

McDermott Will & Emery hires new China practice leader in London

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Baker McKenzie partner **Peter Lu** has joined McDermott Will & Emery with four colleagues to lead the firm's China practice in London.

Lu moved to McDermott on 24 April, bringing with him 14 years of experience advising Chinese clients in complex corporate and restructuring transactions and strategic litigation.

Joining the firm alongside Lu are counsel **Tina Hartwright**, associate **Ennio Keyte**, corporate transaction specialist **Alonso de Reyes Lanfranco** and paralegal **Zive Ke**.

"Peter's exceptional skill set will enhance McDermott's credibility in the China-Europe deals market," said McDermott's global transactions practice leader **Harris Siskind** who noted China is the European Union's largest trading partner despite recent legislation on foreign direct investments in Europe.

EU regulation aiming to provide common criteria for identifying risks from foreign investment outside of member states that may threaten security came into effect in October 2020, but Siskind said outbound investment from Chinese investors into the EU remains robust.

Lu advises Chinese clients on complex restructurings, disputes and cross-border M&As, including Fortune 500 companies Bank of China, China Telecom and healthcare group Novartis.

Last year, he acted for another Fortune 500 company, Aviation Industry Corporation of China (AVIC), in the pre-pack administration of its subsidiary, Bournemouth-based aircraft interiors manufacturer AIM Altitude, which saw the company sold to another AVIC-owned entity.

Lu also advised British steel trader Stemcor in a US\$2.24 billion restructuring that included a debt-for-equity swap with its bank lenders in 2015.

Originally from Liaoning in northeast China, Lu obtained a law degree from University College London before joining Herbert Smith Freehills as an associate in London in 2009. He moved to Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer in 2012. While there, he also worked remotely as an arbitrator at a state-operated arbitration commission in Xiamen in southeast China from 2015 to 2018

advising on aspects of English law.

Lu returned to London in 2017 to work as counsel at White & Case. He joined Baker & McKenzie as partner in 2019 where he worked until his current move to McDermott Will & Emery.

Outside of the office, Lu has worked as an adviser at Peking University's centre for human and economic development studies since 2012 and took on an additional role as postgraduate supervisor in its school of economics in 2014.

McDermott's London managing partner **Hamid Yunis** welcomed Lu to the firm, noting that "[t]ransactions and litigation are two key areas of his practice and these perfectly complement many of our strengths in London".

Lu tells GRR he believes McDermott is "the right platform to build a top-tier practice for Asian clients and clients doing business in Asia."

His move to McDermott comes after Baker McKenzie also saw Paris partner **Hector Arroyo** and associates **Antoine Santoni**, **Léa Marlière** and **Hicham Kaddaha** leave the firm to join Allen & Overy in [November](#).

Baker McKenzie did not respond to GRR's request for comment.

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