

FIRM NEWS

Schulte Roth & Zabel Names Largest New Partner Class in Its History

Firm announces 12 new partners and 5 special counsel promotions for 2025

January 7, 2025

Schulte Roth & Zabel (“Schulte” or “the firm”) is proud to announce its largest partner class in firm history, marking a significant milestone in the firm’s growth and expansion. Effective January 1, 2025, 12 exceptional lawyers — Ari Aranda, Max Garfield, Brandon Gold, David Lifshitz, Sean Locklear, Amy MacDonagh, Andrew Mazzarella, Frank Olander, Minji Reem, Lauren Troeller, Hannah Wells and Saarah Woodby — joined the firm’s partnership, representing a diverse array of talent across Schulte’s New York and London offices.

In addition, Schulte has promoted five accomplished lawyers to special counsel: Chris Hamilton, Daniel Neer, Sasha O’Leary, George Rowe and Abraham Schwartz. While the majority are based in the New York office, O’Leary will continue to serve clients from the London office.

This cohort of lawyers represent seven key practice areas, further solidifying Schulte’s standing as a global leader in legal and the private capital space.

“The firm achieved exceptional growth this year, fueled by a high level of business activity and new market opportunities that bolstered our presence and reaffirmed our position in the financial sector,” said Marc Elovitz, co-managing partner. “We carry this momentum into 2025, marked by promotions that underscore the depth and breadth of our

talent and showcases the unique and focused synergy across Schulte's practice groups."

David Efron, co-managing partner, added, "At Schulte, collaboration is the cornerstone of our success. This culture not only drives exceptional outcomes for our clients, but also fosters an environment where our lawyers can thrive. These promotions are a testament to that ethos and our ability to anticipate and adapt to the changing needs of our clients."

Partners

Ari Z. Aranda represents lenders and borrowers in connection with commercial mortgage and mezzanine financings, acquisitions and dispositions of commercial properties, negotiation of joint venture agreements, and workouts and restructurings.

Max Garfield primarily represents investment fund clients on all aspects of employment law issues. His work includes advising on onboarding and offboarding personnel, counseling on day-to-day employment issues, drafting and negotiating employment- and compensation-related agreements, and navigating complex disputes with employees, partners and other personnel.

Brandon S. Gold advises investors on shareholder activism, proxy fights, corporate governance, M&A, stakeholder engagement and securities law matters. He has represented virtually every prominent activist investor and played a leading role in many of the highest profile and groundbreaking activist campaigns in the past decade. He earned his JD from Harvard Law School, where he was a fellow in Harvard's Program on Corporate Governance.

David Lifshitz counsels private investment fund managers with respect to a broad range of fund formation and regulatory and compliance matters.

Sean D. Locklear represents lenders, borrowers, underwriters, issuers and investors on asset-backed lending, securitization and litigation finance transactions. In addition, Sean regularly advises clients on swaps, repos and other derivative products, as well as regulatory developments impacting the derivatives market.

Amy MacDonagh focuses on the representation of private funds and investment advisers in connection with their structuring, formation and ongoing operational needs and on regulatory and compliance matters.

Andrew M. Mazzearella represents private funds, including open-ended funds, closed-ended funds and hybrid funds, and investment advisers in connection with their structuring, formation and ongoing operational needs and on regulatory and compliance matters.

Frank W. Olander handles complex commercial litigation, particularly in the areas of shareholder activist litigation, M&A litigation, and corporate control and corporate governance disputes. He also represents public and private companies and financial services industry clients in a wide range of commercial disputes involving claims for breach of contract, fraud, breach of fiduciary duty and fraudulent transfer.

Minji Reem focuses on complex commercial litigation, shareholder activist litigation, securities litigation and internal investigations. She has represented public and private companies, individuals and financial services industry clients, including investment managers and banks, in various state and federal courts and arbitration forums, from commencement through trials and appeals.

Lauren M. Troeller advises middle market private equity sponsors and their portfolio companies, as well as direct lenders and privately owned businesses, in complex business transactions (including leveraged buyouts, divestitures, mergers, carve-outs, distressed acquisitions, minority investments, take privates and joint ventures).

Hannah J. Wells focuses on the tax aspects of private investment funds, including hedge funds, private equity funds, hybrid funds and credit funds, as well as advising investment managers in connection with their structuring, formation and ongoing operations.

Saarah Woodby represents venture funds, crossover funds, asset managers and other institutional investors in their debt and equity investments into technology-focused emerging companies, whose investments range from seed stage to growth equity.

Special Counsel

Chris Hamilton represents institutional and entrepreneurial investment managers, financial services firms and private investment funds in all aspects of their business, including advising managers of hedge, private

equity and hybrid funds in the formation and management of investment funds.

Daniel R. Neer represents private funds, including open-ended funds, closed-ended funds and hybrid funds, and investment advisers in connection with their structuring, formation and ongoing operational needs, and on regulatory and compliance matters. He also has experience advising investment advisers on structuring and negotiating seed and strategic investments and relationships.

Sasha O'Leary focuses on advising alternative investment funds and their managers. She also represents established and emerging European, US and Asian managers in connection with the establishment, restructuring, management and ongoing operational, transactional and legal needs of private funds across a range of strategies.

George H. Rowe advises on complex commercial litigation, securities litigation and government enforcement matters, including enforcement proceedings before the US Securities and Exchange Commission and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, as well as litigation finance matters.

Abraham Schwartz advises clients on shareholder activism matters, proxy contests, ESG engagement, M&A, corporate governance and other related matters. He represents and provides strategic advice to investors of all stripes on matters of shareholder engagement and has worked on some of the most significant campaigns in the activist space, including the largest proxy fight in history.

Related People



**Ari
Aranda**

Partner
New York



**Max
Garfield**

Partner
New York



**Brandon
Gold**

Partner
New York



**David
Lifshitz**

Partner
New York



**Sean
Locklear**

Partner
New York



**Amy
MacDonagh**

Partner
London



**Andrew
Mazzarella**

Partner
New York



**Frank
Olander**

Partner
New York



**Minji
Reem**

Partner
New York



**Lauren
Troeller**

Partner
New York



**Hannah
Wells**

Partner
New York



**Sarah
Woodby**

Partner
New York



**Chris
Hamilton**

Special Counsel
New York



**Daniel
Neer**

Special Counsel
New York



**Sasha
O'Leary**

Special Counsel
London



**George
Rowe**

Special Counsel
New York



**Abraham
Schwartz**

Special Counsel
New York

Practices

REAL ESTATE

EMPLOYMENT AND EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

MERGERS AND ACQUISITIONS

SHAREHOLDER ACTIVISM

INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT

FINANCE

LITIGATION

TAX