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2015 Rising Star

David Rosenberg

Kirkland & Ellis LLP partner David A. Rosenberg guides top real estate investors in major transactions, from billionaire investor Sam Zell's takeover of CommonWealth REIT to Caesar's Entertainment Operating Co.'s bankruptcy restructuring, landing him a spot on *Law360's* list of the top real estate attorneys under 40.

The 34-year-old attorney joined the ranks of the Rising Stars after another successful year at Kirkland & Ellis's Chicago office, working with private equity firms, sponsors, operators hedge funds, private and public real estate investment trusts and other investors in acquisitions and dispositions, venture formations and mortgage loans.

"What I like about our real estate practice is that it has a tremendous variety of high-dollar-amount, complicated transactions that require expertise in multiple practice areas, as well as a steady stream of pure real estate acquisitions, joint ventures and financings," Rosenberg said.

Rosenberg joined Kirkland & Ellis as an associate in August 2011 after six years at Katten Muchin Rosenman

LLP following his graduation from Northwestern University School of Law. He was quickly promoted to partner less than two months after his arrival at Kirkland & Ellis, along with the rest of his class.

"The firm as a whole really values its more junior lawyers. There's a great deal of opportunity for junior lawyers to take the lead on transactions and get great experience. It's an ideal place to practice and to get better at practicing," Rosenberg said.

This past year, Rosenberg served as one of two lead real estate partners who represented billionaire investor Sam Zell's Equity Group Investments, along with corporate, litigation and tax partners from the firm, in its cooperation with activist investors Corvex Management and Related

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Fund Management to replace the board of directors of Commonwealth REIT.

"We were fortunate to have the opportunity to work alongside a talented and energetic executive

team on all aspects of the transformation of the company,” Rosenberg said. “To achieve a smooth transition from top to bottom, we were careful to analyze issues, keeping in mind both the big picture and the fine points.”

His work with Sam Zell on the transaction included negotiating a comprehensive transition agreement with the outgoing management team and a master property agreement with a third-party manager for the 43-million-square-foot property portfolio, in addition to counseling the parties through the transition process.

“It was a very fast-moving transaction with a number of twists and turns, which required us to think on our feet strategically,” he said.

Rosenberg also serves as one of the lead real estate partners in Caesar’s Entertainment Operating Co.’s \$18 billion Chapter 11 bankruptcy restructuring, negotiating terms for a proposed master lease in which a new REIT would lease substantially all of the company’s assets to the existing operating company.

Even though he’s based in Chicago, working with Kirkland & Ellis allows Rosenberg to reach a wide array of clients across the country on deals with reaches beyond his region.

“Kirkland’s platform is really a national platform, and so our clients are doing transactions across the country with no particular focus on the Midwest,” Rosenberg said.

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