

Suzannah Hacking



Suzannah Hacking led the Kirkland & Ellis LLP team that advised private equity shop Berkshire Partners as it secured its largest fund ever, with \$7.8 billion in investor commitments, earning her a spot among the fund formation attorneys under age 40 honored by Law360 as Rising Stars.

Her most significant deal:

Hacking headed the team that assisted Boston-based Berkshire last October as its 11th fund was “meaningfully oversubscribed,” meaning that it secured more than its initial target. It was the largest fund for Berkshire since it kicked off in 1986, she said.

“I see it as a privilege and an honor to be entrusted with one of our clients’ most valued relationships, and that would be with their investors.”

Hacking believes the transaction was significant as it was emblematic of her client’s experience in identifying attractive business opportunities and in guiding its portfolio companies through their expansion phases.

“It was the dedication of the Berkshire team in order to have very successful relationships with their investors that drove this conclusion,” she said.

Another notable deal:

Hacking also led the team that advised Cortec Group Management Services LLC as it conducted \$3.2 billion in fundraising for its eighth institutional private equity fund. Cortec Group Fund VIII in February 2024 was also meaningfully oversubscribed, coming in beyond its \$2.5 billion target and its \$3 billion hard cap.

“Not only did we exceed the target of the fundraise, we actually exceeded the original hard cap, with investor approval,” Hacking said. “It was very satisfying to be able to see the growth of the fund size.”

What motivates her:

As someone who can work with clients for years on a particular matter, sometimes on more than one deal at a time, Hacking said she believes it’s beneficial for her to not simply think of herself as a “service provider” for those she advises, but rather as a “strategic partner.”

Likening it to a long-term relationship, she said achieving a good fundraise or a good closing that may be part of a fundraise leads her to feel a true sense of personal and professional satisfaction.

“What motivates me is my client’s success,” Hacking said. “We are motivated for them to succeed because we have this relationship with them.”

Why she’s a fund formation attorney:

Hacking said she enjoys building longstanding and fulfilling relationships with people. To her, fundraising is the epitome of such an endeavor.

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How she thinks her practice will change in 10 years:

Hacking foresees a greater consolidation of private equity

managers, more products that integrate public and private markets, and longer holds for certain portfolio companies and certain assets, which means that more liquidity solutions will need to be identified, she said.

“The private equity market is really in flux right now; there are a lot of moving pieces,” she said.

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