

10 Rising Stars of Private Equity and M&A Law

By Mark Malyszko

Institutional Investor

KENNETH MULLER

Partner

Morrison & Foerster,
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Age: 42

Education: University of California, Hastings College of the Law (J.D.); University of California at Berkeley (B.A. in English Literature and Legal Studies)

Mentor: Robert Cudd, Partner, Morrison & Foerster

Muller joined Morrison & Foerster as a partner in 2005 and serves as a co-chair of the firm's private equity fund group and the private equity buyout group. He represents private equity funds, venture capital funds, leveraged buyout funds, real estate funds, debt funds and emerging growth companies in all aspects of their enterprises. Prior to Morrison & Foerster, he worked at Cooley

Godward, where he practiced in the firm's venture capital group.

Muller's practice emphasizes the formation, organization and operation of limited partnerships, limited liability companies and corporations, as well as venture capital and strategic finance, mergers, acquisitions and divestitures. He noted that it also involves non-U.S. private equity investments, as well as the acquisition of large portfolios of assets with equity or equity and debt.

Muller and his group recently assisted an affiliate of The Campbell Group in the formation of a private equity fund and the simultaneous acquisition of assets in Texas, Louisiana, Georgia and Alabama from Temple-Inland Inc. for approximately \$2.38 billion. "The transaction was notable because of the complexity of the structure and the

logistics of raising private equity and debt to acquire assets in four states on an expedited schedule," he said. The transaction was completed with a combination of private equity from a variety of public and private investors, as well as debt financing from AgCredit and Barclays Capital, he noted.

Looking forward, Muller sees the future of private equity in emerging markets. "As fundamental economic changes in the global markets gather momentum, we expect that leading private equity clients will want to invest more of their capital in emerging markets in Asia, Europe and South America," he said. "Counsel for top private equity clients will need to be highly skilled at cross-border M&A and international tax. We expect to be spending even more time on private equity transactions in these non-U.S. markets."

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