

**WHITE & CASE**

White & Case LLP in October announced the promotion of 40 attorneys to partner, effective Jan. 1, including several members of the firm's M&A practice that *The Deal* has identified as Top Rising Stars in their field.

Among them are M&A lawyers Morgan Hollins in the firm's Houston office and New York-based Kristen Rohr and Suni Sreepada. The new partners' deal sheets include complex cross-border transactions, deSPAC deals, multibillion-dollar mega mergers, middle-market PE acquisitions and exits, and everything in between.

**HERE'S A CLOSER LOOK AT THE HONOREES:**



**MORGAN HOLLINS**

Since joining White & Case in 2018, Morgan Hollins has steadily gained a reputation as one of the most versatile transactional lawyers out of the firm's Houston office.

Hollins, who became a partner in White & Case's global mergers and acquisitions practice in January this year, has experience representing both public and private companies and other stakeholders in a variety of industries including oil and gas and natural resources, solar energy, entertainment and financial services.

She was part of the White & Case team that helped advise the independent directors of Mobile Mini Inc. on a sale to WillScot Corp. in March 2020. In 2019, she helped advise IFM Investors Pty. Ltd. on its \$10.3 billion acquisition of Buckeye Partners LP.

Hollins has also worked on deals

involving Macquarie Infrastructure Corp., Korea Hydro & Nuclear Power Co. Ltd. and Brookfield Renewable Partners LP, as well as various PE clients. She represented an affiliate of Sixth Street Partners in a royalty interest acquisition and joint venture with Antero Resources Corp. in 2020 and Ara Partners Group in its majority investment in Centric Gas Services LLC, a Texas gas distribution platform.

"I've been involved in several energy joint venture transactions that have been very interesting and touch on all aspects of a company's life cycle from formation, operation and exit," Hollins said. "I find the joint ventures, maybe more than M&A at times, help you learn about an industry and its particularities, which ultimately can help you understand your clients' concerns in an acquisition scenario."

Hollins' practice is uniquely set up to tackle the energy transition. She recently represented Israeli electric-vehicle technology startup REE Automotive Ltd. in its \$3.6 billion merger with special purpose acquisition company 10X Capital Venture Acquisition Corp.

Meanwhile, she continues to represent traditional oil and gas industry clients, including Macquarie Infrastructure Corp. in its \$2.69 billion sale of bulk liquid terminals business International-Matex Tank Terminals to Riverstone Holdings LLC.

"She is a huge asset especially for our energy clients," said White & Case's regional head for the Americas M&A and corporate section Chang-Do

Gong, who's worked alongside Hollins on a number of deals including IFM-Buckeye. "Her public and private M&A expertise, coupled with industry knowledge, make her a highly effective transactional lawyer who can help our clients achieve their strategic objectives."

Hollins graduated with a JD from Harvard Law School in 2008 and with bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Pennsylvania in 2004. She joined White & Case in May 2018.



**KRISTEN ROHR**

For Kristen Rohr, one of the most rewarding parts of her job as an M&A attorney is the next challenge.

"For me, the M&A practice is an attractive career for someone who loves working with people, likes to learn and likes new challenges," said Rohr, who recently was named a partner in White & Case's M&A department.

"When I first started out, I wasn't sure I wanted to stay in law or go the business route. M&A seemed to offer opportunities to pursue both."

She said the best opportunities for her have been at White & Case.

Among her latest challenges on the deal front, she worked with Diamond S Shipping Inc. in a complex merger with International Seaways Inc., announced in March, and was part of the White & Case team that advised Ion Acquisition Corp., a SPAC, in a business combination with Taboola.com Ltd., an Israeli advertising and online recommendation technology company, announced in January.

Rohr graduated with a JD and MBA from the University of Toronto in 2012 and bachelor's degree from McGill University in 2007. She began summer associate and internship programs before graduation and landed with White & Case in October of 2012.

Throughout her career she has worked with a range of clients from the Qatar Investment Authority to Newmont Mining Corp. to Roark Capital Group, and many others.

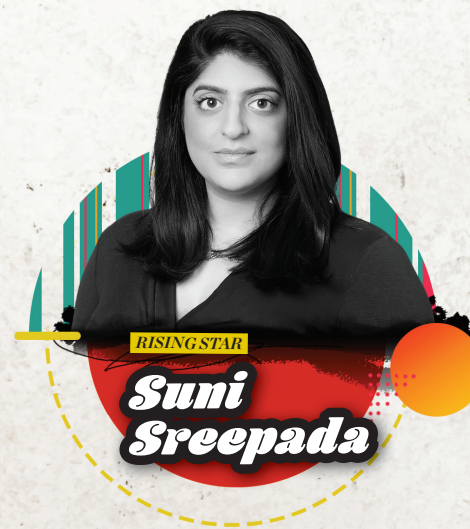
"She is very meticulous, always prepared," Gong, White & Case's regional head for the Americas M&A and corporate section, said. "Even as a young lawyer she was very deliberate in what she did, and her work product reflected her thoughtfulness and attention to detail. She remains calm under pressure and is graceful in the way she interacts with clients and colleagues."

She has also developed close ties with clients and colleagues along the way and takes pride in helping develop the next generation of young attorneys at White & Case.

"You learn a lot in law school but it's also an apprenticeship model in some ways and it's part of your responsibility as a lawyer to develop the next generation," she said, adding a strong team helps "deliver better client services."

Her ability to juggle new and complex challenges and help guide her peers is not lost on colleagues. "Despite the pressure-filled environment we work in, Kristen

manages to be one of the best mentors to our younger lawyers and takes time to provide guidance and training to further their development," said Gong.



**SUNI SREEPADA**

In 2019, Suni Sreepada juggled three large, complicated transactions as the senior associate on each deal. Sreepada, who became a partner at White & Case LLP this year, worked with IFM Investors Pty. Ltd. on its \$10.3 billion acquisition of Buckeye Partners LP; EchoStar Corp. on the spin-off of its broadcast satellite services business to DISH Network Corp.; and Brookfield Infrastructure Partners LP and GIC Pte. Ltd. on their \$8.4 billion acquisition of Genesee & Wyoming Inc.

"Each deal had its challenges," she says. Not only was the deal for G&W "a whirlwind to get signed," she says; "it had this extraordinarily complex regulatory overlay because of the foreign investment and the fact that G&W is a railroad. At the same time as we were doing the deal, we were also negotiating a divestiture of G&W's Australian business to Macquarie Infrastructure Partners."

Buckeye was a master limited partnership, which made the deal complex from a tax perspective, Sreepada says, and because Buckeye's existing debt had to be refinanced, IFM had to secure additional acquisition financing to replace Buckeye's debt. In the case of the EchoStar-Dish transaction, not only did the parties

structure their deal as a Reverse Morris Trust transaction, a form that's always challenging to execute; it was done on a compressed time frame with other complexities that needed to be addressed under immense pressure.

Sreepada was also the lead associate for Calpine Corp. on its \$17 billion sale to an investor consortium led by Energy Capital Partners LLC in 2017. "Suni was very diligent and very bright, and she worked an incredible amount of time to get that transaction closed," said Shonnie Daniel, Calpine's deputy general counsel at the time. "There was just so much to be done to close a transaction of that magnitude... You were certain that if she was handling it, you didn't have to worry about whatever the task was because she would take care of it."

For Sreepada: "Each deal is a puzzle," she said. "I like the problem-solving elements to my practice." As an undergraduate at Drew University, she was a chemistry major, and, she said, "I liked experimenting and trying to find the answer through meandering routes, but I never saw myself in a lab. It was a guess on my part that you could apply those problem-solving skills to work as part of a team searching for more practical solutions."

After graduating from Fordham University School of Law in 2009, she started practice as an intellectual property litigator and switched to corporate as a fourth-year associate and moved to White & Case in 2016. "Part of what drew me to transactional work was that you could try to solve a problem, and the result was fairly immediate." And, she says, "In a transaction, the ideal outcome is that everyone wins."

"Suni was our go-to public M&A senior associate, and she's now our go-to public M&A partner," said Gong, of White & Case, who has worked with Sreepada on a number of public company deals over the past several years, including the Buckeye, Calpine and G&W deals. "Suni has accumulated a wealth of knowledge in the public M&A space thanks to her intellectual curiosity and transactional experience accumulated at an extraordinary pace."