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2026

Investment Funds

2026

PROFILED:

OLIVER PRAKASH-JENKINS

Latham & Watkins

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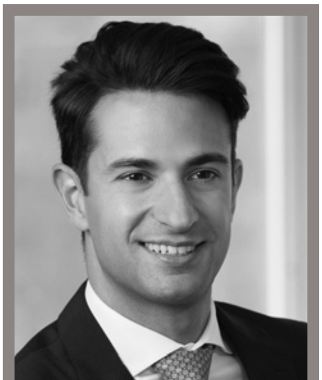

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PERSONAL BIOGRAPHY

Oliver Prakash-Jenkins is a partner in Latham & Watkins' global investment funds practice. He represents private capital sponsors on the full spectrum of their formation, investment and operational activities across a range of strategies, including buyouts, infrastructure and digital infrastructure, energy and energy transition, credit, real estate and growth equity. He has experience working with all types of clients, from global multi-strategy managers and emerging managers to first-time fund sponsors, including with respect to their co-investment and separately managed account programmes. He frequently represents clients on their most sophisticated structured secondaries transactions, including traditional secondaries, general partner-led recapitalisations and stapled tender offers.

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Q&A WITH OLIVER PRAKASH-JENKINS

Describe your approach to tackling complex legal challenges. What principles or philosophies guide your work?

◆ Investment funds work is inherently multidisciplinary, with the asset class and industry dictating input required from inception through fundraising, deployment and exit. The best client outcomes are generated by lawyers with the right mix of capabilities and experience delivering solutions promptly and building an optimised product that can withstand investor and regulatory scrutiny. Working with sponsors in Europe and the Americas has personally reinforced the degree to which structuring, regulation, marketing and investor negotiation in fund formation matters can vary by jurisdiction. At Latham, we operate at an elite level across all adjacencies and major geographies, thereby representing clients holistically and with full conviction to execute across the private capital spectrum – we have our clients well-covered.

What qualities and values do you believe are essential for building strong, trusting relationships with clients?

◆ Building strong client relationships starts with developing a genuine personal rapport. I encourage a client dynamic where we pick up the phone and talk candidly regarding approach and progress on a project or navigating a business dilemma. Clients are not paying us to type out lengthy written responses; they want fast, judgment based decision making to capitalise on opportunities before the market shifts. That regular, open dialogue clarifies clients' long-term goals and the variables so that we can re-chart the path forward as the project progresses. Some of my best client opportunities and strongest relationships have developed by staying in touch and being immediately available as a resource outside the context of an active matter, particularly when they are transitioning to a new role or in between jobs.

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Lasting client relationships come down to trust and maintaining that trust means showing up consistently for people during the good and the bad.

Looking ahead, what are your predictions for this area of the market? What key developments are on the horizon?

◆ We are observing increased focus on undercapitalised areas, such as sector-specific small cap, lower mid-market infrastructure, secondaries – GP-led-focused, credit and infrastructure – and opportunistic credit. Advisers with broad skillsets comfortable navigating uncharted territory remain in demand given the evolution of private markets and the intersection of previously discrete disciplines. Contrary to the headline narrative on protracted fundraises, emerging sponsors with a unique concept and experience are partnering with non-traditional allocators as the ecosystem diversifies. Operating on artificial intelligence (AI) autopilot is not a strategy, as lawyers need to apply experience and nuance when parsing through output and datasets, and be creative in their structuring approach to adapt to fundraising dynamics. There will be a widening gap as those with resources, experience and bench strength continue to win mandates from small to sophisticated clients through a competitive offering on several metrics. Latham has long advised the companies powering AI transformation, and our advanced internal use of AI is informed by premiering as a leading Band 1 AI practice. ■

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REPRESENTATIVE ENGAGEMENTS

- Advised Guggenheim Investments on $8.4bn Guggenheim Private Debt Fund IV.
- Advised OIC on $1.58bn OIC Credit Opportunities Fund IV.
- Advised Kinterra on $950m Kinterra Critical Materials & Infrastructure Opportunities Fund II, LP.
- Advised Partners Group on a $675m multi asset continuation vehicle for The Vistria Group.
- Advised Power Sustainable Infrastructure Credit on its inaugural infrastructure credit fund.
- Advised Graham Partners on a single asset continuation vehicle for Gatekeeper Systems.
- Advised I Squared Capital on a $600m-plus capital raise for Transportation Equipment Network.