

Linklaters lawyer moves to “spin-off” firm

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Kristopher Kerstetter, an associate in Linklaters’ London office, has joined English disputes boutique Mark Humphries - known as MHL.

Kerstetter, who is dual qualified in the US and England and Wales, began his new role as one of three directors at MHL on 1 March. He says he is looking forward to working “without the limitations of conflicts and pricing” that inevitably comes with being part of a large international firm.



Kris Kerstetter

His new firm was founded by ex-Linklaters partner **Mark Humphries** in Bristol in 2009, and the London office will open in May. Kerstetter says he values enormously his relationship with Linklaters and hopes that, having joined a “Linklaters spin-off,” he will benefit from referrals from his old firm.

Albert Jan van den Berg, a name partner at Hanotiau & van den Berg in Brussels, has seen Kerstetter successfully argue a case with Mark Humphries in the past and describes him as a “very competent litigator who is always well prepared.”

Kerstetter practises both commercial and investment arbitration, and his career highlights include leading a team that defended the Czech Republic in an arbitration under UNCITRAL rules in London and representing a subsidiary of international media group Pearson in an ICC arbitration in Switzerland. He also acted for UK mobile phone content company Monsternob, in multiple proceedings in Hong Kong and the Philippines (under the rules of the ICC Court of Arbitration and the Philippines Dispute Resolution Centre) as well as litigation elsewhere.

Daniel Arteaga, corporate legal director at Madrid-based Zed (the parent company of Monsternob), tells GAR that Kerstetter is a “very business-oriented” lawyer who has “powerful negotiation abilities”. He adds that he would “definitely” instruct him again.

Before joining Linklaters’ New York office in 2003, Kerstetter was a law clerk for the US Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. He relocated to London after two years and was seconded to the LCIA as acting deputy registrar in 2007 for six months.

Michael Bennett, head of Linklater’s litigation and arbitration department in London, comments: “Kris leaves us with our very best wishes for his future in Mark’s firm.”