

London Private Equity Report Half Year Review 2021



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Edward is an Associate Director at Fox Rodney. He has over a decade of experience in executive search and legal recruitment.

Edward specialises in partner and senior level placements at US, UK and international law firms. He has experience of undertaking retained partner searches, partner representation, team moves and lift outs.

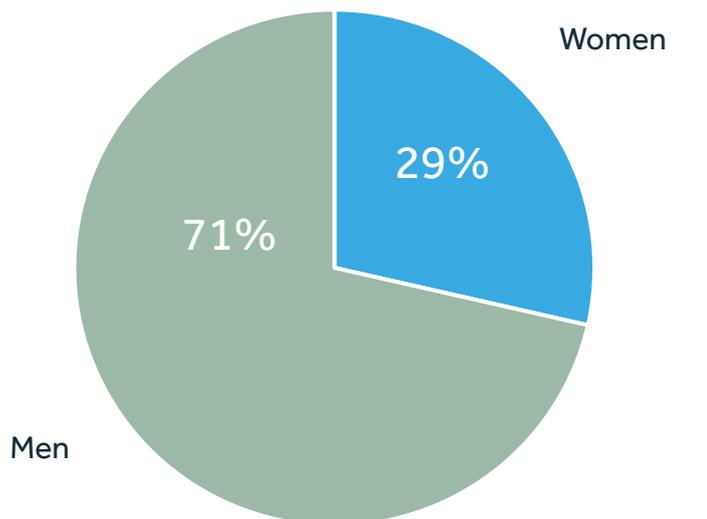
It will come as no surprise as we enter the second half of the year that the private equity market shows no signs of slowing down. At the midpoint of the year, European PE activity is surging towards annual records in dealmaking, exits and fundraising, highlighting PE as one of the most in-demand asset classes right now. This intense activity has resulted in a number of the top law firms making hires into their private equity and corporate teams, with firms competing hard to attract the best PE partners to support this unprecedented deal flow.

We have seen high levels of hiring already this year, with 14 partner level moves during the first six months of the year. To give this some context, there have been 21 hires per year on average over the last three years, so this year is shaping up to be a record year in terms of activity. The other interesting observation is that 50% of these senior moves have been made up of either day one partner hires, partners moving into in-house positions or senior in-house counsel moving into law firm partner positions. Arguably the most notable example of this was Geoffrey Balihache's move into Simpson Thacher from Blackstone. It is also worth mentioning that one of the highest profile departures in recent years was heavyweight PE star, Ian Bagshaw, who left White & Case in June this year (not included in reporting figures as he hasn't joined another firm yet).

In this piece, we provide an overview and analysis of market moves from the first six months of this year.

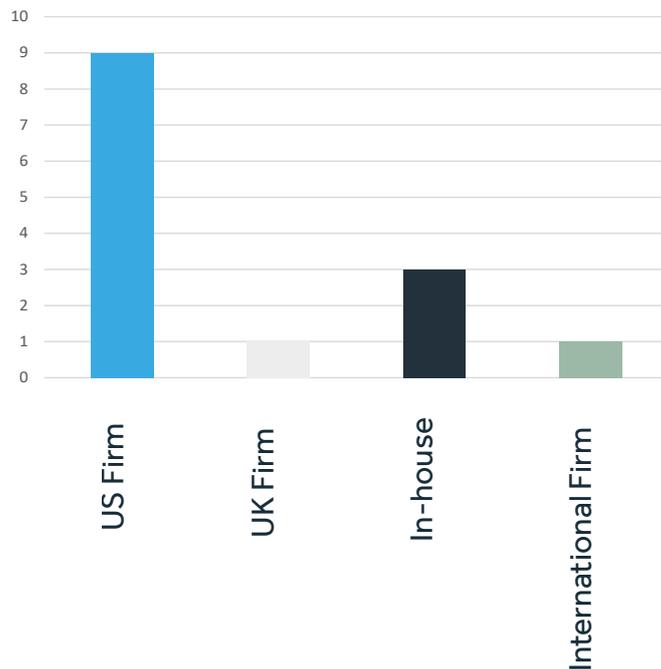
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Male v Female Moves

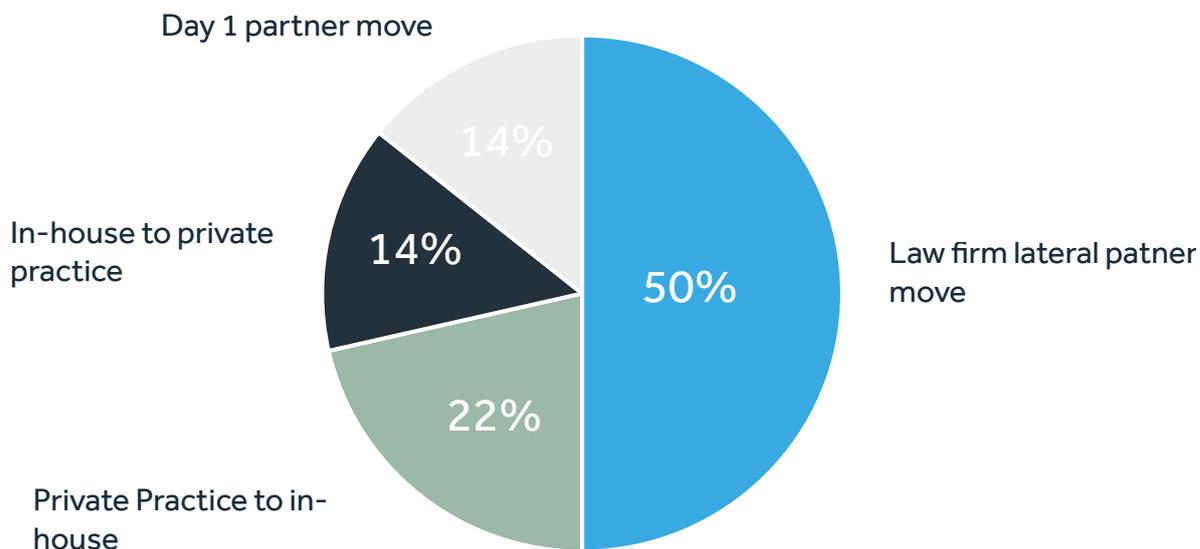


Out of 14 total moves between 1 January and 30 June 2021, 4 (29%) were women and 10 (71%) were men

Moves by Type of Hiring Firm



Type of Move



From 1 January - 30 June 2021, there were 7 law firm lateral partner moves; 3 private practice to in-house moves; 2 in-house to private practice moves and 2 Day 1 partner moves

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Private Equity Moves

Helena Drury to [Advent International](#) from Kirkland & Ellis

January

Andrej Wolf to [Milbank](#) from Kirkland & Ellis

Jo En Low to [Bracewell](#) from Clifford Chance in a [Day 1 partner move](#)

Murray Cox to [Weil, Gotshal & Manges](#) from Slaughter and May

February

Julian Thatcher to [Squire Patton Boggs](#) from MHMK Capital Group in an [in-house to private practice move](#)

Geoffrey Bailhache to [Simpson Thacher & Bartlett](#) from Blackstone in an [in-house to private practice move](#)

March

Emma Parr to [Get Living](#) from White & Case in a [private practice to in-house move](#)

Tim Sheddick to [White & Case](#) from Shearman & Sterling (infrastructure focus)

April

Gregory Scott to [Kirkland & Ellis](#) from Clifford Chance

May

Alexis Karim to [DWF](#) from Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner in a [Day 1 partner move](#)

Mark Thompson to [Dechert](#) from Kirkland & Ellis

Peter Lewis to [Hg](#) from CMS in a [private practice to in-house move](#)

June

Sam Whittaker to [Dechert](#) from Kirkland & Ellis

Rebecca Villarreal to [Proskauer](#) from Kirkland & Ellis

The information for these moves was taken from public sources.

your search ends here.