

Cotty and Marchisio bolster merger with Eversheds employment chief



French boutiques Cotty & Associés and Marchisio & Associés have merged and added the expertise of Eversheds' head of employment to launch new firm Cotty Vivant Marchisio & Lauzeral.

Thierry Cotty and Philippe Lauzeral, the founding partners of Cotty & Associés, are teaming up with Fabrice Marchisio, who launched his own practice at the beginning of 2003.

Former Eversheds partner Antoine Vivant joins them. Vivant launched and then managed Eversheds' employment practice in Paris.

"I wanted to take part in the creation of a firm that has the ambition of being a pre-eminent player," explained Vivant. "Joining a small team of young and experienced lawyers in corporate and M&A was the most efficient option to build on numerous business opportunities and develop a recognised practice."

The firm launches with four partners and eight associates and is aiming to grow to between 30 and 35 lawyers in two to three years.

Cotty and Lauzeral launched Cotty & Associés in 1997. Lauzeral specialises in commercial litigation and arbitration, while Cotty advises on securities and mergers and acquisitions.

Cotty & Associés gatecrashed Thomson Financial's top 20 legal advisers in France for the first six months of 2003, after Cotty advised oil company Lesieur on a \$180m (£105.6m) acquisition.

PT¹ <http://www.thelawyer.com/cgi-bin/item.cgi?id=107785&d=11&h=24&f=46>