

Gibson Dunn Launches Zurich Office, Expanding Its Foothold in Europe

By James Jackson

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Gibson Dunn has opened an office in Zurich, hiring U.K. barrister Christopher Harris KC from 3 Verulam Buildings chambers as partner-in-charge. Harris will also serve as co-chair of the firm's international arbitration practice group and the judgment and arbitral award enforcement practice group.

Harris is widely recognized for his work on investor-state and cross-border disputes, according to the firm. He was at 3VB for 23 years.

The Zurich office will advise Swiss and international clients navigating complex, multijurisdictional legal matters, providing access to deep expertise in international arbitration, banking and finance, private equity, mergers and acquisitions, white-collar defense, and regulatory enforcement according to the firm's website.

"Christopher brings a distinctive blend of advocacy and market insight as both a U.K.-qualified barrister and Swiss-admitted lawyer," Barbara Becker, chair and managing partner of Gibson Dunn, said in a statement. "His track record in high-stakes international arbitration



Courtesy photo

Christopher Harris KC of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher

and cross-border disputes makes him a natural steward for our Zurich office, which will serve as a strategic hub for clients navigating complex, multijurisdictional matters."

In the arbitration space, Gibson Dunn recently also hired former A&O Shearman partner Patrick Pearsall, who was previously a partner at Jenner & Block and before that was chief of investment arbitration at the U.S. Department of State.

As co-chair of the firm's international arbitration practice group, which counts 100 lawyers across 17 offices, Harris will serve alongside partners Rahim Moloo and Penny Madden KC. He will also become co-chair of the judgment

and arbitral award enforcement practice group, alongside partners Robert Weigel and Miguel Estrada.

“Though it is a rare occurrence for a senior barrister to leave chambers to join a law firm, Gibson Dunn’s growth and ambitions for its international arbitration practice, together with its market-leading enforcement practice, made this an irresistible opportunity for me,” Harris said.

The opening of the Zurich office, together with Harris’ appointment, further expands

the firm’s European platform, which includes offices in Brussels, Frankfurt, London, Munich, and Paris. The firm, which counts more than 2,000 lawyers, also has offices in Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Riyadh, Beijing, Hong Kong, and Singapore, as well as across the U.S.

Gibson Dunn ranked seventh by revenue in the 2024 Global 200 and fifth in the 2025 Am Law 100.

Lisa Shuchman contributed to this story.