

# RISING STARS

★ of 2018

## THE NEXT GENERATION OF CITY PRIVATE EQUITY TALENT

By Hannah Roberts

The battle to recruit and retain the most promising up-and-comers in private equity is sparking fierce competition across the City, as law firms look to build up their bench of talent in this increasingly influential sector.

In this article, we profile some of the rising stars at top UK and international law firms in London. Almost everyone on the list, which is by no means definitive, made partner in 2015 or later, while a few hotly tipped associates have also made the cut.

### LATHAM & WATKINS

**Farah O'Brien**  
Latham & Watkins  
Made partner: 2016

**Key deals:** Advising Leonard Green Partners on its acquisition of Pure Gym; advising Onex on its acquisition of SIG Combibloc Group AG from Reynolds Group Holdings.

**What's the best part of your job?** Variety. Continually looking at different businesses and having to quickly get to grips with what's key to the success of that particular business. And then at the other end of the spectrum, staying with an investment through its



lifecycle, from acquisition, through ownership and to exit.

**What are the key skills needed to do your job?** An ability to build relationships quickly with people and to adapt to different situations; an ability to prioritise and work out what really matters to each particular client; to lead and be part of a team - no one is able to do transactions singlehandedly; a desire to improve, to be creative, self-reflective and to challenge yourself and your team; and lots of hard work.