

THE BRIEF

Stewarts goes for va-va-voom

Stewarts, the City of London litigation specialist law firm, is hoping to add a little va-va-voom to its commercial team with its latest hire (Henry Bird writes).

Patrick Dunaud joins as a partner after almost 30 years of practising in Paris, including as co-global chairman of securities litigation at the US firm Latham & Watkins and head of litigation at fellow American practice Winston & Strawn.

On the other side of the pond, the international firm Brown Rudnick boasts of having promoted "five outstanding lawyers" to partner (the mediocre lawyers must have missed out this time around), with the solicitor-advocate Olga Bischof getting the nod in the practice's London office.

In other partner moves, the niche practice Memery Crystal has nabbed employment law specialist Stephen Ravenscroft from the London office of US firm White & Case. And the Newcastle office of the defendant insurance specialist practice DAC Beachcroft has recruited Duncan Fisher, a residential property expert, from Womble Bond Dickinson.

Shooting over to South America, in Peru, the Square Mile insurance specialist Kennedys has bolstered its commercial litigation muscle by recruiting four lawyers to its Lima office, including the partner Tabata Arteta.

Back in Blighty, showing that it's got an eye for legal profession buzzwords, Serjeants' Inn Chambers in London has lured Rachel Spearing, previously of Pump Court Chambers in the Temple. As well as being a criminal and regulatory specialist barrister and a governing bencher of Inner Temple, Spearing is the founder and chairwoman of the Bar Wellbeing Initiative — let's hope her new set provides ample space for late-night reiki and meditation sessions during particularly heavy cases.

Lawyers on Demand, the flexible legal services provider founded by two Berwin Leighton Paisner bigwigs in 2007, has opened its first office in Germany. The Munich outpost will be managed by Michael Zollner, a lawyer who has served in international firms and as head of legal at ATOSS Software AG.