

Cumberland Ellis LLP and Wedlake Bell LLP intend to Create New Top 100 Law Firm.

Cumberland Ellis LLP and Wedlake Bell LLP have concluded Heads of Terms for a merger which will create a new top 100 UK law firm by turnover.

It is intended that the merger will take effect from 1st April this year.

The two long-established London practices – each can trace its origins back to the 1700s – intend to trade as Wedlake Bell.

“This is a very exciting opportunity for us, one which opens up enormous potential for growth at a time of historic change in legal business,” said Neil Turner, Senior Partner of Cumberland Ellis. “We are a cultural fit and a merger will allow us to develop and grow even further for the benefit of clients.”

“Our firms complement each other” said Martin Arnold, Senior Partner of Wedlake Bell. “We have well-respected lawyers providing a full range of high quality legal advice and a shared belief in a dynamic, practical approach to how we work. It’s a very exciting moment and we are looking forward to April.”

“The proposed merger will mean an enhanced offering and more depth in our core business areas where we are both already strong, notably corporate, commercial, commercial property, employment, residential property, private client and family. In addition, it will give existing Cumberland Ellis clients access to Wedlake Bell’s more extensive expertise in construction, IP, banking, corporate tax and pensions. We believe this is the best way of continuing to meet our own high standards and those of our clients.”

The proposed merger, which has been under discussion since last May, will see all staff based in Wedlake Bell’s offices in Bedford Row off Gray’s Inn Gardens in central London.

The two firms were advised during the merger process by ABS Advisory.

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