GIBSON DUNN

Market-Leading Investment Funds Team James O'Donnell and Hannah Watson Fanin Join Gibson Dunn in London

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Gibson Dunn is pleased to announce that James O'Donnell has today joined the firm's London office as a partner in its Investment Funds Practice Group.

Commenting on James' arrival, Shukie Grossman, Global Chair of Gibson Dunn's Investment Funds Practice Group, said: "We have been expanding our elite Investment Funds Practice, and, as one of London's leading investment funds practitioners, James is a natural fit, and a very welcome addition. James' practice encompasses fund formation and strategic arrangements with institutional investors, and he is known as a market leader in advising on matters that sit at the intersection of these disciplines."

"With Gibson Dunn's prestigious global platform, and its fast-growing transactional practices in London, this is a fantastic opportunity, and a wonderful way to start the year. We have great ambitions for our London funds team, and I'm excited to begin working with new colleagues in London and internationally as part of the elite funds transaction practice," said James.

James is joined by Hannah Watson Fanin, with whom he has worked for many years. Hannah, who is ranked as 'Up and Coming' by Chambers UK 2025 for Investment Funds — Investor Representation, will join the firm as of counsel.

Gibson Dunn has expanded its transactional practices in London, with other recent arrivals including M&A partner Will McDonald, private equity partner Will Summers, and finance partners Kavita Davis and David Irvine. The London office has also been joined in recent years by transactional partners Isabel Berger, Alice Brogi, Wim de Vlieger, Robert Dixon, Federico Fruhbeck, and Till Lefranc.

About James O'Donnell
James advises sponsors of, and investors in private investment funds. His experience includes the establishment and operation of funds, managed accounts and joint ventures, carried interest arrangements, management spin-outs, and secondary and co-investment transactions. His clients include fund managers, fund-of-funds managers, sovereign wealth funds, banks, development finance institutions, pension plans and insurance companies.

James is recommended for Investment Fund Formation and Management: Private Funds in Legal 500 United Kingdom 2025 and has consistently been ranked Band 1 for UK-wide Investment Funds: Investor Representation in Chambers UK 2025, where clients describe him as "absolutely top of the class, top in his field" and a "shining star of the funds sector." He is also ranked for Africa-wide Investment Funds in Chambers UK 2025.

James earned his BA Honours History at the University of Durham.

About Hannah Watson Fanin

Related People

James O'Donnell

Hannah Watson Fanin

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Hannah's experience spans a variety of fund-related transactions, from fund formation, co-investments and secondary transactions, through to GP and LP-led restructurings, enforcement actions and advising on end-of-life issues. Having worked in-house prior to joining her previous firm, Hannah has first-hand knowledge of the unique needs and objectives of institutional investors.

Hannah is described by Chambers UK 2025 as being a "fantastic lawyer" who "consistently provides expert advice, leads negotiations and represents our interests with aplomb."

Related Capabilities

Investment Funds

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