

# Dechert Beefs Up NY Corporate Practice With Linklaters, Paul Weiss Hires

By **Lizzy McLellan**

May 4, 2017

Building on a wave of growth in its corporate practice, Dechert is adding a pair of hires in New York. Partners Jeff Norton and Gareth Clark join the firm from Linklaters and Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison, respectively.

Norton previously led Linklaters' U.S. banking team, and was the firm's U.S. co-managing partner from 2011 to 2014. Clark, of Paul Weiss, focuses his practice on private equity and mergers and acquisitions.

Mark Thierfelder, chairman of Dechert's corporate and securities group, said he expects more additions to the practice in the next few weeks or months. The group has focused on adding to its abilities in private equity, cross-border M&A, permanent capital, leveraged finance, life sciences and financial services.

Clark fits into the firm's private equity goals, where Dechert is facing growing demand, Thierfelder said. Clark's clients include large and middle-market buyout funds, as well as public and private companies. He was counsel at Paul Weiss and a partner at Kirkland & Ellis before that.

Norton, whom Thierfelder once worked for at O'Melveny & Myers, brings experience in leveraged finance, as well as his restructuring and liability management abilities. He has worked on both domestic and cross-border financing transactions for financial institutions, financial sponsors and corporate clients.

Dechert has also beefed up its corporate and finance team overseas, with a series of lateral hires in recent months.

In Asia, the firm added five lawyers, including Xiao Yong in Hong Kong and Nicholas Song in Beijing from Vinson & Elkins. Also in Hong Kong, Dechert



*Diego M. Radzinski*

brought on a four-lawyer team led by Stephen Chan of Cadwalader, Wickersham & Taft.

In London, the firm lured Philip Butler and David Miles from DLA Piper, John Markland and Rob Bradshaw from Kirkland & Ellis and Ross Allardice from White & Case. Dechert also added Hamish Walton from King & Wood Mallesons in Dubai.

Thierfelder said the firm would likely target New York, Washington, D.C., and London for additional growth.

Dechert's gross revenue rose by 2.4 percent in 2016, but revenue per lawyer dropped slightly, and profits per partner increased by just 1.6 percent.

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