

King & Spalding to open in Moscow with oil and gas lateral

Tom Hoskyns

Friday, 13th May 2011

King & Spalding will open its doors in Moscow later this month following the recruitment of a local oil and gas partner from White & Case.

Jennifer Josefson, 37, headed up White & Case's oil and gas practice for the CEE and CIS regions before switching firms on Monday.

Houston-born Josefson describes being part of the new office, which is scheduled to open on 23 May, as "a great new adventure."

She will initially be King & Spalding's only energy specialist based in the Russian capital, although she anticipates "three to five lawyers" with oil and gas experience will be joining her there within a year.



In addition to Josefson, King & Spalding has hired three other non-energy partners from Hogan Lovells to work on real estate, telecoms and media matters.

During her nine-year career at White & Case, Josefson says she has enjoyed a "steady diet" of work in the CIS.

She recently advised on various LNG and gas to power projects, which she says are "key" for the industry in the long term, and also used to act on behalf of one of Russia's biggest oil companies – before it was dissolved – on a number of its projects in the region.

She says she is now looking forward to taking on "the more global aspects of energy work."

An active member of the AIPN, she founded the regional chapter for the CIS in 2005 and is currently the organisation's vice president of membership.

She notes that she has known Philip Weems, the co-head of King and Spalding's global energy practice, "for many years", having sat on the board of the AIPN during Weems' term as president.

Josefson joined White & Case in Moscow in 2002, and became a local partner four years later.

GER

She majored in Russian at university and jokes that there was not a great deal she could do with that degree to repay her college loans, “so I went on to law school [at the University of Texas], and putting Russia and Houston together, and you clearly come up with oil!”

Garry Pegg, King & Spalding’s co-managing partner in London who has worked extensively in Russia, said: “The team we have created is of the highest quality and a great fit personally and professionally. It also enhances our ability to serve clients in and from London and across all legal disciplines and market sectors, including energy and life sciences.”

Hermann Schmitt, executive partner of White & Case’s Moscow office, said in a statement: ‘We wish Jennifer all the best,’ adding that the firm continues to maintain a strong central and eastern Europe energy and utilities practice, co-led by partners Igor Ostapets in Moscow and Ivo Barta in Bratislava and Prague.