders and sponsors on structured, real estate and infrastructure financings, including deals in emerging markets and the Middle East.

✦ **DWF**

The private equity owned firm elevates **Lee Biddle** a healthcare regulatory lawyer from Clyde & Co where he was a legal director. Biddle, specialises in healthcare regulation advising medical defence organisations, insurers, individual healthcare professionals in regulatory, disciplinary and inquest matters.

✦ **Fieldfisher**

Trade and asset finance lateral **Sam Fowler-Holmes** arrives at the European firm from US headquartered Sullivan & Worcester. Fowler-Holmes advises financial institutions and corporates on structured and unstructured trade and export finance with a focus on the digitalisation of trade.

✦ **Freshfields**

Making the switch to the magic circle firm is a two-partner private equity real estate team from Ropes & Gray comprising laterals **David Seymour** and **Will Bryant**. The duo advise on cross-border private equity real estate (PERE) and infrastructure transactions for institutional investors and sponsors.

✦ **Fried Frank**

In a continuation of its rolling raid on Goodwin Procter, the New Yorker swipes its fifth lateral from its rival since last year in the form of corporate real estate specialist **David Evans**. Evans, a former executive committee member and Chair of Goodwin's European offering, advises on private equity real estate covering fund formation and structuring, M&A and joint ventures.

✦ **Geradin Partners**

The competition boutique elevates competition litigation and disputes lawyer **Jennifer Reeves** from Macfarlanes, where she was a senior associate. Reeves, a solicitor-advocate, advises on collective actions, cartel damages claims and regulatory appeals, as well as broader commercial disputes and public law matters.

✦ **Gibson Dunn & Crutcher**

International arbitration barrister and silk **Christopher Harris KC** defects to the Los Angeles' spawned outfit from 3 Verulam Buildings, joining his new firm as its new co-chair of international arbitration. Harris, who is dual-qualified in England and Switzerland, advises on commercial and investor-state arbitrations across the energy, natural resources, banking and financial services sectors.

✦ **Goodwin Procter**

The Boston-born outfit bags a brace of debt/leveraged finance laterals this round up as it welcomes: **Matthew Ayre**, who was head of

leveraged finance at Travers Smith; and **Tom Roberts** from Kirkland & Ellis. Ayre, a Travers Smith "lifer", advises private equity and financial sponsors and corporate borrowers on financing acquisitions. Roberts handles leveraged finance and event-driven financings for buyouts, bolt-on acquisitions, recapitalisations and refinancings.

✦ **Gowling WLG**

Two hires (one lateral and one vertical) for the Anglo-Canadian outfit as it welcomes: real estate finance specialist **Madeleine Clark** from Osborne Clarke, where she was head of banking and finance; and competition lawyer **Rhiannon Pugh** from CMS, where she was a senior associate. Clarke advises on development and investment loans across asset classes including office, hotels, logistics, retail and residential. Pugh, who is dual English and German qualified, covers merger control, foreign direct investment, cartel investigations and abuse of dominance matters, particularly in the energy and retail sectors.

✦ **Hill Dickinson**

A trio of new faces for the national firm which adds: commodities disputes specialist **Andrew Meads** from Reed Smith; and direct real estate duo **Keith Barnett**, and **Hanna Ross** from Taylor Wessing, where Ross was a senior counsel. Meads, who returns to the firm he left in 2014, advises on international trade and commodities matters, including agricultural products, oils, petroleum and metals, as well as arbitration before trade bodies. Barnett, who was the long-time head of real estate at Taylor Wessing, joins his new firm as head of real estate in London and, together with Ross, the duo will cover a mix of direct real estate investment and development.

✦ **Irwin Mitchell**

Private client specialist **Stuart Crippin** defects to the national firm from West End outfit Seddons GSC, where he was head of private client. Crippin,

who will head the Middle East desk at his new firm, handles UK tax and estate planning for domestic and international clients with UK connections.

✦ **Jones Day**

Double tap! The US leviathan snaps up a two-partner energy team in the form of **Michelle Davies** and **Rob McNabb** from EY Law as the Big Four firm's legal arm continues its seemingly ongoing disintegration. Davies advises corporates, financial institutions and governments on energy transition strategy and M&A across all clean energy asset classes, including wind, solar and biofuels. McNabb focuses on the construction of energy and infrastructure projects globally having advised on clean energy schemes across the UK, Europe, Africa and Asia.

✦ **Joseph Hage Aaronson & Bremen**

Following the launch of its construction litigation offering [with a three partner team from Quinn Emanuel earlier this year](#), in a vertical hire, the elite disputes boutique adds contentious construction specialist **Ben Grunberger-Kirsh** from Vinson & Elkins, where he was a senior associate. Grunberger-Kirsh, a solicitor-advocate, has a particular specialism in the heavy civil, offshore and renewables industries.

✦ **Kirkland & Ellis**

After decamping from Linklaters' last year, financial services regulatory lateral **Sumit Indwar** re-emerges at the world's highest grossing firm. Indwar, a Linklaters "lifer" who was one time head of his former firm's Hong Kong regulatory team, covers a wide range of matters including: licensing, conduct of business issues, regulatory change implementation and transaction support.

✦ **Latham & Watkins**

The expansive global firm bolsters its private equity offering with corporate lateral **Ross Allardice** from White & Case. Allardice advises

private equity houses and financial sponsor clients on cross-border acquisitions, divestitures, joint ventures, leveraged buyouts and public offerings.

✦ **Lewis Silkin**

Arriving at the London firm is commercial litigation lawyer **Catherine Hammerson-Jones** from Rosenblatt. Hammerson-Jones has an eclectic practice covering banking disputes, contentious insolvency, negligence, shareholder disputes, breaches of director/ trustee duties and general dispute resolution.

✦ **Linklaters**

Full (magic) circle ... restructuring and debt finance lateral **Mei Lian** departs her role as co-head of Paul Hastings London office to return to the firm where she trained. A specialist in credit solutions, Lian advises on cross-border finance transactions, with a particular focus on navigating stressed and distressed situations.

✦ **Mayer Brown**

A three-partner private capital team from Dechert defects to the Chicago headquartered outfit which welcomes: debt finance duo **Philip (Phil) Butler** and **David Miles**; and corporate specialist **Mark Evans**. Butler and Miles, who were both co-heads of global leveraged finance at their former firm, advise on debt structures, acting for banks, funds, sponsors and corporates on corporate lending and leveraged finance transactions. Evans handles private equity matters across the investment lifecycle, including M&A, consensual work-outs, restructurings and joint ventures.

✦ **Olaniwun Ajayi**

The Nigerian headquartered firm adds project finance specialist **Tom Wilson** from the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC), where he was general counsel for low carbon solutions & international gas and LNG growth. Wilson, a former Ashurst (Tokyo) partner who is also a

project economist, advises on navigating policy, regulatory frameworks and development finance for governments, sponsors, lenders and more.

✦ **Paul Weiss**

Following the launch of its London disputes practice [earlier this year](#), the rapacious New Yorker hires **Leo Kitchen** from Quinn Emanuel as its second lateral in the team. Kitchen's experience covers commercial and financial disputes with a particular angle on competition-related collective proceedings and follow-on damages claims.

✦ **Penningtons Manches Cooper**

Finance lawyer, **Naomi Roper** joins the South-East focused firm from health, housing and social care outfit Capsticks, where she was head of banking. Roper, who [only joined Capsticks from Trowers & Hamlin at the end of 2023](#), advises on social housing finance, ESG, green, social and sustainable finance and related debt capital markets.

✦ **Perkins Coie**

The Seattle spawned US firm welcomes technology and privacy lawyer **Arnav Joshi** from Clifford Chance, where he was a counsel. Joshi advises on digital regulation, AI, privacy, data protection, cyber security and UK and EU tech policy.

✦ **Pinsent Masons**

Financial services regulatory lateral **Joanne (Jo) Owens** makes the switch to the international firm from Eversheds Sutherland. Owens advises financial institutions, motor finance providers, retailers, fintechs, and payment service providers on consumer credit, retail banking, payment services and e-money matters.

✦ **Proskauer**

Three laterals for the New York firm this edition as it adds: leveraged finance specialist **Peter**

Mason from White & Case; disputes lawyer **Jonathon Egerton-Peters** from Steptoe; and financial services regulatory lawyer **Anna Maleva-Otto** from legacy Schulte Roth & Zabel. Mason advises on leveraged and acquisition financings, refinancings, and debt deals; Egerton-Peters handles cross-border litigation and arbitration; and Maleva-Otto focuses on non-contentious regulatory matters, with a niche in the private funds space.

✦ **Quinn Emanuel**

Prodigal Son. **Robert Hickmott**, rejoins the US litigation powerhouse as partner and general counsel after retiring from the firm's partnership in 2022 and subsequently working as a private consultant. In his new role Hickmott will split his time between, representing clients in high value financial litigation, and his in-house responsibilities as the firm's general counsel.

✦ **Russell-Cooke Solicitors**

The London-based firm strengthens its corporate offering with the lateral hire of **Thomas Clark** from employment boutique Doyle Clayton. Clark advises SMEs on business sales and purchases, shareholder agreements, corporate reorganisations, and employee incentive schemes, with a particular focus on the IT sector.

✦ **Shakespeare Martineau**

In a vertical hire, the national firm elevates corporate lawyer **Daniel Okusaga** from KPMG Law where he was a solicitor. Okusaga covers a wide range of public and private corporate matters as well as business reorganisations.

✦ **Signature Litigation**

The London disputes boutique launches a corporate crime and investigations practice with the double hire of **Mark Beardsworth** and **Duncan Grieve**, who join from Goodwin Procter and Cadwalader respectively. The duo, who both

previously worked together at Cadwalader [before Beardsworth departed for Goodwin in late 2023](#) to launch its enforcement and investigations practice, will together co-head the corporate crime and investigations offering at their new firm, with Greive having a particular angle on Lusophone countries.

✦ **Simmons & Simmons**

Prodigal Daughter. Employment disputes lawyer **Vicky Wickremeratne** returns to her former firm, from Millennium Capital Partners, where she was an in-house counsel. Wickremeratne advises on discrimination, whistleblowing, trade secrets and business protection claims, as well as workplace investigations and strategic people risk management.

✦ **Simpson Thacher**

Now you see me! After a brief nine-month stint at Cadwalader, structured finance lawyer **Richard Hanson** defects to the elite New York rival (making this his fourth law firm partnership since 2022). Hanson advises borrowers on funding structures backed by commercial real estate debt, direct lending/leveraged loans, distressed, non-performing and reperforming debt.

✦ **Squire Patton Boggs**

Structured products lateral **Ranajoy Basu** joins the global verein from legacy McDermott Will & Emery, where he was head of structured finance and chair of the India practice. Basu, who retains his head of India title but is elevated to global head of structured finance at his new home, advises on a range of structured finance arrangements covering private credit, securitisation, derivatives, debt capital markets and debt restructurings.

✦ **Sullivan & Worcester**

One in, one out. The Boston headquartered set-up sees both a departure and an arrival in its trade finance team this edition; while Sam

Fowler-Holmes decamps to Fieldfisher (see above), fellow trade finance specialist **Matthew Cox** joins from HFW. Cox advises banks, funds, traders, and producers on all forms of structured trade and commodity finance.

✦ **TLT**

In a vertical hire, commercial real estate and renewable energy specialist **Nadia Wheeler** makes the switch to the Bristol headquartered firm from CMS, where she was a senior associate. Wheeler, who is dual English and Scottish qualified, has a particular niche advising on onshore and offshore wind projects, and co-located battery and solar schemes.

✦ **Trowers & Hamlins**

Arriving at the London headquartered firm is private funds lateral **Karl Behrouz** from atypical New York outfit Curtis. Behrouz advises investment managers, pension funds, sovereign wealth funds, family offices and high net-worth individuals on fund investments and the structuring and formation of investment vehicles.

✦ **Vinson & Elkins**

The Houston spawned firm adds aviation finance lateral **Harry Upcott** from A&O Shearman. Upcott, who is legacy Allen & Overy, advises financial institutions, lessors, private equity sponsors, operators and airlines on financing, leasing, and M&A transactions across the aviation and satellite sectors.

✦ **Wedlake Bell**

Commercial property lawyer **James Fry** makes the switch from fellow London firm Fladgate. Fry advises on real estate investment, development and secured lending and has a particular niche in the hotel and leisure sector.

✦ **Weil**

Following the departure of [a three-partner private funds team to Sidley earlier this year](#), the

New York firm continues its restock by welcoming back private funds specialist **Phil Baynes** from A&O Shearman. Baynes, who was previously counsel at Weil [before joining legacy Shearman & Sterling for partnership in 2022](#), focuses on the structuring, fundraising and operation of private investment funds covering private equity, infrastructure, real estate and debt, as well as secondaries.

✦ **Willkie Farr & Gallagher**

In a vertical hire the New York firm elevates private funds specialist **Benoit Champon** from Arendt & Medernach in Luxembourg, where he was a counsel. Champon advises on the formation and raising of alternative investment funds, including secondaries, private equity, real estate, infrastructure, venture capital and debt funds, representing both sponsors and investors.

✦ **Winckworth Sherwood**

The national firm adds immigration specialist **Malini Skandachanmugarasan** from Doyle Clayton. Skandachanmugarasan advises on business immigration with a focus on companies looking to set up in the UK as well as assisting private clients with UK immigration applications.

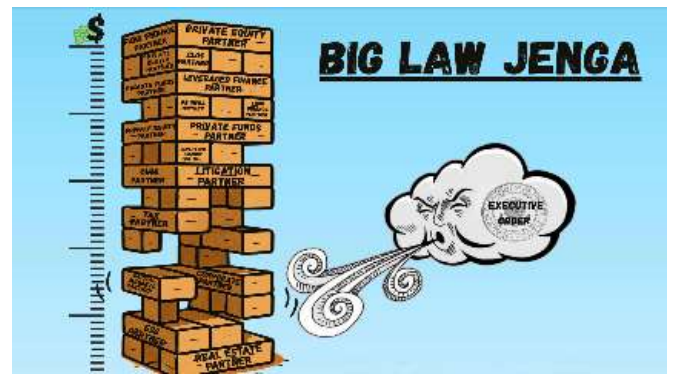
✦ **Womble Bond Dickinson**

The verein-like Anglo-American outfit strengthens its international arbitration team with the hire of **Adrian Jones** from Hill Dickinson. Jones, who joins the commercial disputes team, specialises in commercial international arbitration, with a focus on the natural resources, pharmaceutical and financial services sectors.

**[Edwards Gibson Partner Round-Up –
click here to read our methodology](#)**



✓ Freshfields' Non-Share Home Turf Handicap



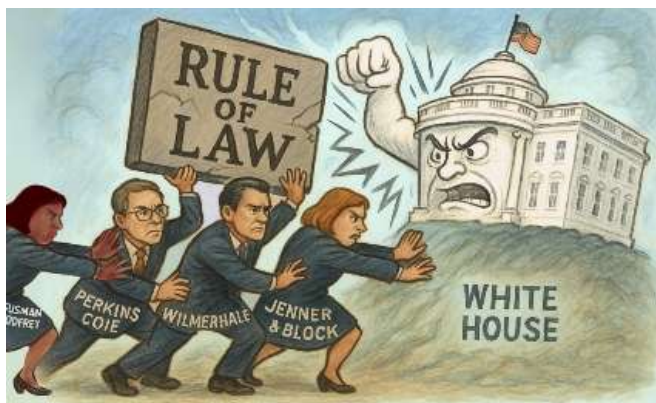
✓ Big Law Jenga; Why Private Capital Stars are a Tragedy for the Rule of Law



✓ No Accounting for the Big Four in Big Law



✓ "Memory Loss" London Law Firm Memory Crystal Crashes



✓ Big Law's Brave "Few"



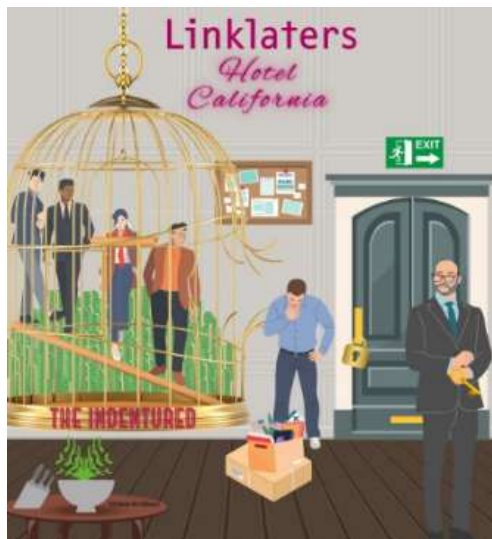
✓ Paul Weiss – The Invasive Species!



✓ Breaking The Circle – Freshfields Pay Bonanza



✓ The financial success of Big Law is predicated entirely on the Rule of Law



✓ Linklaters – Welcome to the “Hotel California” of Big Law



✓ So, it's A&O Shearman!



✓ Paul Weiss – Blackjack !



✓ Parallels in Peril



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