

Kevin Cooper

Partner



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Mergers and Acquisitions
Activism Defense

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Private Equity
Wellness

New York

Kevin focuses on M&A and other complex corporate transactions, representing public and private companies in their most important strategic matters. He also has significant experience advising clients on shareholder activism, corporate governance and takeover defense. He advises clients from a range of industries, including tech, life sciences, consumer, sports and entertainment, fintech, and private equity. Chambers USA has ranked Kevin in Corporate/M&A in New York since 2024.

Kevin's recent M&A matters include the following engagements:

Life sciences

- Longboard Pharmaceuticals in its \$2.6 billion sale to Lundbeck
- Arena Pharmaceuticals in its \$6.7 billion sale to Pfizer
- Intersect ENT in its \$1.1 billion sale to Medtronic
- Chimerix in its \$935 million sale to Jazz Pharmaceuticals
- Flexion in its \$450 million sale to Pacira Biosciences
- Checkpoint Therapeutics' special committee of the board of directors in Checkpoint's \$416 million sale to Sun Pharmaceutical Industries
- Perceptive in its acquisition of Vapotherm
- Turnstone Biologics in its acquisition of Myst Therapeutics
- Landos Biopharma in its \$212.5 million sale to AbbVie
- Liminal Biosciences in its sale to Structured Alpha
- Celularity in its special purpose acquisition company (SPAC) merger with GX Acquisition for \$1.7 billion to become a publicly listed company
- Allergan in its \$83 billion acquisition by AbbVie*
- Auris Health in its \$5.75 billion sale to Johnson & Johnson*
- Cantel Medical in its \$775 million acquisition of Hu-Friedy*
- ERYTECH Pharma in its sale of its Princeton, New Jersey, manufacturing facility and related long-term supply agreement
- Macro Genics in its sale of global rights to MARGENZA to TerSera
- Ensoma in its acquisition of Twelve Bio
- Lava Therapeutics in its sale to Xoma

- **Marker Therapeutics** in its sale of cell manufacturing assets to CellReady

Technology

- **Everbridge** in its \$1.8 billion sale to Thoma Bravo
- **Truebill** in its \$1.3 billion sale to Rocket Companies
- **PlayAGS** in its \$1.1 billion sale to Brightstar Capital
- **Clarabridge** in its \$1.1 billion sale to Qualtrics
- **Cedar Cares** in its \$425 million acquisition of OODA Health
- **DigitalOcean** in its \$350 million acquisition of Cloudways and its \$111 million acquisition of Paperspace
- **MongoDB** in its acquisitions of Aroki, Grainite and Voyage AI
- **UiPath** in its acquisitions of Cloud Elements, Re:infer and Peak
- **Rubrik** in its acquisition of Predibase
- **Frame AI** in its sale to HubSpot
- **Nuvolo** in its sale to Trane Technologies
- **HiredScore** in its sale to Workday
- **Timber Technologies** in its sale to Datadog
- **Backtrace** in its sale to Sauce Labs
- **4C Insights** in its sale to Mediaocean, a Vista Equity Partners portfolio company
- **Heliogen** in its successful defense against an unsolicited takeover offer from Continuum Renewables
- **Littelfuse** in its \$350 million acquisition of the circuit connectivity business of TE Connectivity*
- **Convergys** in its \$449 million cash sale of its information management business to NetCracker Technology, a subsidiary of NEC*
- **DHC Acquisition** in its \$250 million SPAC merger with Brand Engagement Network

Consumer and entertainment

- **PetIQ** in its \$1.5 billion sale to Bansk Group
- **Touchland** in its \$800 million sale to Church & Dwight
- **PetLab** in its sale of a majority stake to BC Partners
- **Jackpocket** in its \$750 million sale to DraftKings
- **Nutrafol** in its sale to Unilever
- **TCGplayer** in its up to \$295 million sale to eBay
- **Gopuff** in its \$350 million acquisition of BevMo and its acquisition of rideOS
- **JW Player** in its merger with Connatix
- **Poppin** in its \$110 million sale to Kimball International
- **Function of Beauty** in its \$150 million minority investment from L Catterton
- **Datalogue** in its sale to Nike
- **Altria** in its \$12.8 billion minority investment in JUUL, its \$2.8 billion controlling investment in Cronos Group, its joint venture with the Burger Group to commercialize on Nicotine Pouches, and its joint venture with Lexaria Nicotine*
- **BowX Acquisition** in its \$9 billion SPAC merger with WeWork
- **SeatGeek** in its announced SPAC merger with RedBall Acquisition
- **SuperValu** in its \$2.9 billion sale to United Natural Foods, related defense and settlement of a proxy contest with Blackwells Capital, and in its announced spinoff and \$1.4 billion sale of its Save-A-Lot business to Onex*
- **American Eagle** in its joint venture with NSG Apparel to sell North Sails apparel in the US*
- **Aston Villa Football Club** in its sale to Recon Group*

Fintech and financial services

- **VR Insurance** in its sale of a controlling stake in the National Security Group to PhenixFIN

- **IEX Group** in its strategic investment from FTX US
- **Capital One** in its acquisition of BlueTarp Financial, its acquisition of Paribus, its sale of its self-directed brokerage business to E*Trade, and its sale of its investment management and trust business to Hancock Whitney*
- **BB&T** in its \$66 billion merger of equals with SunTrust to form Truist Financial, its \$2.5 billion acquisition of Susquehanna Bancshares, its \$363 million acquisition of the Bank of Kentucky, and its \$3.5 billion acquisition of Citibank's Texas retail banking business*
- **Capital One** in its \$9 billion acquisition of GE Capital's healthcare finance business, its \$5.2 billion acquisition of Cabela's credit card business in connection with the merger of Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's, and its \$17 billion sale of its mortgage business to DLJ Mortgage Capital*
- **Private Bancorp** in its \$5 billion acquisition by CIBC*
- **PNC** in its \$1.25 billion acquisition of ECN Capital's US vendor finance business*
- **Sandler O'Neill** in its merger with Piper Jaffray to create Piper Sandler Companies*
- **Sallie Mae** in its sale of its Upromise Investments business to Ascensus, a JC Flowers portfolio company*

Private equity

- **Perceptive Advisors** in its acquisition of VapoTherm
- **M33 Growth** in the majority investment by **True Wind Capital** in **W Energy**
- **Warburg Pincus** and **The Carlyle Group** in their 2015 acquisition of DBRS from Colonial House Capital and their 2019 sale of DBRS to Morningstar*
- **Warburg Pincus** and **Mariner Finance** in the acquisition of Personal Finance Company from Minnesota Life*
- **Patriot Financial Partners** as lead investor in a consortium acquiring Radius Bancorp*
- **Frost Brooks** in its minority investment in BizEquity*

Energy and industrials

- **Hexcel** in its announced \$16 billion merger of equals with Woodward*
- **Joy Global** in its \$3.7 billion acquisition by Komatsu of Japan*
- **Hardinge** in its \$245 million sale to Privet Fund in a take-private transaction*
- **Berry Petroleum** in its \$4.9 billion sale to Linn Energy*
- **Cooper Industries** in its \$11.8 billion combination with Eaton*
- **Conoco Phillips** in its \$33 billion spinoff of Phillips 66*
- **CVR Energy** in connection with the acquisition of the company by Carl Icahn*

Activism defense

Kevin has advised numerous public company boards and management teams – including those of **Milestone Pharmaceuticals**, **Everbridge**, **Athira Pharma**, **Katapult**, **Ziopharm**, **Heliogen**, **SuperValu*** and **CVR Energy*** (among many other confidential engagements) – in connection with proxy contests, consent solicitations and other activist situations.

Financial advisor representations

Kevin also has represented financial advisors – including **Centerview**, **Morgan Stanley** and **Lazard*** – in connection with M&A transactions.

** Transaction handled prior to joining Cooley*

Before joining Cooley, Kevin was a member of the corporate department focusing on M&A at a prominent New York City law firm.

In law school, Kevin received the Joshua Montgomery Sears Jr. Prize for earning the highest

grades among second-year students, and he was a founder and editor in chief of the Harvard Business Law Review. Before law school, Kevin received his MBA and a bachelor's degree in finance.

In a former life, Kevin played NCAA Division I football for the Fresno State Bulldogs. He lives in New York City with his wife, Rosemary, and his daughter.

Education

Harvard Law School JD

California State University, Fresno MBA, BS

Admissions & Credentials

New York

Rankings & Accolades

Chambers USA: Corporate/M&A – New York (2024 – 2025)

The Legal 500 US: M&A: Large Deals (\$1bn+) (2025)