

# Belt up

EDWARD FENNELL



**T**he Donald was not the only American who blew into town on Monday. Also arriving with a flourish was **Brinton Scott**, the managing partner of **Winston & Strawn**'s Shanghai office. He took centre stage at the firm's gig entitled "Bringing it all Back Home — Asia and the City of London". Hosted by the Law Society, the conference was backed by the American Bar Association, the Institute of Directors and what is called the "in-house community" of employed corporate lawyers from around the world. Scott is an old China hand, who arrived in the country just after the Tiananmen Square massacre 30 years ago. What does he make of Beijing's "[belt and road](#)" wheeze? While there are attempts to boost Chinese law, he said, English law is still going to be the principal vehicle for dispute settlement over deals struck as part of the project. "English law is tried and tested — it gives you certainty," Scott said. "It enjoys people's trust, and securing trust is the critical factor in these transactions."

## Pregnant pause

The long-term effect of Me Too remains to be seen, but according to **GQ | Littler**, a US employment law firm, it has heightened awareness of discrimination relating to pregnancy and the action needed to remedy it. Last year the number of tribunal cases in the UK concerning women who said they were discriminated against due to pregnancy rose 56 per cent to 1,360. The increase in claims is almost three times greater than the overall figure for employment cases. "Me Too has created a sense of determination to no longer accept discrimination in the workplace that is spreading beyond the initial roots of the movement," says Caroline Baker of GQ | Littler. "It is important that employers keep workplace policies up to date as a failure to do so could lead to costly claims."

## Artist at work

**Pinsent Masons** has appointed **Susan Stockwell** as its new [artist in residence](#), which is not a post that many of its competitors can boast. She is the fifth in the firm's history and is an award-winner with a strong record of public commissions for the Royal Shakespeare Company, the National Army Museum, the London Transport Museum and the like. Stockwell has work in the Victoria and Albert Museum and the Yale Centre for British Art, and has exhibited at Tate Modern and Manchester City Art Gallery. During her year with the firm, Stockwell will work at its London office creating works for display throughout the building and on a collaborative piece with staff.