

## Morgan Lewis Hires Covington Partner To Lead Europe M&A

By Ashish Sareen

*Law360, London (May 12, 2026, 8:06 PM BST)* -- Morgan Lewis said Tuesday that it has recruited a partner from Covington & Burling LLP in London to lead the firm's European M&A practice.

Philip Cheveley will start his new role at Morgan Lewis on May 26. The new recruit will bring expertise representing public and private companies in domestic and cross-border transactions, including public company takeovers, mergers and acquisitions, disposals, and primary and secondary equity issues. He has particular experience in matters involving regulated industries.



Philip Cheveley

Christina Melendi, leader of Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP's corporate and business transactions practice, told Law360 that London is a key hub to Morgan Lewis' overall European and broader international transactional practice strategy.

Melendi pointed out that Morgan Lewis' corporate M&A and private equity practice has grown significantly in Europe over the past three years or so. This has included the firm making significant investments in its legal teams in France and Germany over that time.

"Our European clients work with our partners in London, and our clients that are based in London work with our partners in Europe," Melendi said. "And that goes throughout [Europe, the Middle East and Africa] and the U.S."

The practice leader noted that Cheveley has "very strong experience, wonderful client relationships and a lot of market credibility, and all of that enhances our ability to deliver that sophisticated advice to our clients."

Cheveley joined Covington in 2024 after he had been a partner at Sidley Austin LLP. He has also previously been the head of M&A for Shearman & Sterling LLP in Europe, the Middle East and Africa, as well as in Asia. The veteran lawyer has also been head of corporate M&A and equity capital markets at Travers Smith LLP during his career.

Cheveley is Morgan Lewis' newest hire for its corporate practice as the firm has added to this area in London and Europe in recent years.

The firm took on the entire Paris team of Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP — 54 lawyers — at the

start of January 2025. This increased the total number of lawyers at the firm in the French capital at the time to around 70. The office was not included in the merger between Herbert Smith Freehills LLP and Kramer Levin, which went live in June that same year.

Corporate partners Dana Anagnostou, Sébastien Pontillo and Alexandre Omaggio were among the 54 lawyers from different practices that joined Morgan Lewis in the French capital.

Their arrivals came months after another ex-Covington corporate lawyer, Luciana Griebel, joined Morgan Lewis as a partner in the English capital. Sebastian Dexheimer, who moved from Milbank LLP, also arrived at Morgan Lewis in 2024. He is based in Frankfurt.

Melendi told Law360 that Morgan Lewis is "always interested in looking in the market for valuable talent to add to our existing platform and to continue to invest in good lawyers with good practice who are able to bring the right type of expertise to the table."

"Phil meets all of those qualifications and checks out all those boxes," Melendi said.

Morgan Lewis does not have any particular target or number in mind when it comes to recruiting for corporate lawyers in London or elsewhere in Europe, she said.

"When the right talent comes around, and you see someone who would be a good fit for the practice, then it makes sense to make that investment," Melendi said.

--Editing by Alyssa Miller.