



Peter Feist

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Peter Feist is Co-Head of the Private Equity Practice and focuses on private equity and mergers and acquisitions matters for leading private equity firms and other financial investors. Mr. Feist was born in New Zealand. He received a BCA in 1990 and an LL.B. with highest honors in 1992 from Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand. He joined Cravath as a partner in 2023.

TELL US ABOUT YOUR BACKGROUND.

I am from New Zealand, which is where I went to law school and also worked for a few years. I moved to New York in the mid-90s, first focusing on aircraft financing and then later on M&A, at which point I worked on my first private equity deals. I subsequently focused my practice on private equity at a large firm in New York, and moved to Hong Kong to help open their Hong Kong office. Hong Kong was amazing, but I knew I wanted to be in New York long-term, and ultimately moved back to continue working in the private equity space.

WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO BECOME A LAWYER?

I pursued a law degree because I thought it would complement my business degree, but the more I studied law, I realized it suited my mind more than anything else. I spent a summer working at a law firm in New Zealand and that confirmed to me that law was something I wanted to pursue. I started as a litigator, and only focused on corporate work when I moved to New York. I never imagined back then in New Zealand that I would spend most of my career—and make my home—as a law firm partner in New York!

WHAT DO YOU LIKE BEST OR FIND MOST SURPRISING ABOUT YOUR PRACTICE AREA?

So much of private equity is about building relationships. I love that many of my clients have become good friends.

WHAT IS THE BEST CAREER ADVICE YOU HAVE RECEIVED?

Focus on excellence (not perfection), and never send work out that you are not happy with.

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