

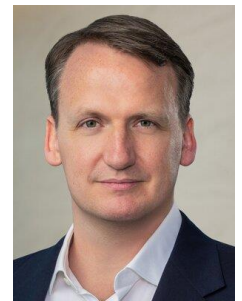
MoFo Hires Ashurst Tech M&A Co-Head As AI Demand Grows

By **Megan Norcott**

Law360, London (October 20, 2026, 12:38 PM BST) -- Morrison Foerster LLP has hired the former global co-head of the technology mergers and acquisitions group at Ashurst Perkins Coie as the firm responds to growing demand for expertise in artificial intelligence.

Chris Grey joined Morrison Foerster on Oct. 1 as partner and U.K. tech sector lead after nearly three years at Ashurst, which completed its merger with Perkins Coie in June.

Grey, whose practice focuses on financial technology, AI and digital infrastructure, told Law360 that he was drawn to Morrison Foerster because of its innovative tech practice.



Chris Grey

"It's just great to have everyone here speaking the same language," he said. He added that each department at the firm inherently understood "the details of tech."

The Australian lawyer, who is qualified in his native country, France, England and Wales, began his career in 2008 as a trainee solicitor at Clifford Chance LLP in London and later moved to the firm's M&A practice in Paris.

It was there he reignited his childhood fascination with science and engineering, advising listed companies on digital infrastructure deals. Grey also managed fiber broadband rollouts across France and worked on investments in tech startups.

He said it was "fantastic to work with the founders who were just really passionate about what they were doing. And what they were doing was giving you, as a lawyer, a glimpse into where the world and technology was heading in five years time. It was always very exciting to be part of those transactions."

Grey said he returned to the U.K. in 2021 because of the strength of the British tech market.

He joined Ashurst two years later as global co-head of tech M&A and global co-lead of the firm's technology sector. He led on Google's investment in May in video game developer Fenris Creations. Under another transaction advised by Ashurst — between Google DeepMind and Fenris — announced in May, the companies will evaluate and train new AI models using an offline version of role-playing game Eve Online, according to the video game developer.

Grey has built a career on similar types of emerging technology deals, drawing on expertise across

practice areas to deliver under pressure.

"You often need to move quickly in these situations because, by definition, a lot of this IP, this tech that's very interesting, is very interesting because it's unique," he explained. "So you need to be quite agile because often there'll be a lot of competition for the asset."

The sector has become more fast-paced and globalized only in recent years, according to Grey. He added that technological advancements had begun to outpace the regulatory framework meant to contain them.

He said that the "huge increase in complexity" surrounding tech deals was part of the reason he made the move to Morrison Foerster, which originated in San Francisco and has strong links to Silicon Valley. He described the firm as being at the "forefront" of regulatory export control and foreign direct investment practices which have become essential to navigating the sector.

Expansion of MoFo's M&A team also helped draw Grey from Ashurst. "MoFo's in growth mode, and it's really investing in the U.K.," he said.

Grey is the 10th transactions partner to join Morrison Foerster's London office in the past 18 months, the firm said. Tech M&A partners Mike Pierides and Oliver Bell joined from Morgan Lewis & Bockius LLP in May while Will Holder was hired from Baker McKenzie the same month.

He will work with Pieridis, Bell and Holder as they advise on transactions involving data centers, fintech, cybersecurity and AI-related matters.

Grey's ambitions for the future involve working on some of the most complex transactions in the tech field.

"The U.K. is potentially one of the leaders in quantum computing and AI spaces," he said. "So, I'd love to be part of connecting U.K. talent and ingenuity to the broader global market through more of these big ticket transactions."

--Editing by Joe Millis.