



The Deal chose these 21 attorneys as the most promising new M&A partners of 2019.

Making partner at a law firm is an economic and psychological reward for years of labor, a signal of achievement to clients and colleagues and often the start of an even longer climb up the ladder of firm management. The 21 M&A lawyers we profile below all made equity partner within the last 12 months. They have become key members of client teams, and many will become firm leaders.

We selected the 21 by scanning new partner announcements at top corporate firms. We chose only one lawyer per firm and considered only U.S. lawyers. For some firms, the decision was easy: Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP; Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP; and Sullivan & Cromwell LLP, among others, didn't make a new partner in either area. Others, such as Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP and Debevoise & Plimpton LLP, had small classes that included only one.

In contrast, the new partner classes of 31 at Latham & Watkins LLP and of 46 at Jones Day presented difficult choices among multiple lawyers in different offices with divergent practices. A few firms made multiple partners in New York, like Shearman & Sterling LLP with three and Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz with four. We opted to focus on one lawyer in greater depth than attempt a group portrait in a few hundred words.

The announcements also showed the practice areas and geographies in which firms are investing and often offered unexpected insights. For example, Wilson, Sonsini, Goodrich & Rosati PC made only one new M&A partner but two in privacy and data protection and three in technology transactions, which suggests how important those specialties are to Wilson's tech clients.

—David Marcus

Top 21 NEW M&A LAW PARTNERS



Allie Wein
Cravath

It's always good to impress the boss, and Faiza Saeed, the presiding partner at Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP, has high praise for Allison Wein, the only M&A lawyer in the firm's new class of three partners. "I've seen Allie in a lot of high-pressure, complex transactions, and she's a very talented lawyer and has a calm demeanor and is very good at bringing all the different sides together," said Saeed, who tapped Wein as the lead associate in the firm's representation of Walt Disney Co. (DIS) on its \$71 billion agreement to buy Twenty-First Century Fox Inc.

Wein worked with Saeed in advising Yahoo! Inc. on the sale of its core business in 2016 as well as Northrop Grumman Corp. (NOC)

on its \$9.2 billion acquisition of Orbital ATK Inc. and AveXis Inc. on its \$8.7 billion sale to Novartis AG (NVS) last year.

Saeed and Wein also teamed up on the 2015 formation of Amblin Partners, a content creation company in which Steven Spielberg is a partner. Joint ventures, Wein said, are particularly challenging to structure because "the documentation is a living, breathing document that your clients have to operate under. You get to really understand what your clients care about, what the risks are in their business and how they operate."

Wein graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in 2004 with a degree in cultural anthropology and from Northwestern University School of Law in 2010.

—D.M.