

LEADERS OF INFLUENCE: Private Equity, Investors & Advisors



THE MERCURIAL ECONOMIC CLIMATE HAS FORCED COMPANIES TO MAKE CHANGES TO THE WAY THEY DO BUSINESS and to the way they approach their fiscal needs. The role that private equity investors and advisors play in terms of the business world overall has perhaps never been more important.

Los Angeles is an area that has an abundance of leaders of influence who make a significant impact in the private equity space.

For this issue, we've reviewed the careers of many of the most notable private equity related professionals in the region and have selected some of the very best to be showcased here. Listed alphabetically, you'll find some of Los Angeles' thought leaders on the subject, along with information about their careers and specialties.

Congratulations to each of the outstanding professionals who made this list and thank you for your contributions to the local business community's success.

Methodology: The professionals featured in these pages did not pay to be included. Their profiles were drawn from nomination materials submitted to the Los Angeles Business Journal. Those selected for inclusion were reviewed by the editorial department. The professionals were chosen based on a demonstration of impact made on the profession and on the Los Angeles community.

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SALMAN ALI
Managing Director
CBIZ

Salman Ali is a managing director in the Los Angeles office of CBIZ and serves as the firm’s regional leader of alternative investments & private equity on the West Coast. He joined CBIZ through its merger with Marcum LLP and has been instrumental in leading the integration and expansion of the firm’s presence in the private equity and alternative investments space. Ali’s leadership has ensured a seamless integration of Marcum’s deep industry expertise into the broader CBIZ platform.

Ali’s portfolio includes a wide range of fund structures – including private equity, venture capital, hedge funds, real estate and digital asset funds. He has recently been at the forefront and deepened his expertise in the digital asset space, helping fund managers confidently navigate the rapidly-evolving market.



KATHERINE BAUDISTEL
Partner
Goodwin

A Santa Monica-based partner in Goodwin’s Private Equity group, Katherine Baudistel has been a driving force behind the growth and development of the firm’s Private Equity practice on the West Coast since joining the firm in 2018. Her work has helped the office expand from a small team of lawyers to nearly 120 legal professionals today.

A versatile advisor, Baudistel represents both strategic and private equity clients in structuring, negotiating and documenting a wide array of transactions, with a primary focus on private M&A. She is known for working with savvy investors and groundbreaking companies throughout their growth. The impact of her work has been felt across a range of industries, such as software and technology, e-commerce, consumer and retail, healthcare and financial services.



BENJAMIN BEER
Partner, Assurance
CohnReznick

Assurance partner Benjamin Beer is the lead audit partner for the CohnReznick Los Angeles office’s alternative investment group, providing services to direct lending and private credit funds, real estate funds, and private equity. He is adept at building relationships, developing business opportunities and providing solutions to asset managers on complex financial reporting issues. Beer’s diversified audit client base ranges from emerging managers to institutional asset managers with over \$30 billion in AUM.

Beer is an active member in CalALTs, previously serving as the co-chair of the real estate special interest group. He is closely involved with We Benefit Children, a charitable organization helping at-risk children in LA, and The Guardians of Los Angeles, a nonprofit providing financial support to LA Jewish Health.



CANDICE CHO
Co-Partner in Charge, Century City and Los Angeles Offices
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP

Candice Choh, co-partner in charge of the Century City and Los Angeles offices of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, is a highly talented, impactful and in-demand deal lawyer. She has a broad-based practice encompassing mergers and acquisitions across diverse industries, as well as private equity transactions such as co-investments, secondary transactions and sponsor investments. Choh regularly counsels private equity sponsors on firm structuring and internal governance matters.

Choh advised Stone Canyon Industries Holdings in its acquisition of K+S Aktiengesellschaft’s Americas salt business, including Morton Salt, for \$3.2 billion. She also recently advised Mauser Packaging Solutions Holding Company and its affiliates on a refinancing and recapitalization of its debt and equity totaling over \$5 billion.



MICHELE CUMPSTON
Partner
Kirkland & Ellis LLP

A fierce advocate for her clients and respected negotiator among her peers, Michele Cumpston is a partner in Kirkland & Ellis’ Los Angeles office. She focuses her practice in the areas of mergers and acquisitions, private equity, and corporate governance. She represents buyers, sellers, private equity funds and their portfolio companies and financial institutions in a variety of complex M&A transactions, including leveraged buyouts, going private transactions, divestitures, restructurings, recapitalizations, minority investments, business combinations and equity incentive arrangements.

Cumpston’s clients are some of the biggest names in private equity, including Francisco Partners, Oaktree Capital Management and H.I.G. Capital. In the past 18 months, she has led or played a significant role in deals with an aggregate value exceeding \$15 billion.



JONATHAN EPSTEIN
Managing Partner; Head of US
BGO

Managing partner and head of the US at BGO, Jonathan Epstein brings more than 35 years of experience in real estate investing, finance and investment banking. Epstein has his grandfather to thank for the deep interest he developed in real estate. It was that early fascination helped lead him up through the ranks to be directly involved in the acquisition, development, financing and management of more than \$70 billion in real estate assets globally.

In his current role, he oversees the company’s US business, co-leads BGO’s US Core Plus investing platform, and spearheads BGO’s global investments in temperature-controlled logistics — a growing and strategically critical sector. His leadership has also been instrumental in growing the company’s footprint in Los Angeles.



RONNIE GUL
Co-CEO; Principal
Mesa West Capital

Ronnie Gul is a principal at Mesa West Capital, and in 2023 he was named co-chief executive officer alongside fellow co-CEO Raphael Fishbach. Under their direction, Mesa West manages a lending portfolio that includes all major property types with loan sizes ranging from \$20 million up to \$400 million.

Gul has been a driving force in Mesa West’s growth from a West coast debt platform to one of the premier US commercial real estate lenders in the country. Prior to being named co-CEO, he co-led the firm’s West Coast and Midwest Origination teams. He worked as a summer intern at Mesa West while in business school at UCLA, joining full-time upon graduating in 2005, and was named a principal in 2010.



JORDAN HAMBURGER
Partner; Co-Leader, Private Equity and M&A Teams
Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton

Jordan Hamburger is a partner and co-leader of both the Private Equity and Mergers and Acquisitions teams for Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton. Over more than 20 years as a successful M&A and private equity attorney, Hamburger has become a go-to transactional advisor to numerous middle-market companies—including private equity firms, corporations, entrepreneurs and other market participants in the aerospace & defense, healthcare and financial services industries.

Within the last year, Hamburger represented private equity firm OpenGate Capital and its portfolio company Sargent and Greenleaf in the sale of Premier Steel Doors and Frames to ASSA ABLOY. He also represented Chimney Rock Equity Partners in its majority investment in 3G Productions.



KIP HAMILTON
Executive Managing Director, Real Estate Funds
SDS Capital Group

As the executive managing director of real estate funds for SDS Capital Group, Kip Hamilton is driven by the goal that every investment he and his firm are involved with should make a lasting and positive impact on the neighborhood where it stands.

Hamilton joined SDS in 2015 and made an immediate impact at the firm, leading the charge to get its first real estate private equity funds capitalized. Hamilton oversees the operations of the American South Real Estate Funds I & II, the SDS Supportive Housing Fund and other real estate initiatives. SDS’ \$1 billion portfolio of impact investments – in six different funds/products – serves as a testament to Hamilton’s dedication and the growing promise of impact investing.

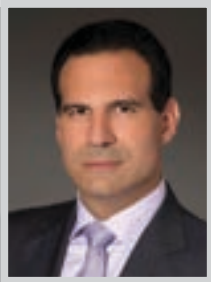


JOE KACZOROWSKI
Partner, Corporate & Financial Services
Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP

Joe Kaczorowski counsels private equity and venture capital funds and their portfolio companies, as well as strategic acquirers and operating companies on mergers and acquisitions, growth equity and venture capital transactions. Before joining Willkie Farr & Gallagher in 2022, he served as senior vice president and assistant general counsel of Platinum Equity.

Kaczorowski recently advised The Chernin Group on its \$40 million minority investment in Audiochuck, the true crime and mystery media company founded by Ashley Flowers and home to the #2 podcast of 2024. He also works as an advisor to Shamrock Capital Partners, an LA-based investment firm with approximately \$6.6 billion of assets under management, which invests exclusively in media, entertainment, and communications through multi-fund strategy centered on private equity investments.

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MEHDI KHODADAD
Partner
Sidley Austin LLP

An exceptional dealmaker and leader of influence in private equity law and business, Mehdi Khodadad may be unparalleled in the variety, creative structuring, complexity and output of deals he executes for clients. He serves as global co-leader of Sidley Austin’s M&A and Private Equity group of more than 650 lawyers and is a member of the firm’s Executive Committee.

During his time at Sidley, Khodadad led some of the industry’s most important private equity deals for long-time client Clearlake Capital Group L.P. and its portfolio companies, who he has advised since 2010. This year, he led Clearlake in its \$7.7 billion take-private acquisition of Dun & Bradstreet Holdings, Inc., a global provider of business decisioning data and analytics.



SWETHA KRISHNAKUMAR
Investments Director
Momentum Capital

In her role as investments director for the Momentum Capital branded family of organizations, Swetha Krishnakumar is helping provide growth-stage businesses – and the communities they serve – with the capital and opportunities they need. Krishnakumar’s team provides businesses with capital that is more flexible than traditional debt and provides more control to owners than traditional venture capital.

Krishnakumar came to Momentum Capital in 2022 after working for seven years as an investment professional at Advantage Capital. Her role there included serving as project manager for the successful first close of a \$200 million fund focused on business owners from underrepresented communities.



DEBORAH La FRANCHI
Founder; CEO
SDS Capital

Deborah La Franchi, founder and CEO of SDS Capital, is using the experiences she’s accumulated in her 24-year career in commercial real estate to make an impact in both the industry and in communities nationwide. Since she founded SDS Capital in 2001, it has been a force in commercial real estate through its ability to launch and manage exceptional impact funds.

Under La Franchi’s guidance, SDS Capital developed a private equity funding model to provide capital for permanent supportive housing developments, enabling quicker project financing and construction turnaround at significantly lower costs. This year, La Franchi launched SDS Impact Debt, a new capital platform projected to finance over \$1 billion in new housing units within the next 18 months.



ARI LANIN
Partner;
Co-Chair, Private Equity Practice Group
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP

Ari Lanin balances a dynamic corporate private equity practice with his leadership role as co-chair of Gibson Dunn’s Private Equity Practice Group, advising some of the most well-known private equity firms in LA. Clients turn to Lanin for his guidance on public and private merger transactions, stock and asset sales, joint ventures, and strategic partnerships.

Lanin recently represented global investment firm Platinum Equity in its \$4.6 billion acquisition with Solenis of Diversey Holdings and \$5.25 billion acquisition of Solenis, a global producer of specialty chemicals used in water-intensive industries, from Clayton, Dubilier & Rice and BASF. Additionally, he led Platinum Equity’s acquisition of Rise Baking Company.



RAY LaSOYA
Partner, Corporate & Financial Services
Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP

Ray LaSoya has diverse experience guiding private equity investors and their portfolio companies, as well as public and private companies, in complex transactions and in their day-to-day legal affairs. He is sought out to advise on an array of major corporate transactions.

LaSoya is a long-time advisor to Shamrock Capital Partners, an investment firm with approximately \$6.6 billion of assets under management. In 2025, he worked with Shamrock in its investment in Neocol, a consulting firm focused on streamlining companies’ go-to-market sales function. LaSoya also recently advised Tru Fragrance & Beauty, a portfolio company of Monogram Capital Partners, on its acquisition of fragrance and wellness brand Lake & Skye.

NMS Capital Group congratulates Trevor M. Saliba for being recognized by the Los Angeles Business Journal as a 2025 Leader of Influence: Private Equity. We join in celebrating his leadership and outstanding contributions to our global organization.

Trevor M. Saliba
Chairman & CEO



NMS Capital Group

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THOMAS LIN

Director; Technology Practice Co-Lead
Objective, Investment Banking
& Valuation

Thomas Lin is an investment banker whose career reflects both technical excellence and visionary leadership in the SaaS and technology sectors. As a director at Objective, Investment Banking & Valuation, Lin brings a strategic, founder-first mindset to every engagement, specializing in advising growth-stage SaaS and technology businesses on transformative sell-side M&A transactions. His ability to deliver outstanding outcomes for clients has distinguished him as one of the industry's top rising stars.

Among Lin's most notable career achievements is his pivotal role in the \$95 million acquisition of FormSwift by Dropbox. As a trusted advisor to FormSwift's leadership, Lin facilitated the transaction and strategically positioned the business as a synergistic fit within Dropbox's ecosystem.



GAURAV MALHOTRA

Partner
Lucas Horsfall

Gaurav Malhotra began his career in accounting after receiving his degree in Economics at UCLA. He has worked in accounting and business services for over 25 years, with extensive experience in mergers & acquisitions, audit and assurance, tax, and international operations.

Malhotra runs the M&A department at Lucas Horsfall, leading clients through every step of the process of selling their businesses. This includes successfully exiting from their businesses on their terms, with the financial rewards and legacy they want and deserve. In the tumultuous world of M&A, Malhotra stands out by proactively addressing the unknown and providing personal guidance to his clients. He also consistently dedicates time to mentoring junior members of the Lucas Horsfall team, helping to facilitate their growth.



DON MELAMED

Partner; Co-Head, Real Assets Group
Proskauer Rose LLP

Don Melamed is a partner in Proskauer Rose's Private Funds Group and co-head of the firm's Real Assets Group. He has extensive experience in the real assets, buyout, growth equity and impact investing sectors. Leveraging his expertise in the asset management space, Melamed also advises executive management teams, operators and money partners on a variety of fundraising and investment initiatives.

The breadth of Melamed's experience is exemplified by his work with DigitalBridge and its portfolio companies, where he has played a key role in some of the most significant and complex transactions in the digital infrastructure space. He has advised the company in numerous platform-focused single-asset funds and GP-led secondaries, with an aggregate value exceeding \$100 billion.

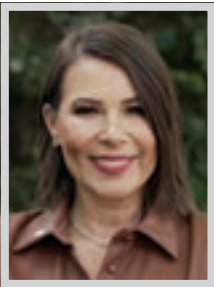


HAMED MESHKI

Partner
Kirkland & Ellis LLP

Hamed Meshki is a senior corporate partner for Kirkland & Ellis LLP, the co-managing partner of the LA office and a leader in the M&A practice. Meshki's practice focuses on highly structured and complex private equity transactions.

In the past 18 months, Meshki has structured, negotiated and completed corporate transactions of approximately \$12 billion in value across a wide variety of industries. He represents several of the world's leading private equity and asset management firms and their portfolio companies, as well as several public and private companies, including Brentwood Associates, CoGenuity Partners LLC, Duration Capital Partners, H.I.G. Capital, Industrial Growth Partners, Knox Lane LP, Lovell Minnick Partners, Oaktree Capital Management, Smash Capital, and Sycamore Partners.



LAUREL MINTZ

General Partner
Fabric Capital Advisors, LLC

Laurel Mintz, JD, MBA, is the CEO and founder of Elevate My Brand, an award-winning marketing agency. She has spent over 16 years helping startups and global brands craft compelling digital strategies that drive engagement and growth. Her client portfolio includes Facebook, Verizon Digital Media Group, PAW Patrol, Geico, and Zendesk.

Mintz's passion for entrepreneurship led her to launch Fabric VC in 2022, a venture capital firm designed to bridge the funding gap for diverse founders. Having worked with over 400 companies in the CPG and technology sectors, she understands the challenges entrepreneurs face in securing capital. Through Fabric VC, she is actively reshaping the venture ecosystem by providing not just funding but mentorship, resources and strategic guidance, ensuring that underrepresented founders thrive.



PARDIS NASSERI

Chairman; CEO
Palm Tree LLC

As the founder and CEO of Palm Tree, Pardis Nasseri has redefined how value is created and delivered in the middle market by building the modern M&A advisor—one that seamlessly integrates investment banking with financial and operational consulting. This differentiated approach has positioned Palm Tree as more than just an advisor or consultant to private equity firms—but a trusted partner, working alongside their teams to drive outcomes and create lasting value.

With over \$30 billion in deal experience as an advisor, operator and investor, Nasseri brings a rare, full-spectrum perspective to M&A. Under his leadership, Palm Tree has expanded from a boutique firm into a nationwide enterprise with offices in Los Angeles, Chicago, Dallas, and Detroit.



MARLON NICHOLS

Co-Founder; Managing General Partner
MaC Venture Capital

As co-founder and managing general partner of MaC Venture Capital, Marlon Nichols has helped shape one of North America's largest and most forward-thinking seed-stage venture firms, with over \$600 million in assets under management. His strategic vision and cultural investment thesis have propelled the growth of breakout companies like Airspace, Blavity, Gimlet Media (acquired by Spotify), Thrive Market, Pipe, Purestream, Truebill (acquired by Rocket), and Seed.

Nichols' approach to investing goes beyond capital—he backs visionary founders at pivotal moments, helping build category-defining companies that are reshaping industries. His impact is seen not only in returns but in representation: MaC Venture Capital's portfolio reflects a deep commitment to inclusion.



DAVID NIEMEYER

Partner
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher
& Flom LLP

David Niemeyer, whose practice focuses on private equity and mergers and acquisitions, is known for his ability to adeptly navigate complex issues and generate creative, practical solutions. As the only Los Angeles corporate partner at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP under the age of 40, Niemeyer is viewed as a particularly key figure in the future of the firm's LA office.

Niemeyer has successfully managed numerous high-value transactions for or alongside some of the world's leading financial sponsors, such as Crimson Investment, CrossHarbor Capital Partners, Fortress Investment Group, General Atlantic, GIC, Hg Capital, KKR, Oaktree Capital Management, Palladium Capital Partners, Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund, Silver Point Capital, TA Associates and Warburg Pincus.



KELLY O'NEIL

Managing Director
CBIZ

With more than two decades of experience, Kelly O'Neil is the lead managing director at CBIZ and the West Coast leader of private equity, advising companies across diverse sectors — many backed by private equity and venture capital — on complex audit and attest matters. O'Neil's expertise in revenue recognition, purchase accounting, stock-based compensation, equity and debt instruments, and derivatives accounting has positioned her as a go-to resource for firms navigating high stakes financial transactions.

O'Neil leads CBIZ's Southern California attest practice and plays an active role in firmwide initiatives that shape the future of accounting. She is a driving force on the CBIZ Leadership Council and a champion of the firm's commitment to equity and inclusion through her work with CBIZ Women's Advantage (CWA).



MICHAEL PALANK

General Partner
MaC Venture Capital

MaC Venture Capital general partner Michael Palank champions underrepresented founders and the companies that help make the world operate efficiently. His impact is felt across the firm's portfolio and through the recent closing of its third fundraise in the past four years. MaC's third fund, totaling \$150 million, cemented it as one of the largest seed-stage firms in Los Angeles and North America with \$600 million in assets under management.

Palank's portfolio spans industries critical to the future, including space exploration, sustainability, robotics, energy, industrial automation and AI innovation. In 2024, VFX startup Wonder Dynamics, whose seed funding round was led by Palank, was acquired by Autodesk, generating a 5.4x exit multiple in a four-year period.

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ANANT PATEL
Partner; Advisory Services Practice Leader
GHJ

Anant Patel is GHJ’s advisory services practice leader, with over 30 years of experience guiding complex transactions and building long-term client relationships, spanning industries such as food and beverage, consumer products, entertainment and real estate. He has played an integral role in transforming the firm into a nationally recognized, client-focused advisory powerhouse.

In his role, and as a member of the GHJ’s Executive Committee, Patel drives the firm’s strategy and growth, overseeing a cross-functional team of experts spanning transaction advisory, due diligence, audit and tax services. Patel specializes in quality of earnings, EBITDA analysis, working capital optimization and deal structuring. His clients include private equity groups, venture capital firms and institutional investors.



SHLOMI RONEN
Founder; Managing Principal
Dekel Capital

Shlomi Ronen is a managing principal and founder of Dekel Capital where he heads the company’s JV Equity, Capital Advisory and Correspondent Lending platforms. Under Ronen’s leadership, Dekel Capital serves an elite group of commercial real estate operators, investors and developers with an exclusive, boutique approach that allows the firm to create tailored solutions that address your unique capital challenges.

For over two decades, the team at Dekel Capital has financed over \$10 billion in equity, mezzanine, and debt financing for investors and developers throughout the country. In 2023, Ronen launched Dekel Correspondent Lending, which originates balance sheet and CMBS loans on behalf of capital providers for the acquisition, refinancing and recapitalization of commercial real estate assets.



TREVOR SALIBA
Chairman; CEO
NMS Capital Group LLC

Trevor Saliba is the founder, chairman and CEO of NMS Capital Group, a private equity investment firm backed by a family office, investing across sectors including real estate, financial and business services, infrastructure and energy, consumer products, technology and media.

Saliba is also the founder and chairman of NMS Consulting, a global management consulting and strategic advisory firm where he leads a team of over 250 professionals across 15 offices throughout the United States, Europe, Middle East and Asia. Prior to forming NMS Consulting, Saliba – who began his financial services career at Morgan Stanley – enjoyed an accomplished career as an investment banker specializing in mergers and acquisitions, cross border investment transactions, and structured financings to public and private clients.



MARTIN SARAF
Managing Partner
Century Park Capital Partners

Martin Sarafa is one of the founders of Century Park Capital Partners and has been with the firm since its formation in 2000. He is responsible for sourcing, closing and managing investments structured as leveraged recapitalizations and buyouts. He is a member of the firm’s Investment Committee and currently sits on the boards of MCCi and NCP Coatings. Sarafa has overseen the firm complete over 70 acquisitions, including 24 platform acquisitions and 50 add-on acquisitions.

Previously, Sarafa was a managing director in the Los Angeles offices of Houlihan Lokey Howard & Zukin, where he managed private equity investments through Churchill ESOP Capital Partners. In that capacity, he originated and negotiated buyouts, recapitalizations, and growth financings for private middle-market companies.



JOSHUA SCHNEIDERMAN
Partner
Snell & Wilmer

Joshua Schneiderman is the managing partner of the Snell & Wilmer’s LA office and is a member of the firm’s corporate and securities group. He advises clients on a wide range of transactional matters, including mergers and acquisitions, joint ventures and public and private offerings of debt and equity securities. He also advises public and private companies on corporate governance matters.

Schneiderman represented Integrated Data Services in its acquisition by the private equity fund Arlington Capital. Most recently, he represented Robert Raban, the sole owner of Industrial Valco, in the sale of the company to Texas Pipe. Schneiderman’s pro bono work includes representing nonprofits, Hurricane Katrina survivors and Holocaust survivors seeking benefits through reparations programs.

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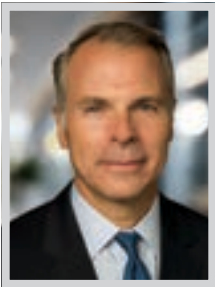
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DAN SHEA

Managing Director
Objective, Investment Banking
& Valuation

Dan Shea is a managing director of Objective, a leading investment banking and valuation firm serving the middle market, and he directs Objective’s Manufacturing & Distribution practice. A results-oriented leader, Shea has an extensive track record of success. To date, he has closed more than 100 sale transactions with an aggregate valuation of \$3.5 billion. In the last 18 months, Shea has advised on several successful transactions, including the high-profile sale of AEM, Inc. to Industrial Growth Partners. He also advised the sale of Fluid Components International to Process Sensing Technologies, a portfolio company of AEA Investors. Before joining Objective, Shea served as managing director with BDO Capital, Hadley Partners, and Comerica Capital Markets.



ROSE SORENSEN

Partner
Snell & Wilmer

Rose Sorensen is a corporate and securities partner in Snell & Wilmer’s Los Angeles office. Her law practice includes mergers and acquisitions, divestitures, reorganizations, commercial finance, private placements, venture capital, corporate governance, telecommunications services, joint ventures, licensing and entity structure and formation. Sorensen serves as a trusted advisor to high-net-worth individuals, family-owned businesses, entrepreneurs, multi-national corporations and nonprofits. Sorensen was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Association of Corporate Growth’s Los Angeles Chapter in January of 2024 and additionally serves as chair of the Membership Committee. She was appointed to serve on the Board of Governors of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce in January 2023.



DAVID SUTTON

Partner; Transaction Advisory Services
Practice Leader;
Private Equity Practice Leader
GHJ

David Sutton is GHJ’s transaction advisory services and private equity practice leader. He oversees a dynamic team of buy- and sell-side transaction advisors in addition to guiding clients through transactions ranging from \$10 million to \$3 billion. Sutton supports a vast client base, from emerging family offices to large institutional funds. His natural knack for quality of earnings, deal structuring and forecasting has made him a go-to advisor across industries. He brings a unique perspective as a former aerospace engineer, applying rigorous analytical skills and innovation to every engagement. Sutton has spoken and written extensively on how businesses can respond to economic challenges.



TANG TANG

Managing Director;
Head of Capital Markets
Cottonwood Group

Tang Tang has emerged as an influential leader in commercial real estate finance, and his contributions have been instrumental in Cottonwood Group’s global growth and success. In 2018, he established Cottonwood’s fundraising platform in Korea, which he saw as a unique opportunity for the firm in an untapped market. His work in Korea led to a cornerstone investment in Cottonwood’s 1.3-million-square-foot development of EchelonSeaport. Promoted to managing director and head of capital markets in 2024, Tang became the youngest person to hold that title at the firm, overseeing global fundraising strategies, investor relations, and capital allocation. He has played a critical role in securing over \$800 million in commitments since 2021.



THOMAS WALDMAN

Partner
Stradling

Tom Waldman has represented private equity funds, business owners and management teams for more than 25 years. In 2018, he joined Stradling to lead its private equity practice, where he advises private equity funds in acquisitions and divestitures, with a particular focus on complex “carve out” transactions and matters involving distressed assets. Some of Waldman’s notable client matters from the past two years include representing private equity firms Gallant Capital Partners, Atar Capital, Snow Peak Capital, and Regent LP. He is currently representing Solero Technologies, an Atar Capital portfolio company, in a pending carve out transaction involving Kendrion Group’s automotive business based in Germany. Prior to joining Stradling, Waldman served as managing director with The Gores Group.

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Ray LaSoya and Joe Kaczorowski



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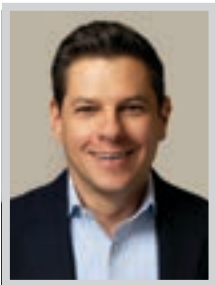
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ERIC WEDEL

Partner

Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP



GUY ZACZEPINSKI

Managing Partner

Century Park Capital Partners

Eric Wedel, one of the country’s most successful private equity finance lawyers, envisioned launching a top-tier Los Angeles office to service blue-chip private equity clients. Today, Wedel is realizing his vision at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison, where, as head of the LA office and global co-chair of the Finance and Capital Markets Group, he has driven the office’s success.

For over 20 years, Wedel has built an esteemed private equity client roster, advising on over 200 completed financings with a combined value exceeding \$150 billion. Currently, he represents Warburg Pincus (\$86 billion AUM), KKR (\$600 billion AUM), Hg Capital (\$75 billion AUM), Stone Point Capital (\$55 billion AUM) and Stonepeak (\$70 billion AUM), among others.

Guy Zaczepinski has been with Century Park Capital Partners since 2005, and is responsible for sourcing, evaluating and structuring buyout transactions, as well as monitoring portfolio company investments. He currently sits on the boards of Total Access Elevator, CJ Pony Parts, MCCi, and Dominion Care.

Throughout his career, Zaczepinski has gained extensive experience analyzing and valuing companies for recapitalization, leveraged buyouts, mergers and acquisitions, and financial restructurings. In 2024, he led Century Park’s recapitalization of Total Access Elevator. A specialist in the auto aftermarket industry, Zaczepinski led Century Park’s recapitalization of CJ Pony Parts in 2021. Headquartered in Harrisburg, PA, CJ Pony Parts is the market leader in the classic Mustang e-commerce space.

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The Los Angeles Business Journal is now accepting nominations for the 2025 M&A Awards!

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At Fineman West, we partner with private equity firms to support every stage of the deal cycle – from sourcing and due diligence to audit, tax, and post-deal growth strategy.

Our team delivers:

- M&A-focused audit and tax services
- Transaction and financial due diligence
- Portfolio company support and integration
- Fund structuring and capital strategy

Whether raising capital or scaling a portfolio, we provide the insight and execution to help you close deals and create value. **Let’s talk growth.**



Pictured from L to R: Jeffrey Hyldahl, Co-Managing Partner, Wendy On, Co-Managing Partner, and Steven Jager, Partner

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