

Law
Firm
Partner
Moves
in
London

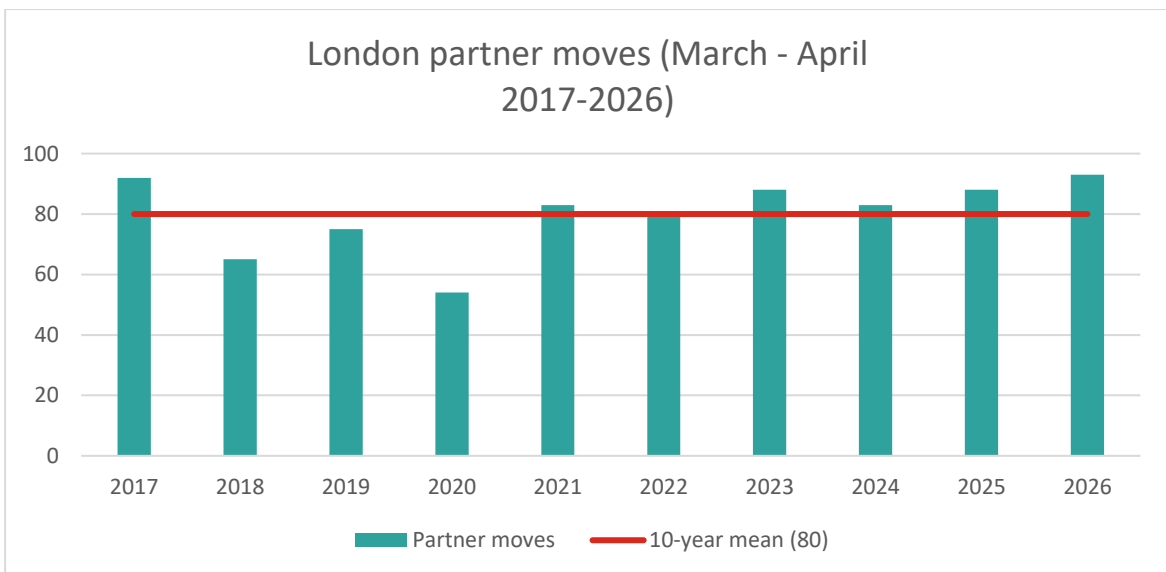
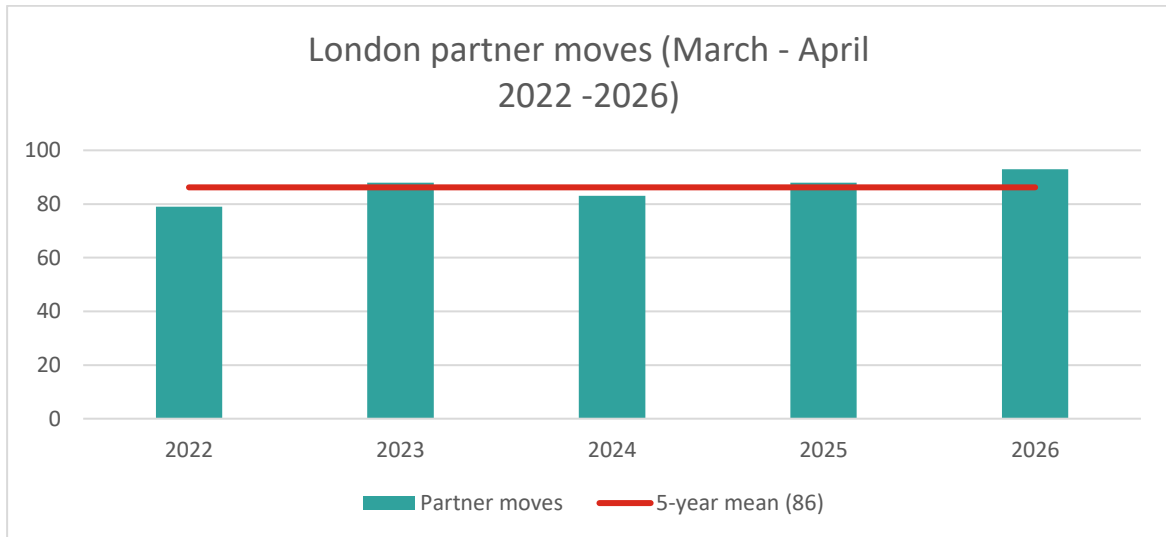
◆ March –
April 2026
Issue No. 92

Welcome to the 92nd 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 2026

This bi-monthly round-up contains **93** partner moves, narrowly beating the previous record for the same period, [set in 2017](#), by one.

The total is **6%** up on the **88** moves recorded in the same period last year; **8%** up on the cumulative five-year average (**86**); and **16%** ahead of the cumulative ten-year average (**80**) for the same period.



The most coveted firm this edition was **Eversheds Sutherland** which hired **7** partners followed by **Shoosmiths (6)**, **Ashurst (5)** and **Taylor Wessing (4)**. In addition, **Akin**, **Broadfield**, and **DLA Piper** hired **3** partners apiece.

♦ **Top partner recruiters in London March – April 2026**

| | | |
|-----------------------------|----------|--------------|
| Eversheds Sutherland | 7 | (3 laterals) |
| Shoosmiths | 6 | (5 laterals) |
| Ashurst | 5 | (5 laterals) |
| Taylor Wessing | 4 | (2 laterals) |
| Akin | 3 | (3 laterals) |
| Broadfield | 3 | (2 laterals) |
| DLA Piper | 3 | (2 laterals) |

A further **8** firms hired **2** partners each: **Alston & Bird**, **Birketts**, **Clyde & Co**, **Gowling WLG**, **Greenberg Traurig**, **Orrick**, **Paul Weiss** and **Sidley Austin**.

On the other side of the coin, over the same period, **DLA Piper** suffered the highest attrition, losing **7*** lateral partners, followed by **Kirkland & Ellis** which lost **6**.

♦ **Firms with largest attrition in March – April 2026 (partnership to partnership moves only)**

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| DLA Piper | 7* |
| Kirkland & Ellis | 6 |
| CMS | 4 |
| Goodwin Procter | 4 |
| Weil | 4 |
| White & Case | 3 |

*This includes a lateral partner moving from DLA Piper's Leeds office to Brabners in London.



◆ **Team hires March – April 2026**

The most sizeable multi-partner team moves this edition were **Akin’s** acquisition of a restructuring trio from Weil and **Ashurst’s** hire of a three-partner corporate private equity team from Goodwin.

Elsewhere, 6 firms hired two-partner teams: **Alston & Bird** (structured finance from DLA Piper); **Clyde & Co** (asset finance and real estate finance from Greenberg Traurig); **Eversheds Sutherland** (IP litigation from DLA Piper); **Orrick** (structured finance from Cadwalader); **Shoosmiths** (private equity from Trowers & Hamlins); and **Sidley Austin** (restructuring from Clifford Chance).

◆ **Uno Reverse - Kirkland vs Paul Weiss**

After more than two decades with a London presence, in August 2023 the New York firm **Paul Weiss** relaunched its London office with an English law offering. Since then, and particularly in the 18 months following its fiery City re-birth, it has behaved less like a conventional lateral hirer and [more like an invasive species dropped into a previously stable ecosystem](#): a Wall Street raptor, backed by a nine-figure investment, ripping out established partners from rivals, repricing the very top of the market, and forcing knock-on restocking across the London Big Law biome.



During this rampage, no firm has suffered more conspicuously from those predations than **Kirkland & Ellis** - itself long the apex predator of the private-capital food chain, which has lost no fewer than **16** laterals - at least half of whom share partners - to the New Yorker's Air Street office.

“Having been steadily picked over since August 2023, the Chicago leviathan finally turns and bites back”

Still, for all Paul Weiss' apparent dominance over its Chicago rival, the traffic has not been entirely one-way. And behind the Wall Street firm's headline-grabbing noise, market watchers may remember that right at the start of this saga - in the immediate run-up to Paul Weiss' London reboot - Kirkland announced that it was [hiring a four-partner private-equity M&A team \(two laterals and two verticals\) from Paul Weiss' London office](#), led by then office head **Alvaro Membrillera** - a move in itself of no small significance.

This edition sees the most resonant twist yet in this long-running duel, and it was quite the Kirkland riposte. Having been steadily picked over since August 2023, the Chicago leviathan finally turned and bit back, snatching Paul Weiss' European head of M&A, **Will Aitken-Davies**.

In a market where symbolism matters, the significance is twofold: Aitken-Davies is not a “makeweight” hire - so, if anyone needed reminding, the move is proof that the Illinois powerhouse can give as good as it gets; more importantly, his departure marks Paul Weiss' first ever English-law lateral defection in London, puncturing the illusion of an unstoppable Big Law blitzkrieg.

C'est la guerre!

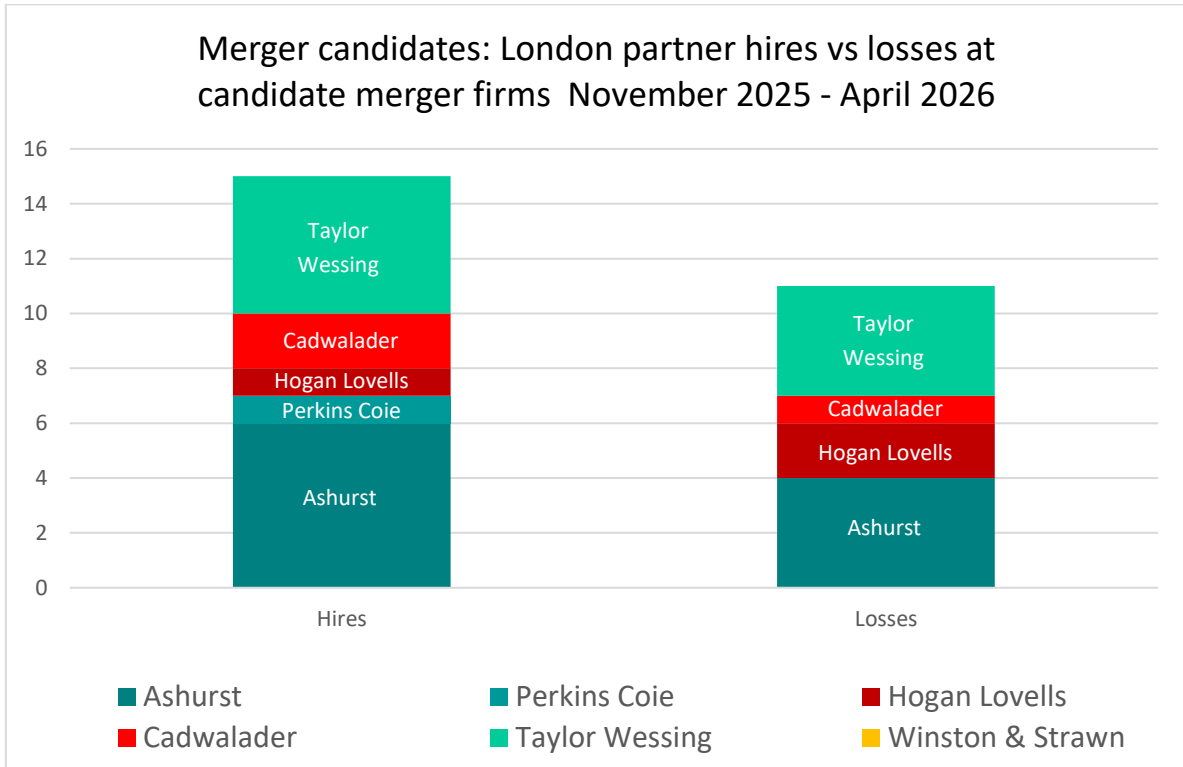
◆ **Pre-merger paradox – some atypical hiring**

The dying days of 2025 saw [an unprecedented slew of law firm tie-ups](#): between 17 November and 18 December, no fewer than three transatlantic mergers were announced - Ashurst with Perkins Coie to form **Ashurst Perkins Coie**; Taylor Wessing with Winston & Strawn to form **Taylor Winston**; and Hogan Lovells with Cadwalader Wickersham & Taft to create **Hogan Lovells Cadwalader**.

*“... it is somewhat surprising that, since the merger announcements ... the merger candidates have collectively hired **15** partners against just **11** lateral defections to rivals.”*

When law firms merge, elevated partner attrition is common - both immediately before and after the coupling - as practice overlaps, client conflicts, partner egos, and questions of relative contribution almost inevitably come into play. Far less common is for partner hires at the pre-merged legacy firms to outstrip departures. Indeed, in the period immediately following the announcement of a tie-up,

legacy firms typically seek to minimise, or even freeze, lateral hiring. The rationale is straightforward: in an already delicate integration - often balanced on a knife edge - where low-level turf wars and internal power plays are distraction enough, introducing further cost, complexity, and potential conflicts via third-party arrivals risks unsettling an already fragile equilibrium.



So, it is somewhat surprising that, since the merger announcements began in November 2025 (i.e. across our last three editions), the merger candidates have collectively hired **15** partners against just **11** lateral defections to rivals. This breaks down as: **Ashurst** (6 hires vs 4 departures); **Taylor Wessing** (5 hires vs 4 defections); **Cadwalader** (2 hires vs 1 defection); and **Perkins Coie** (1 hire vs 0 defections). Whilst **Winston & Strawn** has neither lost nor gained any laterals, **Hogan Lovells** stands out as the only firm in net decline, with 1 hire offset by 2 exits.

Against that wider backdrop, this March–April round-up is notable for the tempo: Ashurst and Taylor Wessing alone contribute nine arrivals (a quintet and a quartet respectively), and even Cadwalader and Perkins Coie’s solitary hires are proportionately meaningful for their bonsai London partnerships – in Perkins Coie’s case lifting partner headcount by close to 15%.



◆ **Other Fun Facts March – April 2026**

- **34%** of moves this edition were female (**32**).
- **2** firms hired from in-house or business: **DLA Piper** (from the Financial Conduct Authority) and **Eversheds Sutherland** (from Canada Life Limited).
- **23%** of all moves (**21**) were moves from non-partnership roles (either moves from in-house or non-partners elevated to partnership upon moving from another law firm).

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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

✦ **A&O Shearman**

One in, one out! The magic circle firm nabs employment specialist **Suzanne Horne** from Paul Hastings, having lost one of its own to the same firm this edition (see below). Horne advises on all aspects of employment law including employee-related data protection and privacy matters, business reorganisation, integrations, redundancies, and hiring and firing.

✦ **Akin**

A three-partner restructuring team comprising **Neil Devaney**, **Lois Deasey** and **Matt Benson** rejoin the Texas-founded, Washington-headquartered outfit from Weil, where Devaney was co-head of London restructuring. Led by Devaney, who becomes head of London financial restructuring at his new home, the trio- all Akin *alumni* - advise credit investors on cross-border restructurings, capital solutions and special situations.

✦ **Alston & Bird**

A two-partner structured finance team - **Steven Krivinkas** and **Marcus Lovatt** - defect to the Atlanta headquartered outfit from DLA Piper. Together, the pair advise on public and private securitisations, asset-backed financing structures, structured products, and derivative transactions with Krivinkas focusing on funding structures integrating the US and European markets and Lovatt having an angle on residential mortgages, consumer loans, auto finance, NPLs, and esoteric assets such as litigation receivables.

✦ **Ashurst**

Ahead of its tie-up with Perkins Coie, the international firm welcomes a quintet of laterals comprising: a corporate private equity trio from Goodwin - **Ian Keefe**, **George Weavil** and **Michael Miranda**, with the former two having only recently moved as a pair from Travers Smith in [2024](#); equity capital markets specialist **Jonathan Parry**; and private equity energy and

infrastructure lawyer **Heidi Blomqvist**, both arriving from White & Case. Together, the Goodwin threesome predominantly act on sponsor-side transactions covering M&A, leveraged buy-outs, co-investments, reorganisations, restructurings and management incentive schemes. Parry, who rejoins the firm after nearly a decade at White & Case, advises issuers and underwriters on equity capital markets transactions, including IPOs and secondary fundraisings, on the London Stock Exchange and other international exchanges. Blomqvist, who only made partner at the end of last year, counsels corporate and private equity clients in the energy and infrastructure space on M&A, JVs, cross-border investments and private equity backed transactions.

✦ **BCLP**

Corporate real estate lateral **Claibourne** (“**Clai**”) **Harrison** defects to the global firm from Gibson Dunn. Texan-qualified Harrison advises on private equity, real estate, and venture capital transactions, counselling private equity sponsors, institutional investors, and corporates through acquisitions, joint ventures, carve-outs, and loan portfolio deals.

✦ **Bevan Brittan**

The national firm welcomes corporate lawyer **Bharti Moore** from RWK Goodman. Moore advises business owners, investors, and management teams on M&A, strategic transactions, and corporate advisory work.

✦ **Bird & Bird**

The tech flavoured outfit strengthens its specialist offering with the addition of **Sue McLean** from Baker McKenzie. McLean handles technology transactions including cloud, outsourcing and digital transformation deals, as well as strategic technology development and licensing arrangements.

✦ **Birketts**

Two hires for the national firm: real estate finance lawyer **Paula Macnamara** joins from Simmons & Simmons; and private client lateral **Álvaro Aznar Azcárate** arrives from Buckles Solicitors, where he was head of the international department. Macnamara advises lenders and borrowers on real estate finance across the corporate retail, commercial office, hotel and leisure, and industrial sectors. Dual English and Spanish qualified, Aznar Azcárate handles Spanish private client matters including estate planning and estate administration.

✦ **Brabners**

Following its London debut highlighted in our [last edition](#), the Liverpool headquartered national firm continues its City build out with the arrival of **Susan Samuel** from DLA Piper's Leeds office. Samuel, who was head of DLA's Leeds real estate team, has specific expertise in the retail, hospitality, leisure, consumer and senior living sectors.

✦ **Broadfield**

Three hires (two laterals and one vertical) for the rebranded international firm which adds: energy and infrastructure lawyer **Gavin Watson** from Pillsbury; private client lateral **Jonathan Kropman** from JMW Solicitors; and private client vertical **Katherine Forster** from Birketts, where she was a legal director. Watson, who joins as global head of energy and infrastructure, advises on corporate, commercial and project development matters across energy and infrastructure with a focus on the energy transition and the circular economy. Kropman covers succession planning, offshore trusts and restructurings. Forster focuses on private client tax.

✦ **Cadwalader**

In a vertical move, the New York firm, which is slated to merge with Hogan Lovells, hires restructuring lawyer **Jakeob Brown** from Akin

where he was a counsel. Brown's practice covers contentious and non-contentious restructurings, special situations, turnarounds and formal bankruptcy processes including associated litigation.

✦ **Cahill**

Building on its two-partner raid on White & Case [last edition](#), the elite New Yorker continues its London restock with the addition of a third White & Case leveraged finance lateral in the form of **Shane McDonald**. McDonald counsels financial institutions and private credit funds on leveraged acquisition and refinancing transactions including syndicated covenant-lite Term Loan B facilities, uni-tranche and maintenance covenant structures, as well as combined loan and high-yield bond financings.

✦ **Cleary Gottlieb**

Private funds specialist **David Christmas** defects to the New York firm from fellow New Yorker Fried Frank. Christmas advises on fund formation across a range of alternative asset classes including private equity, credit, infrastructure and real estate, as well as GP-led secondary transactions.

✦ **Clyde & Co**

A double hire for the global firm which welcomes real estate finance specialist **Daniyal Ansari**; and asset finance lateral **Graeme McLellan**, from Greenberg Traurig, where the latter was the London head of banking & finance and European co-chair of the global infrastructure & transport group. Ansari advises lenders and borrowers on a range of investment and development related real estate financings. McLellan counsels on secured loans, bond and Islamic financings, tax leaseings, and portfolio acquisitions/disposals, particularly in the aircraft and rail rolling stock sectors.

✦ **CMS**

Patent litigator **Tom Carver** joins the IP practice at the verein-like international firm from alternative law firm McCarthy Denning. Carver focuses on patent and design right litigation, with a broader IP practice spanning trademarks and passing off.

✦ **Dentons**

Corporate lateral **Jack Donelan** makes the switch to the global verein from Kirkland & Ellis. Donelan advises financial sponsors and corporate clients on M&A, joint ventures, management equity plans and commercial contracts with a focus on mid-market private equity transactions.

✦ **DLA Piper**

A trio of new faces for the global firm which welcomes: corporate tax savant **Gareth Amdor** from Reed Smith as its UK head of transaction tax; corporate lateral **Daniel Wayte** from Akin; and derivatives and financial regulation lawyer **Mark Brown** from the Financial Conduct Authority, following a nine-month career break. Amdor, who was onetime head of tax at SJ Berwin, advises on corporate tax across M&A, corporate finance, restructuring and real estate, with a particular niche in private equity. Wayte, who joins as part of a three-partner London/New York team which sees DLA launch a cross-border capital solutions practice, focuses on preferred equity, other hybrid capital solutions and joint ventures. Brown, a former Linklaters partner who retired from the partnership in September 2023 to move to the FCA, advises on derivatives and related regulation across a wide range of asset classes, including commodities, credit, equity, foreign exchange, funds, longevity and rates.

✦ **DWF**

The once-listed now private equity owned firm adds insurance litigator **Ian Plumley** from DAC Beachcroft. Plumley's practice covers reinsurance, general liability, product liability,

property, construction and engineering, professional liability and excess casualty.

✦ **Edwin Coe**

Real estate lateral **Deepa Deb** arrives at the West End firm from Watson Farley & Williams, where she was head of international real estate investment. Deb advises on real estate investment and development with a particular angle on the wider residential sector including student accommodation, build-to-rent and senior living schemes.

✦ **Eversheds Sutherland**

Seven hires (three laterals, three verticals and one from in-house) for the Anglo-American outfit which welcomes: an IP litigation duo from DLA Piper - comprising former London managing partner **Ruth Hoy** and **Huw Cookson**, who was a legal director at his former firm; restructuring specialist **Simon Thomas** from Goodwin; funds finance lateral **Linn Mayhew** from Reed Smith; pensions lawyer **Simon Borhan** from Linklaters, where he was a counsel; derivatives and debt trading lawyer **Christine Long** from Macfarlanes, where she was a senior counsel; and in-house insurance lawyer **Helen Hallam** from Canada Life, where she was lead counsel. Hoy and Cookson cover brand management and protection, including trademark and copyright enforcement and licensing disputes, with a focus on the retail, media, sport and entertainment sectors. Thomas advises funds, corporate groups and lenders in situations of corporate distress across a wide range of sectors. Mayhew, who heads up the fund finance practice at her new firm, handles subscription line facilities, hybrid capital solutions, NAV facilities, GP/manager and co-invest financings. Borhan counsels trustees, corporates, insurers and asset managers on all aspects of DB and DC pensions, including scheme endgame solutions. Long focuses on derivatives, repurchase agreements, secondary debt trading and structured finance. Hallam advises on

insurance and reinsurance transactions and regulation, including pensions de-risking, insurance business transfers, and related investment and capital management structures.

◆ **Faegre Drinker**

The US firm adds finance lateral **Eleni Zodiates** from Brown Rudnick. Zodiates handles international financing matters, including corporate, special situations, real estate finance, fund finance, and asset-backed financings.

◆ **Fieldfisher**

Funds lawyer **Mark Shaw** decamps to the European firm from Pinsent Masons. Shaw, who is triple English, Irish and Luxembourg (avocat à la cour) qualified, handles fund structuring and distribution with a focus on alternative asset classes across the liquidity spectrum.

◆ **Fladgate**

The London firm swipes corporate tax lawyer **Richard Harbot** from DLA Piper. Harbot is best known for advising on the tax aspects of corporate real estate transactions, alongside broader corporate M&A and private equity matters, as well as associated tax advisory work and contentious tax issues.

◆ **Foot Anstey**

In a vertical move, the national firm elevates corporate crime lawyer **Jasmine Olomolaiye** from Linklaters, where she was a managing associate. Olomolaiye advises corporates and financial institutions on internal and regulatory investigations, corporate crime, sanctions, and financial crime compliance.

◆ **Forsters**

Real estate finance lawyer **Colin Morgan** arrives at the West End firm from Macfarlanes, where he was a senior advisor. Morgan, who was a partner at Macfarlanes until December 2024, advises on the full spectrum of real estate finance matters, with particular expertise in lender-side work,

private credit, investment and development finance.

◆ **Freeths**

The Nottingham headquartered national firm adds corporate lateral **Michelle Kirkland-Elias** from CMS. Kirkland-Elias, who has a particular angle in the hotels and hospitality sector, covers M&A, joint ventures, investments, restructurings and corporate governance.

◆ **Fried Frank**

Private funds lawyer **Rhett McPhie** defects to the New York headquartered firm from Kirkland & Ellis. McPhie advises sponsors and investors on fund formation and secondary transactions, including continuation vehicles, structured and synthetic secondaries, portfolio sales and fund recapitalisations.

◆ **Goodwin**

The Boston-born outfit swipes private funds lateral **Ed Kingsbury** from CMS. Kingsbury advises on investment funds and investment management arrangements including venture, private equity, debt, infrastructure and other alternative funds including litigation.

◆ **Gowling WLG**

Two hires (one lateral one vertical) for the Anglo-Canadian outfit which adds: intellectual property lateral **Gina Bicknell** from Pinsent Masons; and financial services regulatory lawyer **Guy Stevenson** from Orrick, where he was a counsel. Bicknell, who is dual English and Illinois qualified, as well as being a US patent attorney, advises on intellectual property, data and commercial strategy matters with a focus on the life sciences, healthcare and technology sectors. Stevenson, who joins as head of financial regulatory, covers consumer credit, crypto assets, payments, investment business, insurance and financial crime.

✔ **Greenberg Traurig**

A brace of laterals for the global firm which bags direct real estate lawyer **Simon Elliott** from Herbert Smith Freehills Kramer; and sports specialist **Robert Turner** from Bird & Bird. Elliott's practice covers investment and development including purpose-built student accommodation and hotel development projects. Turner advises on commercial and regulatory matters across the sports and entertainment sectors, including sponsorship, media rights and other commercial partnerships.

✔ **Hannaford Turner**

The shipping and aviation boutique nabs asset finance specialist **Anton Chambers** from BCLP. Chambers focuses on transportation and asset finance transactions with a particular niche in the aviation industry.

✔ **Haynes Boone**

Direct real estate lawyer **Angus Ford** makes the switch to the Texas-headquartered outfit from Brown Rudnick, which he [joined from Eversheds Sutherland in December 2024](#) as head of UK and European real estate. Ford advises on real estate investment and development encompassing logistics platforms, institutional investment portfolios and large-scale residential developments.

✔ **Jones Day**

Debt finance lateral **Nichola Foley** defects to the Ohio born outfit from fellow US firm, Morgan Lewis. Foley's practice covers leveraged finance, acquisition finance and trade and asset finance, with particular experience in NAV facilities, subscription facilities, hybrid facilities and other fund financing transactions.

✔ **Kingsley Napley**

The London firm hires private client lateral **Kelly Greig** from accounting, tax and advisory firm, Blick Rothenberg. Greig counsels high-net-worth

individuals, families, and family offices on wealth structuring and succession planning solutions.

✔ **Kirkland & Ellis**

Uno Reverse! Having lost no fewer than 16 laterals to Paul Weiss since the Wall Street firm's fiery London re-birth in August 2023, the Chicago leviathan strikes back against its London nemesis by snatching its European head of M&A **Will Aitken-Davies**. Aitken-Davies focuses on private equity and infrastructure investor transactions, including acquisitions, carve-outs, co-investments, public M&A, consortium deals and hybrid equity investments. [Aitken-Davies joined Paul Weiss from Linklaters](#) near the start of its [market distorting English law expansion](#), and his departure marks Paul Weiss' first ever English law lateral defection.

✔ **Linklaters**

Joining the magic circle firm is corporate insurance lateral **Owen Ross** from CMS. Ross advises insurers, reinsurers, Lloyd's businesses and capital providers on transactional M&A and regulatory matters; with a sub-niche in pension risk transfer.

✔ **Macfarlanes**

The elite London firm swipes leveraged finance specialist **Nicholas (Nick) O'Grady** from Baker McKenzie. O'Grady advises private equity funds, debt funds, banks and corporates on leveraged and acquisition financing, real estate finance and distressed debt investing.

✔ **Mayer Brown**

Leveraged finance lateral **Sarah Goodwin** makes the switch to the Chicago spawned outfit from Kirkland & Ellis. Goodwin advises private equity sponsors, portfolio companies, and private credit providers on cross-border financing transactions with a focus on leveraged and acquisition finance.

- ✦ **Mills & Reeve**
 Restructuring lawyer **Richard Pallot-Cook** arrives at the Cambridge spawned national firm from Dentons. Pallot-Cook covers debt restructuring matters, advising funders, investors, security trustees, debtors and insolvency practitioners on distressed situations.
- ✦ **Morrison Foerster**
 Litigation lawyer **Susana Cao Miranda** decamps to the West Coast firm from disputes boutique Pallas Partners which she joined as a lateral [from Linklaters in 2024](#). Cao Miranda's practice spans commercial and finance disputes, class actions, and regulatory investigations.
- ✦ **Norton Rose Fulbright**
 The global verein nabs projects and energy specialist **Fredrik Lindblom** from DLA Piper, where he was European co-head of infrastructure, construction and transport. Lindblom handles energy and infrastructure projects with a focus on private equity transactions, portfolio company investments, acquisitions, project finance and divestitures of energy assets and joint ventures.
- ✦ **Orrick**
 Double Tap! Building on its multi-partner structured finance raid on Cadwalader in [September last year](#), the West Coast firm returns to New York's oldest firm for another two-partner team comprising lateral **Suzanne (Suzie) Bell** and vertical **William Bibby**, where Bibby was a special counsel. Together, the pair cover structured finance and asset-backed lending transactions, with Bell advising on a broad range of traditional and esoteric securitisations, including NAV and other fund-level credit facilities, while Bibby brings particular depth across warehouse facilities, securitisations and loan portfolio acquisitions and financings.
- ✦ **Paul Hastings**
 After losing its chair of high-yield financing to Sullivan & Cromwell [last edition](#), the US firm restocks with the addition of US high yield specialist **Brad Weyland** from A&O Shearman. US qualified Weyland, who was a legacy Allen & Overy partner, advises on high yield bonds, related leveraged finance transactions and public company representation.
- ✦ **Paul Weiss**
 Arriving at the Wall Street firm are private funds lateral **Nathalie Sadler** from Dechert; and corporate vertical **Gemma Cullen** from Simpson Thacher, where she was an associate. Sadler advises on the structuring, establishment and management of private investment funds across a range of asset classes including private credit, private equity and real estate. Cullen handles corporate matters with a focus on the energy and infrastructure sectors.
- ✦ **Perkins Coie**
 Parthian Shot! Ahead of its announced tie-up with Ashurst later this year, the bonsai London office of the Seattle headquartered outfit adds tech patent disputes specialist **Caitlin Heard** from CMS, where she was co-head of intellectual property. Heard covers the full spectrum of IP rights with a particular angle in SEPs and FRAND licensing disputes.
- ✦ **Proskauer**
 Real estate finance lateral **Usman Khan** makes the switch to the New York headquartered firm from McDermott Will & Schulte. Khan advises private equity sponsors, funds, alternative capital providers and institutional investors on transactions across the real estate, infrastructure and energy sectors.
- ✦ **Shakespeare Martineau**
 Construction litigator **Jonathan Pawlowski** decamps to the national firm from Howard Kennedy. Pawlowski, a solicitor-advocate, advises

public utilities, developers and contractors on construction, engineering and infrastructure disputes, as well as construction related professional negligence matters.

◆ **Shoosmiths**

A half-dozen new faces (five laterals and one vertical) for the national firm which welcomes: corporate private equity duo **Tim Nye** and **Alison Chivers** from Trowers & Hamlins; IP specialist **France Delord** from Taylor Wessing; construction disputes lawyer **Peter Stockill** from Penningtons Manches Cooper; direct real estate lawyer **Simon Collis** from US firm Steptoe; and equity capital markets and public M&A lawyer **Ed Nisbet** from Osborne Clarke, where he was an associate director. Nye and Chivers advise management teams, sponsors and portfolio companies on private equity buyouts and related transactions. Delord, who is dual English and French qualified as well as being a European trademark attorney, handles trademark portfolios covering the prosecution of trademark registrations and infringement actions. Stockill focuses on construction and related insurance disputes including defects and professional negligence claims and contract formation and interpretation. Collis, whose move follows that of Jasvinder (Jas) Sahotay ([announced in December](#)), advises on real estate investment, development and landlord and tenant matters. Nisbet covers AIM and main market ECM transactions including IPOs, secondary fundraisings and public M&A.

◆ **Sidley Austin**

A two-partner restructuring team defects to the Chicago-founded firm which welcomes Clifford Chance laterals **Philip Hertz** and **Melissa Coakley**. Hertz, who was global co-head of restructuring, and Coakley, who was head of London restructuring at their former firm, advise creditors, borrowers, sponsors and directors across the full range of stressed and distressed financing, including in-court and out-of-court

mandates and broader insolvency and restructuring work.

◆ **Simons Muirhead Burton**

Arriving at the West End firm is litigation vertical **James Thorndyke** from DLA Piper, where he was a legal director. Thorndyke, who was previously a partner at Armstrong Teasdale/Kerman & Co, handles intellectual property, regulatory and commercial disputes with a particular focus on the sports sector.

◆ **Simpson Thacher**

In a vertical hire, the New York headquartered firm elevates energy and infrastructure lawyer **David McKendrick** from Weil, where he was a counsel. McKendrick advises sponsors, infrastructure investors and corporates on M&A, take-privates, joint ventures, consortium arrangements and restructurings.

◆ **Sullivan & Cromwell**

Continuing its rolling assault on past and present Weil partners, the once conservative, now expansionist, US firm adds finance lawyer **Jenny Choi** from fellow New Yorker, Weil. Choi counsels private equity sponsors, corporate borrowers, financial institutions and direct lenders on financings across the capital structure.

◆ **Taylor Wessing**

Ahead of its merger with Winston & Strawn, the soon to be transatlantic firm welcomes a quartet of new faces this round-up: antitrust lawyer **Stephen Whitfield** from Travers Smith, where he was head of UK competition; intellectual property lateral **Henry Priestley** from media flavoured West End firm Russells; real estate tax vertical **Gemma Grunewald** from DLA Piper, where she was a legal director; and product liability specialist **Jamie Humphreys** from Cooley, where he was a special counsel. Whitfield, who rejoins Taylor Wessing after 15 years at Travers Smith, handles UK, EU and international merger control

matters, cartel investigations and competition litigation. Priestley advises on contentious and non-contentious IP, including brand licensing and joint ventures, and disputes spanning trademarks, passing off, copyright, contract and shareholder issues. Grunewald, who is also a chartered tax advisor, focuses on the tax aspects of real estate investment and development, including REITs, funds, joint ventures and exit planning. Humphreys specialises in product liability disputes encompassing regulatory compliance, investigations, product recalls and litigation.

✦ **TLT**

In a vertical hire, energy and projects lawyer **Helen Raynsford** is elevated by fellow Bristol headquartered outfit Osborne Clarke, where she was a legal director. Raynsford advises on the development, structuring, and regulation of, and offtake from, energy projects.

✦ **Trowers & Hamblins**

The real estate flavoured international firm elevates finance lawyer **Rahul Sagar** from Morrison & Foerster, where he was a counsel. Sagar advises on banking and finance, with a particular emphasis on private credit and asset-backed strategies.

✦ **Vinson & Elkins**

Corporate tax lateral **Ed Moberly** makes the switch to the energy and infrastructure flavoured US firm from Kirkland & Ellis. Moberly advises on the tax aspects of private equity, M&A, joint ventures, fund formation, restructurings and financings.

✦ **Watson Farley & Williams**

Finance and commodities specialist **Chris Williamson** joins the international firm from Canadian firm Fasken, where he was a counsel. Williamson, who has spent the majority of his

career in-house, covers derivatives, structured products, commodities and international trade.

✦ **Weil**

The New York firm adds investment funds specialist **Charles Cooper-Isow** from Kirkland & Ellis. Cooper-Isow focuses on secondaries transactions, advising sponsors and their portfolio companies on liquidity solutions, including GP-led continuation funds, preferred equity investments and LP portfolio deals.

✦ **Willkie**

Corporate private equity lateral **Miroslav Tomo** joins the New Yorker from Kirkland & Ellis. Tomo, who has a focus on the real estate and infrastructure sectors, covers private equity M&A, joint ventures, minority investments, carve-outs, shareholder and co-investment matters.

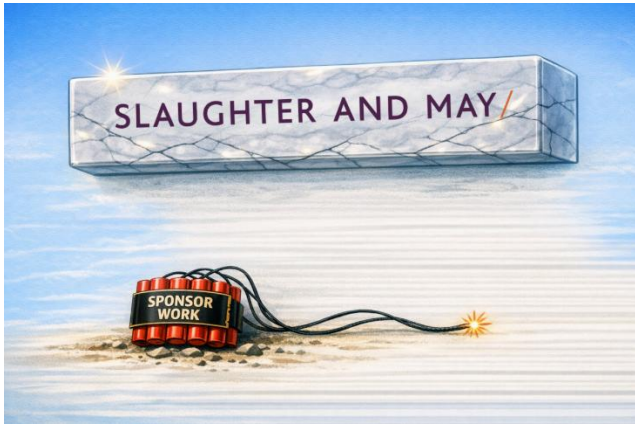
✦ **Winckworth Sherwood**

The London firm elevates energy lawyer **Rubianka Winspear** from Trowers & Hamblins, where she was a senior associate. Winspear, who focuses on the energy aspects of real estate transactions, covers decarbonisation and renewable energy programmes, for commercial and residential developments.

✦ **Womble Bond Dickinson**

Real estate lateral **Andrew Yates** joins the verein-like Anglo-American outfit from DLA Piper. Yates specialises in large scale residential and mixed-use developments with a particular angle on build-to-rent (BTR) and the living sector.

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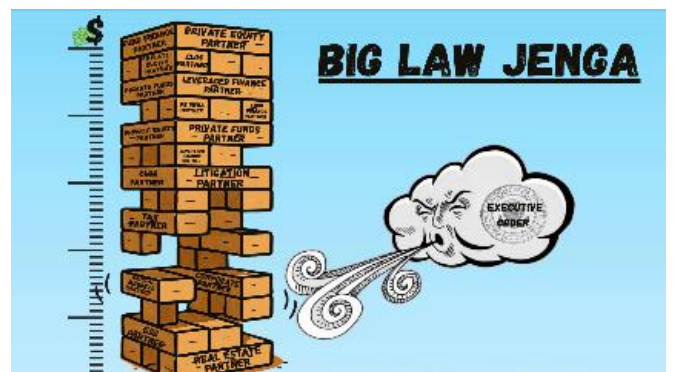
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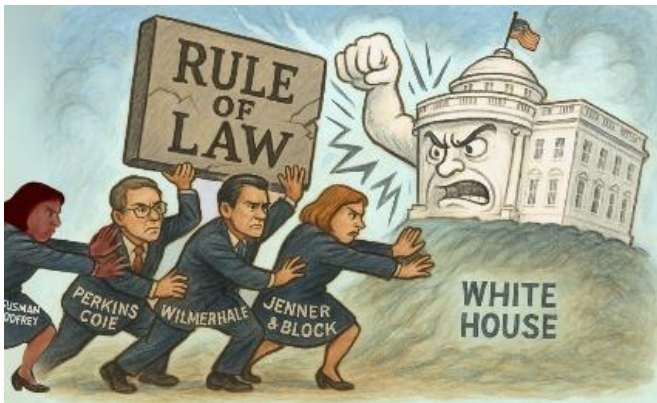
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✔ No Accounting for the Big Four in Big Law



✔ Freshfields' Non-Share Home Turf Handicap



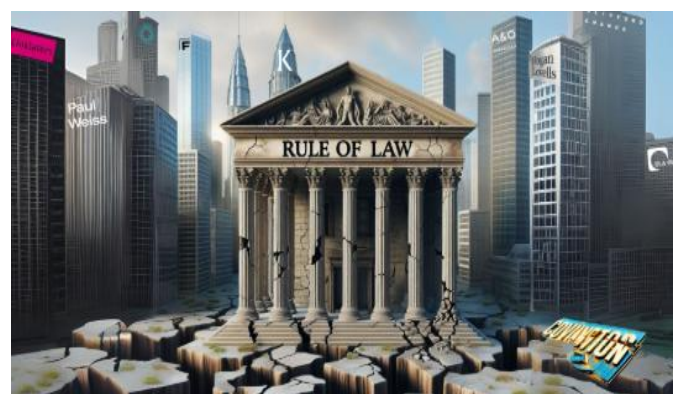
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✔ Paul Weiss – The Invasive Species!



✔ "Memory Loss" London Law Firm Memory Crystal Sinks



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



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



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