

Private Equity International

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Next Gen Leaders of Secondaries: Class of 2026

We reveal this year's most impressive secondaries individuals under 36 in the latest iteration of the Next Gen 10.

Every year, hundreds of nominations are submitted to the Private Equity International and Secondaries Investor editorial teams to help guide our decision-making for the Next Generation Leaders of Secondaries list. 2026 was no exception: nominations flooded in from across regions, asset classes and strategies as the industry sought to showcase secondaries' brightest young talent.

Whittling these hundreds of submissions down to just 10 individuals was no easy task. This year's final list of impressive secondaries talent aged under 36 is defined by these professionals' scores across four main criteria: their input into high-value deals; their displays of leadership and innovation; their history of working with and within high-calibre firms; and that elusive X-factor that sets them apart from the rest.

As the secondaries industry has rapidly developed from a niche exit route to a well-established player in the private markets landscape, it's no surprise that the talent it is harbouring is developing with similar gusto. Congratulations to the Next Gen class of 2026.

Lexi Santa Ana Associate, Latham & Watkins

Over the past 18 months, Lexi Santa Ana has advised on over \$8 billion of complex secondaries transactions for Latham & Watkins, including preferred equity structured solutions, continuation vehicles, sponsor-led special purpose vehicles, portfolio trades and bespoke private capital solutions. Santa Ana is recognised by clients and peers for her responsiveness, attention to detail and ability to navigate complex negotiations, bringing a collaborative and solutions-orientated approach to transactions. She also leads her office's Chicago Parent Lawyers Group and previously held a leadership role in the firm's Black Lawyers Group.

