

## Curtis sends Preziosi to lead London practice



Tom Jones  
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Curtis Mallet-Prevost Colt & Mosle partner **Ben Preziosi** is relocating from New York to head the firm's international arbitration practice in London. Speaking to GAR on his way to the airport, Preziosi said he was "looking forward to the challenge".

"One of the keys to the success of our international arbitration group is that it is fully integrated across offices," he says. "I see my assignment as strengthening the London practice in close coordination with the worldwide practice and taking advantage of London's proximity to markets that are important to the firm."

The head of international arbitration at Curtis, **George Kahale III**, says: "Ben is one of the stars of our practice. He is exactly the right person for the job".

A graduate of Harvard Law School and Princeton University, Preziosi joined Curtis in 1982 –and has been a partner in the litigation and arbitration departments since 1991. Originally focused primarily on civil and criminal cases involving complex financial, accounting and regulatory matters, he has focused more on international arbitration in recent times.

Alongside Kahale, Preziosi is part of the Curtis team representing Venezuela and its state-owned entities in a number of cases filed by ConocoPhillips and ExxonMobil over the 2007 expropriation of their assets in the Orinoco Belt.

Recently, Preziosi and the Curtis team convinced an ICSID annulment committee to chop US\$1.41 billion from an award won by ExxonMobil against Venezuela – one of the largest revisions to an award in ICSID's history.

Preziosi also previously helped Ghana to defeat a US\$200 million ICC claim over a terminated agreement to exploit a gold mine. He has acted as lead counsel for Venezuela, Kazakhstan and Ghana on other matters involving the oil and gas industry, telecommunications, mining and taxation matters.

In January, the firm promoted a trio of lawyers with experience of defending states and state-run companies in commercial and investment treaty cases. **Dori Yoldi** became a partner in Geneva, while New York-based **Robert Garcia** and **Bahar Charyyeva** in Turkmenistan's capital Ashgabat were promoted to counsel.

Preziosi will start work in London on 10 April.