

The Top Three Reasons Partners Move



Whether you are a junior partner or senior partner, when evaluating your career and practice options, know that you are not alone. We see partners on a regular basis contemplating a move, particularly to go to another firm, and for many, just the thought of crossing the street causes significant anxiety. However, just because you have achieved partnership, does not mean you should stop advancing professionally, or at least going through the process of asking yourself if you are in the right place for this stage in your career.

The New Platform

Not all firms are created equal. Each firm has its own culture, practice strengths and reputation. Perhaps you are in a practice area which requires a stronger national platform, or you are in a specialty which has been buried within a broader practice group. Take the time to review how your practice area is regarded at other firms and ask whether changing firms will give you the boost that you need. Make sure you have the right tools to market your practice both within your firm as well as externally and that your firm is committed to helping you grow and develop your client base.

Need A Change?

Some of you have been at the same firm your entire career. While that loyalty is commendable, sometimes partners who have dedicated their whole life to one firm feel as though their practice has stagnated and find that they are

bored. Many are in a situation in their personal life where they feel they can take a risk, both financially and professionally, in order to bring some excitement back into the practice.

Rising to the Top

For some, becoming partner is a great achievement, but for some it may not be enough. The opportunity to lead a group or head up a practice area is very appealing and can be rewarding from both a personal and professional standpoint. That opportunity may just not be available at your current firm, but sometimes moving to another firm, whether from one large national to another, or from a national firm to a regional firm, may give you the chance to be in that leadership role you have been seeking.

Regardless of your reasons, remember that you always want to be the one in control over your career. You should be the one to decide when and where to move. Take your time. Partner moves do not happen overnight and take a high degree of foresight on your part. Ask the right people the right questions well in advance of the time you think you may want to actually move, and then whether or not you choose to make a change, you know that you have examined all of your options.

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Calgary

Blair McGeough is now at Transalta Corporation. **Christine Silverberg** has joined Wolch Hursh deWit Silverberg & Watts. **Courtney Sebree Aarbo** is now **Courtney Aarbo**. **Sandra Sebree** is now an independent practitioner. **Catherine Gerrits** is now at Felesky Flynn LLP. **Marvin Koochin** is now at TransCanada PipeLines Limited. **Meighan LaCasse** is now at Energy Resources Conservation Board. **ComplianceWorks** has merged with Gowling Lafleur Henderson LLP. **Kristine Robidoux, QC** is a partner with Gowling Lafleur Henderson LLP. Field LLP welcomes **Stacey Lee** as an associate; she will be joining the Insurance Practice Group. **Robert Brazzell** is now Senior Director, Realty Tax Consulting, Altus Group. **Craig Johnstone** has joined Enerplus as in-house counsel. **Robert Bourne** is now at Enbridge Pipelines Inc. **Paul Jeffrey** and **Rosa Twyman** are practicing at Jeffrey Twyman LLP. **Brian P. Reid** is now at Akita Drilling Ltd. **Kathleen Wells** is now at Shennette Leuschner McKay. **Kim Nutz** has joined Suncor Energy Inc. as senior corporate counsel.

Edmonton

Anne Côté is now at Field LLP. **Elizabeth Liu** is now at Chatwin LLP. **Bryn Clarke** is at The Estate House by Gorman & Koski LLP. **Kristan McLeod** is now at Chivers

Carpenter. **Barry M. Basaraba** is now at McGee Richard. The firm of Harwardt MacPherson & Hodgson is now **Jane MacPherson Law**. **Denise Harwardt** is now at Alberta Justice, Family Law.

Grande Prairie

Glenn Taylor has started a new firm called Taylor and Company. **Stefura Greber** and **Beal** has added **Roger Jewitt** and are maintaining an office in Beaverlodge.

St Albert

RiverPointe Law has joined **Weary & Company**.

Awards

Joan Brockman, a Professor of Criminology at Simon Fraser University, has won the 2008 CBA [National] Cecilia I. Johnstone Award in recognition of her outstanding work to advance the standing and influence of women in the legal profession.

Civil litigation lawyer and a CBA-AB Past President, **Virginia Engel, Q.C.**, of Peacock Linder & Halt LLP in Calgary has been selected as the recipient of the CBA 2008 Louis St. Laurent Award of Excellence for distinguished service to the association.