

LATHAM ASSOCIATE LANDS NOVELIS DEAL

Latham & Watkins represented Novelis on its agreement to buy Aleris thanks to associate Brian Yoon, who interned with the company while he was a law student.

BY DAVID MARCUS

Latham & Watkins LLP represented Novelis Inc. on its \$2.6 billion agreement to buy Aleris Corp. thanks to second-year associate Brian Yoon, who interned with the company while he was a student at Emory Law School.

“Brian brought the client relationship to Latham based on his work with Novelis in law school,” said Bradley Faris, the global co-chair of the law firm’s M&A practice, who worked on the deal. “We can attribute our introduction to the client and opportunity to work with Novelis on the deal to Brian.”

The summer after his first year at Emory, Yoon worked in the corporate legal department at Atlanta-based Novelis, a subsidiary of Indian aluminum and copper producer Hindalco Industries Ltd. He spent the summer after his second year in Latham’s New York and Hong Kong offices, then externed at Novelis during his third year at Emory, from which he graduated in 2016.

Yoon said that he stayed in touch with Novelis general counsel Leslie Parette Jr., and his team during the law firm recruiting process and throughout law school. At a lunch with Yoon in New York last year, Parette suggested that Yoon and some of the Latham partners come down to Atlanta to meet.

“Les and the team there obviously have a lot of respect for Brian and they’re mentors to him,” said Faris.

Last November, the company began talks with Aleris, a portfolio company of Oaktree Capital Management LP, Apollo Management LLP and Sankaty Advisors LLC advised by Christopher Ewan and Randi Lally of Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson LLP, which is also Novelis’ regular outside counsel, Parette said. Aleris took banking advice from Moelis & Co.’s Mark Henkels, Jay Finney, Jake Rattner, Brad Davis, Rachel Lin, while Novelis used John Startin at Goldman, Sachs & Co.



BRIAN YOON LATHAM & WATKINS LLP

Because Fried, Frank was conflicted, Parette called Yoon, who was instrumental to the relationship and coordinated meetings while Faris and Latham partner Peter Labonski led the firm’s legal team on the transaction, which was announced July 26.

“It was amazing the partners let him run with the relationship,” Parette said. “They made an investment in him.”

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