

Rising Star: Latham's Daniel Williams

By Zak Kostro

Law360 (August 20, 2025, 4:05 PM EDT) -- Latham & Watkins LLP partner Daniel Williams has steered several multibillion-dollar deals, including SRS' \$18.25 billion acquisition by Home Depot and Cogentrix Energy's \$3 billion sale to Quantum Capital Group, earning him a spot among the private equity law practitioners under age 40 honored by Law360 as Rising Stars.

The biggest deal of his career:

Williams co-led a Latham team that in 2024 advised SRS Distribution Inc., a private-equity-backed distributor of roofing and building supplies, in its \$18.25 billion acquisition by The Home Depot Inc.

"I think it was actually one of the largest private equity exits, or sales, ever, which was pretty interesting," Williams said. "I think one of the most interesting parts about that deal was how smoothly and quickly it went. We signed it in March of '24, and it closed in June, which is fairly atypical for such a big deal."

Williams said the clients' commitment to completing the transaction helped the process move efficiently.

"On both sides, folks were very reasonable and rational and understood the direction to get a deal done and get it done smoothly," he said. "We all just kind of worked with that in mind toward that goal and were able to accomplish it."

Williams also co-led a Latham team that advised private equity firm Carlyle and its portfolio company Cogentrix Energy — a U.S. independent power producer — in the \$3 billion sale of Cogentrix to Houston-based Quantum Capital Group.

The deal was announced in August 2024 and closed in January, according to Latham.

2025

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**RISING
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Daniel Williams
Latham & Watkins

Age: 35

Home base: New York

Position: Partner

Law school: University of Texas
School of Law

First job after law school: Associate
at Latham

And Williams co-led a Latham team that represented German technology company Siemens AG on its acquisition of software company Altair Engineering Inc. for approximately \$10.6 billion.

The deal was announced in late October and closed in March, according to Latham.

What motivates him:

Williams said the people he works with every day — his Latham colleagues — are among his greatest motivators.

"There are a ton of incredible attorneys who work here who are just so smart and so good at what they do," he said. "Getting to work with these people every day, working as a team with them, working closely with them, and seeing how proficient and excellent a lot of people have become at this over their careers is super-motivating for me and kind of gives me a bar to try to reach."

Why he's a private equity attorney:

Williams said he finds his work to be "super interesting."

"Every deal is different in terms of the considerations, whether that's the structural considerations for the transaction itself, the industry in which the company operates or how the investment is being made," he said. "I think that aspect of it really satisfies my intellectual curiosity and allows me to learn a lot about different things all the time, which I love."

How he thinks his private equity legal practice will change in the next 10 years:

Williams said he thinks his practice area and the private equity industry will continue to evolve.

"Our clients, the private equity sponsors, are going to continue to innovate in how they attract and raise capital from investors and how they deploy capital," he said.

Williams added that he thinks competitiveness in the private equity industry will continue to ramp up, which "should be great and super-exciting for all of us on the legal side as we get to be part of all of that innovation and keep learning along the way."

--As told to Zak Kostro. Editing by Kristen Becker.

Law360's Rising Stars are attorneys under 40 whose legal accomplishments belie their age. A team of Law360 editors selected the 2025 Rising Stars winners after reviewing nearly 1,200 submissions. Attorneys had to be under 40 as of April 30, 2025, to be eligible for this year's award.