

CLYDE & CO AND BLM AGREE MERGER

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Clyde & Co and UK-headquartered law firm BLM have agreed to merge



Global law firm Clyde & Co and UK-headquartered law firm BLM have agreed to a merger, following a vote in favour by partners at both firms. The combination will go live in July 2022. The combined entity will be known as Clyde & Co and together will have a global revenue of over £700m per annum, a headcount of over 5,000, with offices in over 60 cities worldwide.

BLM is a UK and Ireland law firm focused on insurance risk and commercial law with a particular strength in casualty, personal injury, healthcare and professional liability. Clyde & Co is a global law

firm, specialising in the sectors that underpin global trade and commercial activity, namely: insurance, infrastructure, aviation, energy, marine, and natural resources.

BLM will become part of Clyde & Co's market-leading global insurance practice which provides the highest quality advisory and dispute resolution services to insurers and their clients, including almost every top 20 insurer in the UK, and leading re/insurers globally.

The majority of its lawyers will join its Casualty insurance practice, with other sizable groups joining professional liability, healthcare and business advisory teams.

Carolena Gordon (pictured left), Clyde & Co's senior partner, said: "We are delighted the merger has secured approval from both sets of partners. At Clyde & Co we are always focused on growing and developing our offering for the good of our clients and our people and this merger does exactly that. BLM has highly talented people and outstanding client relationships and we are excited by the potential of this combination."

Matthew Harrington (pictured right), BLM senior partner, said: "We are looking forward to the opportunities combining both firms will bring for our people and our clients. This merger is one of aligned approaches and values, offering huge benefits to our clients in the areas that matter most. Combining our expertise will strengthen our market offering in the UK casualty, healthcare, and professional liability space, with true operational excellence and the agility to respond rapidly to the changing needs of the market."

Matthew Kelsall, Clyde & Co's CEO, said: "Our strategic objective as a firm is to build and maintain leadership positions across our core sectors. This combination bolsters our position as the leading law firm for the insurance sector in the UK by enhancing our ability to offer insurers the depth and breadth of support across business lines and regions they are looking for."

Clyde & Co's merger with BLM would be its biggest combination in terms of revenue and headcount since it merged with Barlow Lyde & Gilbert in November 2011, at the time the largest ever merger of two UK law firms. In the last 18 months it has opened in Vancouver following a merger with SHK Law Corporation, opened in Munich, following the hire of three partners from Norton Rose Fulbright, and formed an association with Kangwana & Co in Nairobi, Kenya.