

13 September 2021

### **Payne Hicks Beach strengthens its international Dispute Resolution offering with new Partner hire**

Leading Central London law firm, Payne Hicks Beach LLP, is pleased to announce that Paul Dorrans has joined the Dispute Resolution practice as a Partner. Paul joins the firm from Simmons & Simmons with over 15 years' experience advising on complex financial services disputes, contentious regulatory investigations, fraud, and financial crime. His appointment closely follows that of Georgina Bayley who also joined the Dispute Resolution department as a Partner earlier this year.

Paul's practice has a strong international focus and his experience working in top tier law firms in London, Hong Kong and New Zealand means he is well versed in advising financial institutions across multiple jurisdictions on a wide range of contentious and regulatory advisory matters, including in Europe, the Middle East, and the broader Asia Pacific region.

His capabilities in disputes and investigations are further reinforced by his in-house experience from secondment to a number of commercial and investment banks in both Hong Kong and London. Paul previously worked for ANZ as corporate counsel in its litigation and investigations team and undertook a secondment to the regulatory enforcement division of a leading stock exchange.

Paul has particular expertise advising on cybersecurity related fraud and financial crime issues, with a focus on instructions from asset managers, private banks, growth-phase financial institutions and clients which interact with the financial markets more broadly. At Payne Hicks Beach, Paul will focus on growing his international dispute resolution practice working closely with the Private Client, Property and Family Teams, to complement and enhance these established offerings for a global client base.

#### **Paul Dorrans, Partner at Payne Hicks Beach, comments:**

*"Payne Hicks Beach's Dispute Resolution department has an outstanding reputation and I'm excited to be joining the firm. I look forward to working alongside the team in their respective fields and advising existing and prospective clients on a range of financial services disputes and regulatory investigations."*

In addition to this strategic Partner hire, the firm has promoted Isobel Symonds to Senior Associate within the Corporate Department. Isobel specialises in advising clients ranging from

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large international companies to private owner-managed and family businesses on acquisitions and disposals, shareholder arrangements, company reorganisations and succession planning. While her practice is sector-agnostic, she has experience advising in sectors including property investment, manufacturing, publishing and hospitality. Isobel also has expertise in commercial law matters, frequently advising her clients on contractual matters including arrangements with customers, suppliers, and terms of business.

Payne Hicks Beach has also retained all three of its trainees qualifying in September 2021: Verity Sherwin will join into the Private Client Department, George Clough the Employment practice and Evelyn Collins the Family Department.

**Robert Brodrick, Chairman of Payne Hicks Beach, comments:**

*"I am very pleased to welcome Paul Dorrans to Payne Hicks Beach at a time when our Dispute Resolution practice looks to increase its transnational focus. Paul has a wealth of experience in multiple jurisdictions where we are seeing strong client demand and will significantly add to our already well established dispute resolution offering. I would also like to congratulate Isobel Symonds on her promotion to Senior Associate and our qualifying trainees - Verity Sherwin, George Clough and Evelyn Collins. This year's 100% retention rate reflects our dedication to developing and nurturing talent throughout the firm."*

Ends

**Notes to Editors**

**About Payne Hicks Beach**

- Payne Hicks Beach LLP has 90 lawyers and provides specialist legal services to private and commercial clients.
- The firm has a reputation for handling complex problems. They provide solutions that are incisive, straightforward and creative.
- The structure and commitment to outstanding client service means that all their specialist advisers work closely with each other to deliver seamless advice across their practice areas.

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