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Annie Herdman, Paul Weiss

If there's one name that redefined what it meant to be a prolific dealmaker in 2024, it's Annie Herdman. In April 2024 she launched Paul Weiss's European practice and in just six months she transformed it into a powerhouse.

Herdman was personally selected by Paul Weiss big beasts Neel Sachdev and Roger Johnson to lead the US firm's London Antitrust and FDI practice. Under her leadership, the team has grown to over 30 lawyers across London and Brussels, and has managed an extraordinary 150+ matters for 50+ clients.

In the past six months, she has spearheaded landmark regulatory work, including Apollo's \$11bn joint venture with Intel, its \$6.3bn acquisitions of IGT Gaming and Everi Holdings, and its £2.7bn acquisition of Evri. She guided EP Corporate Group through its headline-grabbing £3.5bn takeover of The Royal Mail Group, Enstar Group's \$5.1bn sale to Sixth Street and KPS's €3.6bn sale of Eviosys to Sonoco Products Company, not to mention her pivotal role in deals like TDR's acquisition of Acqua & Sapone, TPG's €6.7bn investment in Techem and its €3.9bn acquisition of Aareon, among others.

In just six months, Herdman didn't just make waves — she turned global dealmaking into her personal masterclass.