

RISING STAR: DAVIS POLK'S EVAN ROSEN, AND MORE

Personnel news from firms at the center of the deal economy.

BY ALICE CANTWELL & DAVID MARCUS

For more than two years before Thomas Reid joined Comcast Corp. (CMCSA) as general counsel in April 2019 and in the months after the move, the lawyer advised the communications giant on a series of complex transactions, including a failed hostile bid for Twenty-First Century Fox Inc., a \$40.0 billion hostile takeover of Sky plc and a deal with Walt Disney Co. (DIS) under which either side can trigger Disney's purchase of Comcast unit NBCUniversal's 33% ownership stake in Hulu LLC starting in January 2024.

Reid moved to Comcast from Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP, where he had been the chairman and managing partner since 2011, and one of his key lawyers on the Comcast deals was Evan Rosen, who made partner at the law firm earlier this year.

"He can see and explain the big picture without losing sight of the details," Reid said of Rosen. "All the things we did were high stakes, fast-moving, high pressure, and throughout he was unflappable and unfailingly polite" to everyone who worked on the deal.

And, Reid added, Rosen "wasn't afraid to say, 'Are we sure we're looking at this the right way?' He wasn't intimidated by anything, but it was all done in a very understated way so that you knew immediately that it was in the service of achieving the client's objectives and producing the best possible legal product."

Rosen, 35, graduated from Emory University's Goizueta Business School with a degree in finance in 2006 and earned his law degree five years later at the University of Michigan, where he was an executive editor of the law review. Between college and law school, he was an analyst at Bank of America Corp. (BAC)



Evan Rosen (Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP)

Rosen's first rotation at Davis Polk was in derivatives, but a second one in M&A "was more my cup of tea," he says. "It came more naturally and made sense." Early in his career, he focused on private equity, doing work for Cornell Capital LLC, Crestview Partners, Metalmark Capital Holdings LLC and Tailwind Capital Group LLP, but in recent years he's done a considerable amount of public company work as well. In addition to his work with Reid for Comcast, Rosen worked with Davis Polk partner John Amorosi in advising the merchant banking division of Goldman Sachs Group Inc. (GS) and its consortium partners on its \$2.2 billion preferred financing for Bass Pro Shops' \$5.5 billion acquisition of Cabela's Inc. in 2017.

More recently Rosen advised Bumble founder and CEO Whitney Wolfe Herd in a deal announced Nov. 8 where an investment fund managed by Blackstone Group Inc. will buy a majority stake in MagicLab LLC, reportedly at a \$3 billion valuation. As part of the deal, Herd will take over as MagicLab's CEO. —David Marcus