

## Morgan Lewis Lures PE Expert From Simmons

By **Jake Simpson**

*Law360, New York (December 02, 2011, 2:45 PM ET)* -- Private equity attorney Noel Ainsworth, formerly of Simmons & Simmons LLP, is joining Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP as a partner in the firm's London office, it announced Thursday.

Ainsworth, the second Simmons & Simmons partner to join Morgan Lewis's London office in recent months, will start with the firm in 2012 after his notice period at Simmons & Simmons expires, according to a Morgan Lewis spokeswoman. He will work in the private funds division of the firm's business and finance practice.

The new hire declined to comment through the Morgan Lewis spokeswoman.

Louis Singer, head of the private funds division, said that Ainsworth's experience with European funds would help the firm increase its presence in the cross-border private fund formation and investment markets.

"We're thrilled that given his experience, Noel will be adding to that capability," he said.

Ainsworth advises on all aspects of private equity fund work, including formation and operation of funds of funds and secondary funds, and sales and purchases of fund interests in secondary markets. He advises a variety of private equity fund formations, including credit and distressed credit, clean energy, infrastructure, real estate, and hybrid funds.

In April 2010, he advised on the \$5.5 billion merger of the private equity fund of funds arms of Hermes Corp. and Gartmore Group Ltd. In January, the new entity was acquired by Henderson Group PLC.

And this year, he advised Boston-based institutional investment manager Cambridge Associates LLC on the formation of several fund of funds vehicles, according to Simmons & Simmons.

Ainsworth also advises fund management teams on the establishment of new businesses as well as spinoffs and mergers, Morgan Lewis said.

"As we continue to focus on our core strengths in business and finance and private equity, someone with Noel's fund formation experience is an ideal fit," Chuck Lubar, managing partner of Morgan Lewis' London office, said in a statement.

In July, Morgan Lewis announced it had lured energy projects expert Martin Stewart-Smith from Simmons & Simmons for its energy transactions group in London. Stewart-Smith had been a senior energy lawyer and partner in Simmons & Simmons' projects group since 2005.

Morgan Lewis' private equity division includes more than 70 lawyers in 12 offices around the world.

--Additional reporting by Derek Hawkins. Editing by Chris Giganti.

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