

Christopher J. Kula

Partner



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Overview

Chris Kula is a partner in Dentons' Corporate practice and focuses on fund formation including structuring, governance, operations and compliance for capital markets, corporate, private equity, real estate finance and venture technology clients. His experience includes working with a variety of private investment funds, including private equity, real estate, and venture capital funds, as well as handling a wide range of corporate and securities work for both emerging and established companies. Clients value Chris's ability to seamlessly handle complex matters, and he is often sought out for his experience in forming and structuring pooled investment vehicles, parallel funds, feeder funds, blocker vehicles, co-investment vehicles, "fund of one", joint ventures and a variety of other LLCs or limited partnerships (including coordinating with counsel in respect of offshore vehicles), as well as negotiating side letters with limited partners and handling governance, fund "secondaries", equity compensation, investment management, compliance and related matters for such vehicles. Chris also handles merger and acquisition transactions (including those of a cross-border nature), venture capital investments, private placements and other securities transactions in the private capital markets.

He represents emerging and established companies, entrepreneurs, investors, private investment funds, executives and investment managers across a number of industries, including financial services, technology, real estate, healthcare, fashion and media.

While in law school, Chris was a judicial intern for the Honorable Lawrence M. McKenna in the Southern District of New York.

Experience

- Served as fund counsel for a real estate fund complex with commitments upwards of \$1.3 billion, together with its two predecessor funds with commitments of over \$650 million and \$100 million, respectively.
- Represented a registered investment adviser in connection with the formation of a "fund of one" with capital commitments upwards of \$73 million that was formed to make several portfolio company co-investments for the benefit of a prominent private equity group.
- Represented Modera Wealth Management, an investment adviser with almost \$7 billion in assets under

management, in several acquisitions of regional investment advisers.

- Served as fund counsel for a private equity fund complex focused on domestic and cross-border secondary transactions and co-investments in the media space with \$130 million in assets under management.
- Represented American Media in several acquisitions and divestitures of celebrity and entertainment publications, including *US Weekly*, *Men's Journal* and *In Touch Weekly*, as well as adventure sports titles, such as *Surfer*, *Powder* and *Bike*.
- Represented Onyx Equities in the formation of a hybrid commercial real estate and debt fund with commitments upwards of \$76 million.
- Represented a registered investment adviser with respect to the formation of a private equity fund to invest in RMBS with commitments upwards of \$84 million.
- Represented HR Acuity in connection with a minority growth equity investment from Growth Street Partners, a West Coast based venture capital fund.
- Represented a cloud and cybersecurity service provider in connection with its merger with and into a prominent, private equity backed technology platform company.
- Represented several managing directors exiting prominent private equity firms and transitioning to mid-market private equity firms and forming new funds there.
- Represented a well-known online Hamptons-based real estate brokerage portal in the sale of substantially all of its assets to Zillow.
- Represented a NY-based investment adviser in connection with the divestiture of its Florida office and related assets to a newly formed, Florida-based investment adviser run by a former executive.

Insights

- Co-author, "**SEC Adopts Final Rules For Private Fund Advisers**," Dentons Client Alert, August 28, 2023
- Co-author, "**Beneficial Ownership Reporting and the Corporate Transparency Act**," Dentons Client Alert, November 16, 2023

Activities and Affiliations

Presentations

- Panelist, "Expanding Private Funds in Global Markets", Private Funds Industry Live, January 10, 2023
- Host, "New SEC Private Fund Adviser Rules - What's Next?", Markets Group: Private Equity San Francisco Forum, October 3, 2023

Memberships

- Member, New York Bar Association
- Member, American Bar Association
- Member, Association for Corporate Growth

Areas of focus

Practices

- Capital Markets
- Corporate Governance
- Fund Formation and Compliance
- Hedge Funds
- Joint Ventures
- Mergers and Acquisitions
- Securities and Corporate Finance
- Venture Technology and Emerging Growth Companies
- Real Estate Finance
- Venture Capital

Industry sectors

- Private Equity
- Family Office and High Net Worth
- Financial Institutions
- Life Sciences and Health Care
- Luxury, Fashion and Beauty
- Media and Entertainment
- Technology

Education

- Hofstra University School of Law, 2002, JD
- Villanova University, 1997, BS in Biology

Admissions and qualifications

- New York