KIRKLAND & ELLIS BAY AREA

Private Equity Fellowship Program

Our Private Equity Fellowship Program (PEF) provides a rare opportunity for law students to gain substantive experience working with private equity clients at one of the world's top law firms. Students who are selected to be fellows will join Kirkland's 2028 Summer Associate Program in the San Francisco office. Highlights of the program include specialized, small-group training sessions focused on private equity M&A, substantive involvement in live deals and shadowing of partners.

Fellows will enjoy engaging directly with our private equity clients through various networking opportunities. In addition, certain fellows may have the opportunity to gain exposure to the business side of private equity by working in-house with select clients.

ELIGIBLE CANDIDATES

Students with a keen, demonstrable interest in private equity (for example, relevant postgraduate professional experience) may apply.

JD/MBA Program: Students who are enrolled or planning to enroll in a three- or four-year JD/MBA program are eligible to apply for this track. While the PEF is intended for the last summer of a candidate's joint-degree program, exceptions will be made for candidates willing to commit to two consecutive summer associateships with Kirkland.

JD-only Program: While a JD/MBA is preferred, JD students may qualify for the fellowship by completing as many business electives as permitted outside the law school curriculum from the following subject areas: accounting, business statistics, corporate finance, microeconomics and tax. Fellows will be assigned a designated mentor during the summer and 3L year to provide guidance on school-specific business curriculum and the private equity career path.

SIGNING BONUS

Fellows with a JD/MBA degree path will receive Kirkland's $25,000 JD/MBA signing bonus as well as $50,000 to help defray their MBA tuition costs. Fellows with a JD-only degree path will receive a bonus of $25,000.

Signing bonuses and stipends will be paid after fellows graduate and become full-time associates at the Firm.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Visit Kirkland.com/careers to apply to our 2028 Summer Bay Area Private Equity Fellowship Program. Please submit the following materials:

- Resume
- Transcripts
- A personal statement up to 1,000 words highlighting your interest in private equity, relevant experience and the value you would contribute if selected.
- JD-only candidates should also submit their proposed list of business elective subjects/coursework.

QUESTIONS?

Please contact BA_Atty_Recruiting@kirkland.com.

Chambers AND PARTNERS

USA Private Equity Law Firm of the Year
Chambers & Partners, 2026

Leading U.S. Private Equity Firm
Chambers USA, 2007–2026

Leading Global-wide Private Equity Firm
Chambers Global, 2008–2026

Best Lawyers®
LINKING LAWYERS AND CLIENTS WORLDWIDE

Tier 1 Leveraged Buyouts and Private Equity Law
Best Lawyers®, 2011–2026

IFLR1000

Tier 1 U.S. Private Equity
IFLR1000, 2005–2025

Legal500

Tier 1 Private Equity: Buyouts
The Legal 500 U.S., 2009–2026

KIRKLAND & ELLIS