



2019 RISING STAR

David Klein

Kirkland & Ellis LLP's David Klein has been on both sides of billion-dollar corporate takeover efforts, including Qualcomm's maneuvers to dodge Broadcom's \$117 billion offer, earning him a spot among the mergers and acquisitions attorneys under age 40 honored by *Law360* as Rising Stars.

The biggest deal of his career:

While Klein said he's "had the good fortune of being involved in a lot of exciting and high-profile matters," he touted his work defending California-based Qualcomm in a hostile takeover fight with chipmaker Broadcom as a particular highlight of his career.

"That was an incredibly interesting deal because Qualcomm had made very large investments in 5G and it was on the cusp of starting to receive payouts from those investments and this was an opportunistic attempt by Broadcom to get in the 5G space," he said.

The deal, which Klein said had "a slew of global, political ramifications," was eventually blocked by President Donald

Trump on national security grounds. Klein said Trump's decision was the first time it had happened on such a scale before.

"From a corporate M&A lawyer's perspective, it was the dream situation where it was fascinating and it culminated in victory for our client," he said.

His proudest moment:

As for his proudest moment, Klein — who was at Paul Weiss Rifkind Wharton & Garrison LLP when he was nominated as a Rising Star — told *Law360* he was actually on the other side of a takeover offer representing Exor SpA, the European investment firm controlled by Italy's Agnelli family, in its eventually successful \$6.9 billion bid for PartnerRe Ltd.

"That was a really long and hard-fought battle to win over PartnerRe shareholders," he said. "It went on for several months. [It's] another matter that really had a lot of intricacies to it and I believe it's the only successful hostile deal in Bermuda's M&A history, so that was sort of the icing on the cake."

Exor's offer came after PartnerRe previously announced plans to merge with fellow reinsurer

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Axis Capital Holdings Ltd., which were eventually abandoned in favor of Exor's offer.

"Through a combination of strategy, grit and economics, we were able to sneak out a victory," he said.

What motivates him:

In an ever-changing, fast-paced deal landscape, Klein told *Law360* that new challenges he is faced with every day keeps him coming back to his practice.

"I like to think of myself as someone who's tasked with coming up with creative solutions to complicated issues," Klein said. "And then really guiding clients through what are oftentimes the most significant, transformative moments in their company's history and being there to help achieve those commercial

objectives, to put that all together is what helps me get up in the morning and continue loving what I do."

How M&A and the legal industry will change in the next 10 years:

As technology continues to play a role in business, the economy and the world at large, Klein said the increasing role of that technology in deals and the legal sector will be something to watch.

"I definitely think the advent of artificial intelligence is going to play a bigger role in law, including in M&A deals," he said. "The most interesting thing will be to see how practitioners embrace technology, especially AI, and I hope it becomes a resource that improves what we do and is more beneficial to clients."

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