

## Withers Promotes Four to Partner

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**CATEGORY:**  
[FIRM NEWS](#)

**London, 1 July:** Withers, the international law firm, has today announced the promotion of four lawyers to partnership. Withers now has 109 partners, spread across the firm's eight offices in Europe, the US, the Caribbean and the Far East.

In London, Madalina Dumitrescu and Andrew Wass both become partners in the Litigation practice group and Claire Blakemore becomes a partner in the London Family team. In New Haven, Edward Vergara has been promoted to partner in the Wealth Planning Group.

These promotions come just weeks after the firm announced a significant expansion to its service range in the British Virgin Islands and the hire of Jon Wall as a partner in the jurisdiction. Withers also recently transferred partner Todd Beutler and associate Laurence Ho to the firm's burgeoning Hong Kong office, whilst in late 2009, the firm added six lawyers from Eversheds to its Milan office.

Commenting, Withers Managing Director Margaret Robertson said:  
'We are delighted to welcome Madalina, Edward, Claire and Andrew to the partnership.'

"Make no mistake, these are very talented lawyers who are helping to grow our business in emerging markets such as Latin America and Eastern Europe, as well as, reinforcing our market leading reputation for Family advice and growing our Financial Services practice."

### **Further information on the new partners:**

**Claire Blakemore** joined Withers in 2003 and is based in London. She deals with a wide range of family work including divorce, financial claims, cohabitation issues and children disputes. Many of her cases have complex financial arrangements often involving international forum disputes, offshore assets and trusts. She also advises on and drafts pre-nuptial / pre-civil partnership agreements and cohabitation agreements. She recently acted for the husband in *M v M* 2010 which was described as a case de nos jours as it dealt with cross-claims by the parties where the value of the assets had plummeted because of the global financial crisis. A separate judgment in the case dealt with costs orders in family cases for the first time since the rules were changed in 2006.

**Madalina Dumitrescu** has a strong litigation and arbitration international practice specialising in energy and general commercial disputes. Since she joined Withers, Madalina's practice has also focused on a wide range of issues including advising high net-worth individuals, international families and their businesses on suitable structures and estate planning. Madalina is also currently acting for individuals, on reputation management and art issues. Madalina has advised foreign investors on various privatisation and inward investment matters. She has also advised employers on complex international employment matters.

**Edward (Ed) Vergara** is based in Withers' New Haven office and works primarily with multi-national families making domestic and cross-border succession planning decisions. In addition to providing domestic and international estate planning advice, Ed has extensive experience advising with respect to investment or migration into or out of the United States. He has particular expertise advising those families and individuals whose affairs include a Latin American element and is a fluent Spanish speaker. Ed also advises U.S. beneficiaries of foreign trusts and foundations, as well as fiduciaries managing structures for the benefit of U.S. persons.

**Andrew Wass** is a commercial litigator with a particular interest in dispute resolution in the financial services arena. Prior to joining Withers in 2002, Andrew, who was called to the Bar in 1986, worked in the financial markets. He now uses his experience as a former market participant to provide his clients with unique legal insights on the financial markets and their specialist products. Andrew's other contentious experience includes professional negligence claims and the sport, civil fraud and defamation sectors. Andrew qualified as a CEDR Mediator in 2006 and has mediated in numerous commercial disputes.

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