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Rising Star: Cleary's Kylie Barza

By **Jaqueline McCool**

Law360 (August 12, 2026, 4:04 PM EDT) -- Kylie Barza of Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP has advised on several billion-dollar transactions, including Alphabet's $4.75 billion acquisition of Intersect Power, which closed in 2026, earning her a spot among the tax law practitioners under age 40 honored by Law360 as Rising Stars.

Kylie Barza
Cleary

Age: 35
Home base: New York
Position: Partner
Law school: New York University School of Law
First job after law school: Associate at Cleary

Biggest deal of her career:

Barza said the $4.75 billion acquisition by Alphabet, Google's parent company, of the data center developer Intersect Power was the biggest deal of her career so far. The deal was intellectually challenging, Barza told Law360, because it was a taxable reverse carveout and therefore involved several tax complexities.

"Just a substantive complexity alone would have been enough to make it challenging," Barza said. "And there were a number of different stakeholders that all were coming at the deal from different angles."

The deal's complex nature and quick turnaround made it tough, but ultimately rewarding, Barza said. "It was just elation across however many attorneys and staff were on that deal, and it felt like one of the more rewarding signings and closings for me."

Her most interesting deal:

Barza told Law360 that the most interesting deal she's worked on recently was when she advised the French asset management firm Amundi SA in its acquisition of a stake in Victory Capital, a deal that closed in 2025.

Having an international client that was navigating U.S. tax law made the case all the more engaging to Barza.

When she was first brought on to the deal, Barza thought the U.S. tax issues would likely take a back seat, but she said that ended up not being the case.

"Because of the web of things that were going on, many of the U.S. tax issues became centric to our international client," Barza told Law360. "So I think that was among the more interesting [deals] substantively that I've done."

What motivates her:

Barza said some have described her as an adrenaline junkie, and while she isn't sure if the name fits, she said she's always had a competitive spirit. That drive is best fostered when she's coming together with others in a team setting, she explained.

Working together with her colleagues to finish a deal is what gets her "jazzed up," which is why she said she tends to do more mergers and acquisitions work.

"I'm not the kind of person that wants to just sit by myself and read things. I need to be talking to people and having a sort of team environment," Barza said.

Closing a tax deal also comes with a thrill for Barza, who said she loves when everything begins to click, and she can feel the deal coming together.

"I may be chasing a little bit of that adrenaline and that satisfaction on each of the deals that I get on," she said.

Why she chose tax law:

Putting together pieces of the puzzle is what drew Barza to tax law, along with the ability to work closely with others.

"One of the cool things about tax at a big law firm like Cleary is we get to work with every single corporate tax group that we have," Barza said.

As a young associate, Barza said she "caught the bug" for mergers and acquisitions tax work. Barza told Law360 that pairing mergers and acquisitions and tax work was "naturally something I was chasing with the substantive ability to really analyze issues and think hard."

Bringing both together ended up being "the perfect ice cream cone combination" — or "the perfect sundae."

--As told to Jaqueline McCool. Editing by Rich Mills.

Law360's Rising Stars are attorneys under 40 whose legal accomplishments belie their age. A team of Law360 editors selected the 2026 Rising Stars winners after reviewing more than 1,100 submissions. Attorneys had to be under 40 as of April 30, 2026, to be eligible for this year's award.
