

Rising Star: Latham's Alan Kimball

By Jaqueline McCool

Law360 (June 21, 2023, 2:41 PM EDT) -- Alan Kimball of Latham & Watkins LLP has advised companies on several multibillion-dollar transactions, including a \$21 billion merger of two massive entertainment companies, earning him a spot among the tax law practitioners under age 40 honored by Law360 Rising Stars.

THE BIGGEST DEAL OF HIS CAREER:

Kimball said the biggest deal of his career came when he represented Ultimate Fighting Championship, owned by international sports and entertainment company Endeavor, in its \$21 billion combination with World Wrestling Entertainment. He said it was one of his more challenging deals because of how quickly it moved.

"There was just a very significant depth of issues that we had to deal with in a really compressed timeframe across a number of aspects of the transaction," Kimball said. "We not only had to deal with the M&A piece of it, but we had to think through the equity documentation issues."

Kimball said it was also "by far" the biggest deal that he's worked on to date. He said working on it was an incredibly gratifying experience, especially because of what a prominent role the tax structure of the deal played from the beginning.

"Like in many deals, kind of the tax considerations drove the structure and kind of the way that people were thinking. So, it was interesting and kind of professionally gratifying," Kimball told Law360. "We had to really do a lot of thinking about alternatives, for coming up with a structure for the transaction that would work for everybody."

WHAT MOTIVATES HIM:

One of the biggest motivators for Kimball in his line of work is the different people he gets to work with. Whether it's his colleagues at Latham or the in-house teams he partners with during transactions, he



Alan Kimball
Latham & Watkins

Age: 37
Home base: New York
Position: Partner
Law school: Harvard Law School
First job after law school: Associate at Ropes & Gray LLP in Boston

said that working with people who look for innovative solutions inspires him.

When working on the merger of UFC and WWE, Kimball said he was particularly motivated by Endeavor's in-house team.

"They've got an incredibly smart and hardworking and capable tax and legal team that are really fantastic to work with," he said. "It was just remarkably complicated, and they kind of pushed the boundary of the things that have been done in the marketplace. It's really invigorating and interesting to come and work on their matters with such a bright and motivated in-house team. It really makes my job interesting and makes it something that I'm excited to come and do every day."

Kimball said that similarly, his colleagues at Latham continue to motivate him. "I think it's a unique opportunity to work with such an intelligent, motivated group of people that I'm really thankful for," he told Law360.

WHY HE'S A TAX ATTORNEY:

Both of Kimball's parents worked as tax professionals, and while they weren't lawyers themselves, they got him interested in tax issues from a young age. He said the challenge and universal presence of tax issues in all facets of a deal drew him to his field.

"I think it's interesting so far as tax is really ubiquitous and it kind of touches pretty much everyone in some way, but I feel like it's something that a lot of people don't totally understand," Kimball said. "I always liked the idea of practicing in a field that's pretty difficult, where there's a learning curve."

He said that as a tax attorney he gets to be involved with all parts of a transaction, which he finds exciting.

"We're not just involved in the financing piece, we're not just involved in the M&A piece, we're not just involved in the equity documentation joint venture piece," Kimball told Law360. "You really have to understand the commercial and the economic terms of every piece of a deal."

HIS PROUDEST MOMENT AS AN ATTORNEY:

Kimball said his proudest moment as an attorney was when he was made partner at Latham. Not only was it an accomplishment, but he said his colleagues, now that he's a partner, have also added to the experience.

Kimball described his partner colleagues who were promoted with him as an "entrepreneurial group of youngish partners that I've come up with at Latham that I'm really proud to be associated with. It's exciting to be a part of."

ON THE FUTURE OF THE PRACTICE:

Kimball said that one aspect of tax law he has found himself spending more time on in recent years is keeping up to date with legislative and regulatory changes, and he expected it to be a trend that would continue.

"I feel like the defining aspect of our practice that's consuming more and more of our time is really the pace and complexity of legislative and regulatory changes in the tax law," he said.

Kimball added that despite being a practitioner in the U.S. who focuses on U.S. tax rules, an increasing

amount of his time is spent on foreign tax law.

"A lot of what I'm spending my time doing now is thinking about how the U.S. tax issues intersect with foreign issues. For instance, how our U.S.-based private equity clients can take advantage of new regimes," he told Law360. "We end up spending a fair amount of time with our foreign colleagues, making sure that we understand those things and can adequately advise our clients about [how foreign tax regimes interact with US tax law]."

— *As told to Jaqueline McCool. Editing by Adam LoBelia.*

Law360's Rising Stars are attorneys under 40 whose legal accomplishments belie their age. A team of Law360 editors selected the 2023 Rising Stars winners after reviewing more than 1,350 submissions. Attorneys had to be under 40 as of May 1, 2023, to be eligible for this year's award. This interview has been edited and condensed.

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