

WILLKIE



1,200 LAWYERS | 16 OFFICES | 6 COUNTRIES

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Welcome to Willkie

We are proud to continue our trainee solicitor programme in London, and look forward to welcoming our new trainees in September 2025 and to meeting potential new trainees over the next 12 months.

Now is an exciting time to join Willkie in London, we were recently ranked as one of the fastest-growing firms in London over the past five years and recognised for our market-leading practices and lawyers in *Legal Business*' Global London 2024 report. Working here is not about maintaining the status quo but looking to the future with big ambitions. It allows for opportunity and initiative and there is a sense of excitement and pride amongst our people. At Willkie, you will work in small, nimble teams, alongside partners. Although challenging, this means that you will be integrated into deals and matters from the outset, giving you meaningful work and a platform to excel.

We want to recruit the very best talent, regardless of background. Having grown up in a council estate, attending a local comprehensive and being the first member of my family to attend university, I understand the importance of diversity and inclusion.

I hope you enjoy reading our brochure. I look forward to meeting you.



Jane Scobie

Tax Partner and Training Principal

"At Willkie London, we all have a little bit of an entrepreneurial spirit, actually getting involved in seeing the firm take itself to the next level; our trainees will be part of that journey."



Peter Burrell
Managing Partner, London

About Us



1,200
lawyers

Approximately 1,200 lawyers
across 16 offices

#1
fastest-growing firm

#1 in *The Lawyer's* 2022 list of the fastest-growing
US firms in London by headcount

33%
female partners

33% of our London partnership
are women

14
practice area rankings

14 practice area rankings in the 2025 editions of
Chambers UK and *Chambers Europe*

34
lawyer rankings

34 lawyer rankings in the 2025 editions of
Chambers UK and *Chambers Europe*

Antitrust & Competition

Working closely with colleagues in our New York, Washington, Brussels, Paris and Frankfurt offices, our Antitrust & Competition team in London advises on a broad range of EU and UK competition matters, including complex cross-border and UK mergers, national security investment reviews, cartel investigations, dominance cases as well as competition litigation before the EU and English courts.

“Willkie’s expansion in London has been extraordinary – it has achieved this exceptional growth by giving associates the opportunity to grow and make a real impact at the firm. The partnership is committed to continuing this trajectory by identifying the stars of the future and investing in their careers.”

Rahul Saha
Partner

The London practice
was a finalist for
Competition Team of the
Year at the *Legal Business*
Awards 2025



Asset Management

Willkie's market-leading Asset Management practice of 120 lawyers across eight offices throughout Europe and the United States provides legal services to 250+ clients in the asset management industry, including privately owned sponsors and investment managers, publicly-traded asset management firms, broker dealers, insurance companies and banks, on fund formations, investments, restructurings, financings, mergers and acquisition transactions, compliance and regulation.

"At Willkie, you are really given the opportunity to thrive as a lawyer. We work on complex multi-jurisdictional transactions which means from day one, you gain experience of negotiations, drafting, being the point person for client interaction and driving matters forward, always with the support of the partner leading the deals. With the firm's excellent training programme for its junior lawyers, you also get the chance to put into practice everything you are learning whilst continuing to develop, not only on a personal level, but also on a professional one. The kind of hands-on experience you get at the firm is truly invaluable."

Almahdi Coker
Associate

Globally ranked
for Investment Funds &
Asset Management
(International &
Cross-Border) by
Chambers Global 2025

Capital Markets

Willkie’s Capital Markets team in London handles debt and equity capital markets transactions in the UK, US and Europe. They complement Willkie’s finance and private equity groups to provide clients with the complete array of tools needed to achieve their goals. In particular, Willkie advises corporates and private equity sponsors on high yield bond offerings in leveraged buy-outs and refinancing transactions. In addition, the team works on public exit opportunities for private equity portfolio companies, such as IPOs.

Willkie’s Capital Markets practice also handles a variety of cutting-edge work, such as green and sustainability-linked bonds, emerging markets bond offerings, reverse takeovers and issuances in the insurance industry where Willkie has market-leading experience. They work seamlessly with Willkie’s restructuring and leveraged finance teams to advise on bond restructurings in stressed and distressed capital structures, including delivering all manner of liability management transactions such as consent solicitations, tender offers, exchange offers, and amend and extend transactions.

“One of the great things about Willkie is how much interaction you will have with partners. The matters that we work on tend to be complex and our teams are streamlined. This means that all levels need to pitch in and juniors get great exposure to partners as part of a small team. It’s a great way to learn from some of the best in the business.”

David Griffiths
Partner



Competition Litigation

Willkie's Competition Litigation team in London regularly acts in most of the high-profile, high-stakes competition disputes, usually at the cutting edge of competition law.

The team has shaped the overall antitrust and competition litigation landscape in a way that few others have, achieving judgments that have impacted the conduct of competition disputes.

We are particularly at the forefront of the development of the UK's collective action regime. As one of the only teams that regularly acts for claimants and defendants, we have a unique perspective.

Recent highlights include, representing Microsoft in defence of a proposed collective action seeking billions in damages arising from alleged anti-competitive practices in respect of the licencing of second hand software. The team also successfully secured a £200 million settlement in the landmark Merricks v Mastercard litigation, the largest ever settlement in a group litigation in the UK, and then obtained court approval for the settlement in a contested hearing with the litigation funder seeking to block the settlement.

Finalist for
Competition Team
of the Year at the
Legal Business Awards
2025

Partner Boris
Bronfentrinker was
recognised by *The Lawyer*
as one of only five partners
to appear on four or more
of the Top 20 Disputes
in the UK over the
past ten years

"Trainees have access to market-leading work, and the tools required for a successful career, from day one. What sets Willkie apart are the people: via our mentoring and training programmes, partners, counsel and senior associates invest a huge amount of time to help develop associates and trainees' technical legal skills, alongside the provision of valuable advice as lawyers navigate their careers."

Michelle Clarke
Partner



Corporate Insurance

We are a corporate and transactional practice. We advise on high profile M&A, debt and equity capital markets, structured finance, risk transfer, longevity and regulatory matters on cross-border corporate transactions.

We have flexible teams. We uniquely allow lawyers to practise in each of those specialisms relevant to insurance industry transactions instead of only one legal practice area.

We have international and diverse clients. We are integrated with our pre-eminent practice of 100+ lawyers advising the leading general insurers, life insurers, reinsurers, insurance intermediaries, insurtechs, investment banks, brokers, and private equity and hedge funds on transactions in London, Europe, the United States and Bermuda.

Our London Insurance Team was named "Law Firm of the Year" at the Insurance Insider ILS Awards 2025

Insurance partner, Joseph Ferraro, was named "Lawyer of the Year 2025" for Insurance by *Best Lawyers UK*



“There is real interaction between partners, associates and trainees, meaning juniors learn directly from partners as part of our small teams working ethos. One of the best things about my role is helping develop our junior talent.”

Melanie James
Partner



Willkie is recognised
as one of the UK's leading
Finance practices by
Chambers UK, 2024
for Banking & Finance:
Sponsors

Willkie is
recognised in the
areas of Debt Capital
Markets: High Yield and
Equity Capital Markets:
Mid-Large Cap by
The Legal 500,
UK 2024

Finance

Willkie's Finance team in London represents clients in complex, high profile domestic and cross-border financing transactions. The team works closely with Willkie's leading corporate, restructuring, capital markets, insurance, real estate and tax groups to achieve timely, efficient and smooth execution of transactions.

We have deep knowledge of market terms in both large-cap and middle-market deals and the ability to execute all types of finance and capital markets transactions, including senior secured loans, asset backed and recurring revenue loans, high yield bonds, junior capital and preferred stock issuances.

Our ability to combine an expert understanding of credit fundamentals with broad exposure to the leveraged finance and private equity markets allows us to provide advice that is both commercial and constructive.

"I was on secondment for six months to an asset management company. As a junior associate, my secondment was invaluable in creating relationships with clients and bringing that back to the office. It ensures transactions run smoothly and helps us to best service our clients."



Lindsay Murray
Associate

International Arbitration

Willkie's International Arbitration practice in London comprises an international and multi-jurisdictional team of highly experienced international arbitration lawyers. Regularly acting for states, state-owned entities, individuals and businesses in the energy, mining, biotechnology, construction, financial services, pharmaceutical, private equity and defence industries, our team has acted as counsel in 200+ international ad hoc, as well as institutional, arbitrations.

"Willkie's exciting growth over the past five years, particularly in London, means it is a fantastic time to join the firm. There is a huge amount of collaboration between practice teams and office, emphasising the positive, welcoming culture that has been at the forefront of my experience since joining the London office in 2022."

Dharshini Prasad
Partner

Willkie is recognised in GAR 100 2024, *Global Arbitration Review's* annual guide to the top international arbitration firms worldwide

Five Willkie lawyers globally recognized in Lexology Index: Arbitration 2025



Litigation and Investigations & Enforcement

The team recently obtained a judgment for US\$850m against a number of defendants in one of the largest trials in recent Commercial Court history

Peter Burrell, Chair of Willkie's Litigation, Investigations & Enforcement, and White Collar Defense Practice Groups in London, was named to *The Lawyer* Hot 100 2024

Willkie's Litigation and Investigations & Enforcements team in London advises clients on high profile, multi-faceted and frequently cross border issues. Clients particularly turn to us when a problem can give rise to criminal, civil or regulatory enforcement proceedings, and in many cases all three. Our focus on financial crime means that we are frequently looking at bribery, sanctions and money laundering issues as well as insider trading and modern slavery. Acting for both individuals and public companies/financial institutions, the global team has conducted more than 100 internal investigations on the ground in dozens of countries in the last three years. We are also actively engaged on advising clients on sanctions and on risk mitigation strategies around ESG issues.

"In our team, trainees will be exposed to a huge variety of work relating to all aspects of white collar crime, both civil and criminal proceedings, innovative legal advice and bespoke compliance programmes. Consequently, Willkie trainees will need to be able to pick up and adapt to each task quickly. You will be challenged, but in a truly supportive environment."

Yannis Yuen
Associate

Private Equity and Mergers & Acquisitions

Willkie’s Private Equity practice is widely recognised as one of the market-leading teams in Europe and the United States, having advised private equity sponsors for over 50 years. Clients looked to our team for advice on more than 200 private equity deals in 2023 alone.

Globally, our 600+ private equity focused lawyers represent more than 300+ private equity sponsors, as well as thousands of portfolio companies and management teams. We are one of few international law firms with extensive experience in virtually every type of private equity transaction, from early-stage venture capital financings to complex cross-border, multi-billion dollar leveraged buyouts and take-private transactions.

Recent significant mandates includes advising Insight Partners on the sale of its majority stake in AMCS, a global leader in performance and sustainability software to resource-intensive industries, to EQT Private Equity; Levine Leichtman Capital Partners (LLCP) in connection with LLCP and ICG’s strategic partnership with Law Business Research; Searchlight Capital Partners in connection with a £500 million consortium investment in RSK Group Limited, a leading provider of environmental consulting and engineering solutions; and EMG, a portfolio company of PAI Partners, on its combination with Gravity Media, creating one of the world’s largest broadcast technology and production companies.



Our London team was a Finalist for Private Equity Team of the Year, for its strong and diverse portfolio of work at the Legal Business Awards 2025

Private Equity Partner Claire McDaid recognized by Private Equity News as one of the “Twenty Most Influential Private Equity Lawyers” 2025

“At Willkie, we work in small teams of three or four people. This means our trainees work directly with partners and senior associates on market-leading deals, giving you client exposure and real responsibility from the outset.”

Will Buchanan
Partner

Shortlisted for
"Restructuring Team of
the Year" and "High Yield
Team of the Year" at the
IFLR Europe Awards
2025

Willkie's Restructuring
team was recognised for
its role in four cross-border
transactions that were each
shortlisted for IFLR's
"Deal of the Year"

Restructuring

Willkie's Restructuring team works collaboratively with our international restructuring practices in New York, Houston, Chicago, Paris, Frankfurt, Hamburg, Munich and Milan. We focus on complex cross-border situations, and advise all stakeholders, including debtors, creditors and officeholders. Recent highlights include advising the noteholders on the restructuring and recapitalisation of the Lowell Group, one of Europe's largest credit management companies with significant operations in the UK, Western Europe and Scandinavia. This consensual recapitalisation transaction involved over £1.6 billion of senior secured notes.

"Trainees will be thrown into some really interesting and exciting transactions What's really interesting about restructuring is that it's high stakes, everyone has a lot to lose in a restructuring and some people have a lot to gain. Trainees will be able to see how we work, see how we negotiate and be in that environment with us."

Graham Lane
Partner

Tax

Willkie's Tax practice in London represents clients on corporate and international tax matters, including structures for UK and international business investments, and the tax aspects of public and private M&A, private equity investments, insurance, including Lloyd's, investment structures, joint ventures/ partnerships, fund formation, reorganisations and demergers, insolvency and restructurings, capital markets issues and employee share plans.

"Since joining Willkie, I have consistently felt that the partners are very invested in seeing that everyone at the firm achieves their potential and has a successful career. I have been consistently encouraged to take on as much responsibility as I can handle on client matters. Partners have always been supportive in seeking additional development opportunities to progress my practice."

Scott Wallace
Associate



Inclusion & Community

Inclusion and community are at the heart of Willkie’s values, in our London office and at the firm generally. 2023 saw the re-launch of our Working Group in London and the appointment of partner Kirsty Maclean to lead our Inclusion initiatives in London, supported by a working group which represents partners, associates, trainees, paralegals and business professional staff. This re-invigoration represents a step-up in energy and support of our Inclusion strategy and goals.

Our efforts to enhance Inclusion at Willkie has resulted in widespread recognition:

Our efforts to enhance inclusion at Willkie has resulted in widespread recognition: in 2024, Willkie again received Mansfield Certified Plus status in the U.S. in recognition of our success in building a diverse leadership, highlighting the firm’s effective, long-term focus on recruiting, developing and promoting lawyers of all backgrounds.

London initiatives include:

Affinity Groups

We have several active affinity groups, aimed at promoting inclusiveness and community in London. Groups include members representing the LGBTQI+ community, parents, the Jewish community, neurodiversity and those with minority ethnic heritage. We also have the London Chapter of the Women’s Professional Development Committee (WPDC). The WPDC was established more than a decade ago to offer professional development programmes and guidance.

Mentoring

Trainees, paralegals and associates benefit from our mentoring programme. Trainees are assigned one partner and two associate mentors each year, with mentor pairing rotating each year until associates reach 6PQE. Our mentoring programme provides the opportunity for our people to enhance their visibility and benefit from career guidance and practical advice from other professionals across several practice areas.

RARE

Willkie is proud to partner with Rare Recruitment on two initiatives: Rare’s Contextual Recruitment System and Vantage. Partnering with Rare means social mobility measures and educational data are embedded into our recruitment process. This means we will better understand your academic achievements.

GROW

Willkie London is delighted to work with GROW, a registered charity which works with aspiring lawyers (67% of whom are socially mobile and 51% from an ethnic minority background) through one-to-one mentoring. Some 20 per cent of our London partners, associates and trainees have volunteered to mentor one or two GROW candidates.



“I am deeply committed to further advancing Inclusion in the legal profession and want to ensure that Willkie London is a workplace where all our people feel that they belong.”

Kirsty Maclean
Partner

Pro Bono

Pro Bono

In London, our lawyers work on a number of different projects, both in the UK and the US, some of which are listed below. Our London office encourages our lawyers to introduce new pro bono matters to the firm. Additionally, our London lawyers work in partnership with attorneys in our US offices on immigration, family law and other pro bono matters.

A4ID (Advocates for International Development):

A4ID supports development organisations, such as charities in need of pro bono legal assistance throughout the world. Their work is focused around the UN Sustainable Development Goals/2030 Agenda and provides trainees and associates with varied pro bono work across different types of entities.

Cleantech Accelerator Programme:

The Green Tech Legal Collaborative, a groundbreaking pro bono initiative founded by Willkie, Bloomberg L.P. and other firms, has been shortlisted for ESG Programme of the Year at the 2024 Legal Business Awards. The Green Tech Legal Collaborative, launched in 2021, provides pro bono legal and compliance support for green tech start-ups from Imperial College’s Enterprise Lab.

IPSEA (Independent Provider of Special Education Advice):

Our involvement with IPSEA is new and is an example of the London office’s continued expansion and commitment to pro bono. Willkie assists IPSEA in supporting the families of children with special educational needs and disabilities through the provision of legal services.

Probonoskills provides educational resources to those providing legal assistance so that they can do more, help more, and achieve more for local communities. London associates, trainees and paralegals have delivered webinars and provided other materials to facilitate access to pro bono resources.

Rainbow Migration supports LGBTQI+ people from around the globe through the UK’s asylum and immigration system. Willkie lawyers have taken on individual cases on behalf of Rainbow Migration’s service users. This involves interviewing service users, drafting necessary documentation and visiting the Home Office.

The Queen Mary University of London Legal Advice Centre

Our trainees and associates volunteer at QMUL’s student led legal advice clinics.

Community work

We recognise the need to partner with local communities and, in London, we partner with a local school, providing work experience placements for at least two Year 11 or 12 students each year. Additionally, we have one paid apprenticeship a year, for a school leaver to work in our business services team. A number of our lawyers in London regularly mentor a Law student from Queen Mary University of London to provide advice on a career in law and to help develop each mentee’s commercial awareness.

Willkie Green

For more than a decade, Willkie has implemented myriad sustainability initiatives to reduce our environmental impact. These have spanned programs related to energy and water, technology, waste, travel, and procurement, as well as pro bono and community involvement. Willkie is committed to be net zero across its operations by 2050 and works internally on developing a transition towards sustainability in the short and long term.



For more information on current initiatives, you can visit Willkie’s annual Sustainability Report here.



26 lawyers in our London office have been named to the Pro Bono Recognition List of England & Wales for their commitment to pro bono service

“Our pro bono programme encourages everyone to work on matters which are of fundamental importance to individual lives. We are proud to partner with a number of charities, including Rainbow Migration.”

Jerry Healy
Partner and Graduate Recruitment Partner

Training Contracts

From 1 September 2025, we are recruiting trainee solicitors who can start their training contract in September 2028. We recruit our future trainee solicitors from our spring and summer vacation schemes only.

Our training contract provides an environment where junior lawyers can excel and be challenged, in a supportive environment. You will sit in four different practice areas, with a mix of partners and associates. You will spend six months in Litigation and Investigations & Enforcement and six months in Private Equity or Corporate Insurance (M&A).

In addition to the full programme of formal training, you will work alongside our partners and associates in small teams on real matters from day one. Our people work in small, nimble teams on high-quality matters, so it is important that you are motivated, collaborative and able to pick things up quickly as you will receive a great breadth of work from the outset.

Willkie London has grown by over 160% over the past six years and by 51% since 2020 alone. With this in mind, we are looking for self-starters who want to contribute to a dynamic, growing workplace, and who have a genuine interest in Willkie and our clients.

“Working on real live matters while on the Willkie vacation scheme was a great experience. Within the two week period, the firm provided the opportunity to work on exciting, multijurisdictional cases and transactions. Gaining first-hand experience in working in lean teams with partner contact helped me make the decision to train and qualify at Willkie as I was keen to challenge myself within a supportive environment.”

Christopher Selwyn
Vacation scheme 2021, training contract 2023, and associate 2025



LONGLIST

barbriBPP
UNIVERSITY
LAW SCHOOL

The
University of
Law

Legal Cheek

AWARDS

Best Law Firm for Training 2025

Best Law Firm for Quality of Work 2025

Best Law Firm for Perks 2025

Best Law Firm for Social Life 2025



“During my vacation scheme, I was involved in real client work, from drafting board minutes to joining client calls, as well as contributing to pro bono matters. What stood out to me most was the culture of support. My supervisors were genuinely invested in my development, offering tailored guidance that accelerated my learning. It was clear that trainees at Willkie are given the tools to thrive from day one, surrounded by brilliant yet approachable people who care deeply about your growth.”

Maroua Benbrahim

Vacation scheme 2023 and training contract 2025

Vacation Schemes

We recruit trainee solicitors via our vacation schemes only. In 2026, we will have up to 20 people in total on our spring and summer vacation schemes. We are proud of our vacation schemes; in 2025, 100% of those offered a training contract by Willkie accepted that offer. Our future trainees enjoyed undertaking real, live work and being fully integrated into their teams.

During your two-week scheme, you will sit in two different teams, with a partner and an associate, and gain hands-on experience, giving you the opportunity to undertake real, meaningful work and showcase your potential.

We hope that by the end of the two weeks, you will have met most of our people at our vacation scheme-specific workshops, seminars and social events. You will be supported throughout your time with us, by a partner mentor, an associate buddy and our graduate recruitment team, and will be paid £750 per week.

The application deadline is midday on 10 December 2025. Successful applications will be invited to a video interview and, if successful at this stage, will be invited to complete a written exercise. Our final stage of recruitment is a CV-blind interview with partners.

We welcome applicants from all universities and degree disciplines. We are looking for consistently strong academic achievement, with a 2.1 at undergraduate level.

Willkie is proud to use Rare's Contextual Recruitment System. Partnering with Rare means social mobility measures and educational data are embedded into our recruitment process. This means we will better understand your academic achievements.



To apply, please click here

For any questions, please connect with us at graduaterecruitment@willkie.com

Salary and Benefits

£60,000	£65,000	£170,000
Year one	Year two	Newly qualified

Law School

For those who have accepted a training contract with us, we offer full sponsorship of the GDL and SQE (as appropriate) which covers course fees in full and a £20,000 maintenance grant, pro-rated.

We will ask future trainees to complete the SQE (if they have not already completed the LPC). We are partnering with University of Law to deliver market-leading qualifications that we believe will prepare our future trainees for practice. All future trainees will study the LLM Legal Practice, which incorporates preparation for SQE 1 & 2 as well as the SQE Plus, an enhanced programme designed to go beyond the standard SQE syllabus to ensure our trainees can be confident in their ability to hit the ground running.

Future trainees who have not studied law in England and Wales will take the nine-month Postgraduate Diploma in Law, before the LLM Legal Practice, to ensure they have a solid academic foundation in law.

Benefits

Our benefits include: 25 days’ annual leave, Cycle to Work scheme, employee assistance programme for employees and their families, employer pension contribution, eye test, health & well-being allowance, interest-free season ticket loan, life assurance, private dental insurance, private medical insurance and a technology programme.



“I came into the UK as an immigrant and to be given the opportunity to grow and thrive in my chosen profession has been a part of my entire journey. Diversity is also diversity of thought. If you are able to articulate positions that are different from the mainstream, then you bring something different to the firm and difference increases our collective knowledge and increases our delivery of service to clients.”

PLAY FILM  **Solomon Wifa**
Partner



“I was given real responsibility across a range of live matters throughout my vacation scheme. Partners and associates were approachable and hands-on, giving context and providing practical, actionable feedback. The support made the work purposeful, and I finished the scheme feeling part of the team. While the high calibre of work drew me in, it was the people that led me to accept my offer.”

Juliana De Souza Cruz

Vacation scheme 2024, training contract 2025



“From day one of the vacation scheme, I felt genuinely welcomed. Trainees, associates and partners took the time to support me, answer questions and involve me in meaningful work. The open, down-to-earth culture and the real responsibility I was trusted with made it clear Willkie was the right place to start my legal career.”

Lucas Prokopi

Vacation scheme 2023, training contract 2025

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