



LAW360

2016 Rising Star

Daniel Lavon-Krein

Daniel Lavon-Krein of Kirkland & Ellis LLP has championed a series of large private equity fund formations as well as complex minority investments in existing firms, regularly advising firms like Vista Equity and Carlyle, landing him on *Law360's* Rising Stars list of top attorneys under 40.

Lavon-Krein first cut his teeth as an attorney at Testa Hurwitz & Thibault LLP. Although the firm later dissolved, it was during those early months in Boston that he first fell in love with fund formation, a practice he saw not only as intellectually stimulating but also suitable for an ambitious young lawyer.

"I learned very quickly how exciting the practice is," he said. "It's intellectually very rigorous. It is a practice where you can shine very early on."

When Testa Hurwitz fell apart in 2005, Lavon-Krein landed at Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP for a handful of years before making the switch to Kirkland & Ellis in 2011.

Lavon-Krein, 38, has seen his love of intellectual challenges pay off over the years, as he regularly steers complex tasks like back-to-back

multibillion-dollar fund formations and minority investments in established private equity firms.

He has been at the helm of some of the largest funds formed around the world, with experience in sectors including real estate, energy, infrastructure, secondary and financial services funds.

Lavon-Krein, who is fluent in German and French, showcased his strength in the private equity arena with his work on a series of fund formations for Vista Equity Partners. He helped in the formation and fundraising phases of Vista Equity's fifth flagship fund, which raised \$5.77 billion, and Vista Equity's first credit-focused fund, which raised \$200 million.

Both funds closed in October 2014, a year after Lavon-Krein helped the private equity firm form and fundraise for its second foundation fund for

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small- and mid-cap software entities, which raised \$1.1 billion by its October 2013 close.

"To maneuver the markets at a period when fundraising was still quite challenging and trying to get both of these funds done quickly and effectively was definitely a challenge," Lavon-Krein said.

Although Lavon-Krein played a pivotal role in helping those funds get off the ground, the ability to bring all three to a successful close highlights Kirkland's depth of resources, he said.

“It’s very rare in my opinion for private fund sponsor law firms to have the ability and privilege and the internal resources to be able to do that in a successive period,” Lavon-Krein said.

Lavon-Krein’s work with Vista Equity is just one sample of the work he has done throughout his career. The private equity attorney also led The Carlyle Group through multiple fund formations, a \$2.3 billion U.S. real estate fund and a \$2 billion pan-Asian, excluding Japan, buyout fund.

He has also helped create Landmark Partners’ Landmark Equity Partners XV. The secondaries fund — the firm’s 15th fund — was oversubscribed and hit its hard cap of \$3.25 billion in December 2014. Lavon-Krein, who has a bachelor’s degree from the University of Toronto and a law degree from McGill University, was again tapped by Landmark the following year to guide the formation of its \$1.6 billion real estate fund.

Aside from Vista Equity, Carlyle and Landmark Partners, Lavon-Krein has been at the helm of BTG Pactual’s global partnership investing fund, Court Square Capital’s \$2.2 billion fund, Lexington Capital Partners’ \$7 billion fund and First Reserve’s \$9 billion energy fund, among others.

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Lavon-Krein’s practice also includes advising on investments made by the funds he has helped to form as well as steering minority investments in private equity firms. In October, for example, he stood by Warburg Pincus as the private equity firm sold a 5 percent stake to French billionaire Marc Ladreit de Lacharriere.

As a further testament to Lavon-Krein’s acumen for the practice area, he has also brought in more clients than any other private funds partner since joining Kirkland five years ago.

While Lavon-Krein has a penchant for picking up on clients’ issues, what really stands out is his innate ability to foster deep relationships with the top executives at well-known private equity firms, Andrew Wright, a fellow Kirkland partner, said.

“He has a keen ear for understanding the clients’ key issues, but it’s more than that. He also knows how to

navigate those issues and achieve practical solutions for his clients,” said Wright, who has worked with Lavon-Krein for more than a decade. “He really has a magnetic personality and clients quickly develop a deep and lasting bond with him as an adviser.”

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