

Earlier this year we launched our search for the rising stars of the private funds legal world. Trusted contacts, industry participants and the law firms themselves nominated both colleagues and peers, and in total we were sent 129 profiles of high-achieving lawyers under the age of 40 based around the world.

Competition was stiff, which made the judging process challenging, but nominees were whittled down to a final list of 30 based on their career progress, their client base, notable work to date and their X Factor - many of those on the list today are engaged in good-will work outside of their funds practice.

The list follows and, we're sure you'll agree, each and every one of them deserves to be there.

Adrian Leipsic, 37
Cleary Gottlieb
New York
Partner, fund formation



Some of the best-known private equity sponsors, including TPG, Blackstone and KKR, have used Adrian Leipsic for fund formation matters and he has developed a penchant for complex and inventive structures. He was instrumental in implementing the innovative legal structure of Silver Point Capital's Speciality Credit Fund, which closed in December 2016 on \$552 million. The fund can convert to a publicly listed business development company and conduct an initial public offering, but was originally structured as a traditional private fund. He is currently representing TCW Direct Lending in connection with a landmark split-off transaction - reorganizing a private fund structure to provide investors with the option of participating in a publicly listed vehicle.