

Rising Star: Latham's Alison Haggerty

By Madeline Lyskawa

Law360 (June 30, 2022, 2:02 PM EDT) -- Latham & Watkins LLP capital markets partner Alison Haggerty has steered some of the most intriguing and largest initial public offerings over the last few years, including Rivian Automotive's \$11.9 billion IPO in 2021, earning her a spot as one of the capital markets attorneys under age 40 honored by Law360 as Rising Stars.

WHY SHE'S A CAPITAL MARKETS ATTORNEY:

Before realizing her passion for the legal industry, Haggerty began her career as an investment banker with Wells Fargo Securities.

"I found that, as I was working as an investment banker, I was working across from lawyers a lot of the time and I was really drawn to what they were doing more than what I was doing," she told Law360.

Impressed by the way they had to solve problems and lead a process as a trusted adviser, Haggerty said she was inspired to go to law school, surprising many of the bankers around her.

After earning her law degree from New York University, Haggerty said it took her some time to become firmly situated in the capital markets space. But given her background in banking, the sector was a natural fit.

"Because I started my career as a banker, I think I've always been sort of interested in the intersection of law and business and I think the capital markets space allows you to sort of live there," Haggerty said.

Before joining Latham in December 2020 as a capital markets partner, she was with Cooley LLP for more than seven years, where she honed her focus on the technology and life sciences sectors within her capital markets practice.

THE BIGGEST DEALS OF HER CAREER:

Last year, Haggerty led electric vehicle company Rivian Automotive Inc. in securing its spot as the largest IPO of 2021 and one of the largest

2022



Alison Haggerty
Latham

Age: 40

Home base: New York

Position: Partner

Law school: New York University School of Law

First job after law school: Associate at Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP

offerings ever in the technology space at \$11.9 billion.

Describing it as an "awesome deal," Haggerty told Law360 that investor demand for it was incredible, resulting in an exciting transaction that required a quick turnaround. That meant the IPO had to happen less than two months after the company's first trucks rolled off the production line, she said.

"The management team of Rivian was incredible to work with. I think that their vision for the company and their vision of the future and their focus on sustainability was really inspiring throughout the process," Haggerty said.

Despite the deal's gleam, she acknowledged that there were high expectations for the Rivian IPO coming into the market, which resulted in its intense scrutiny. But with a tight-knit and interdisciplinary team, Haggerty said she and Latham were able to navigate the process.

OTHER NOTABLE TRANSACTIONS:

Within the last year, Haggerty also guided language learning application Duolingo through the close of its \$520 million IPO in July 2021.

"They're just a lot of fun," she said about working with Duolingo and its "exuberant" founders, which she said she worked to portray in the documents they filed to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission regarding the deal.

Additionally, Haggerty worked as lead counsel for health care apparel brand FIGS, steering it through its upsized \$580 million IPO that closed in June of last year, and biotechnology company Evotec SE's \$435 million IPO that was completed in November.

Led by Haggerty, FIGS was also the first IPO to sell shares directly to retail investors through Robinhood's IPO Access, which inspired other companies to follow suit.

HER PROUDEST MOMENT:

When asked about her proudest moment in her career, Haggerty said she couldn't pinpoint one achievement, but rather pointed to a "bunch of little wins."

Such little wins have included having productive conversations with the SEC and its Office of the Chief Accountant, which resulted in a positive outcome for her clients and created precedent to evolve the industry forward for others, she said.

"That's a great feeling, I think just on a daily basis hearing relief in a client's voice when you successfully solve an issue or clear SEC comments for a deal to move forward especially in our industry where timing can be of the essence," Haggerty said.

There was also her first bell-ringing ceremony at the New York Stock Exchange, Haggerty said.

Another aspect of her work that Haggerty said she takes pride in is her long-term relationships with various clients and reflecting on their shared achievements.

"Ultimately what gives me the most satisfaction or what makes me most proud as an attorney is that we have this opportunity where I can be proud of my and my clients' accomplishments and find meaning on a regular basis," she said.

ON THE FUTURE OF HER PRACTICE:

Across the legal industry, Haggerty said the goal for the future is a continued focus on diversity and inclusion at all firms, as well as environmental, social and corporate governance more broadly throughout the capital markets.

"For a few years now we've seen an increased focus on ESG from investors, regulators and within companies themselves, and there has been a desire which is quickly becoming an imperative to show progress in that area," she said.

Haggerty also said she sees a steady movement towards IPO access and democratization for the retail community, allowing for retail investors to participate directly in an IPO.

In terms of her practice with Latham, she emphasized the firm's partners' support of each other, as well as the "infectious" passion felt by everyone involved on each new deal.

"There's continuous innovation for our clients and that kind of motivates everybody to keep going and working together and pushing the boundaries," Haggerty said.

— *As told to Madeline Lyskawa*

Law360's Rising Stars are attorneys under 40 whose legal accomplishments belie their age. A team of Law360 editors selected the 2022 Rising Stars winners after reviewing more than 1,350 submissions. Attorneys had to be under 40 as of April 30, 2022, to be eligible for this year's award. This interview has been edited and condensed.