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Private Equity Transactions to Remain Robust in Seller's Market

Morgan Stanley, Kirkland, Kekst Top Advisers in Q1

NEW YORK, May 15, 2017 /PRNewswire/ -- Morgan Stanley, Kirkland & Ellis LLP, and Kekst and Co. were the top advisers to the private equity industry in the first quarter of 2017, according to [The Deal](#), a business unit of TheStreet, Inc. (NASDAQ: TST).



The report also found robust PE activity should continue for the next 18 months in this seller's market.

"Private equity firms, armed with a huge amount of dry powder, are finding attractive opportunities in which to invest despite the continued high valuation environment," said Armie Lee, reporter at The Deal. "Deal advisers say they expect the transaction landscape to remain robust in the months ahead."

The Deal's exclusive ranking covers the top investment banks, law firms, and PR advisers engaged in private equity transactions globally from January 1 to March 31, 2017. Collected data captures advisers to target/seller and acquirer/bidder companies involving transactions.

Some highlights from the report:

- | Among investment banks, Morgan Stanley topped the list with 25 PE deals, 11 of which represented the sell-side. Rothschild & Co ranked second with 23 deals, 17 of which involved representing the sell-side. Houlihan Lokey Inc. finished third with 21 deals, 19 of which it represented the sell-side.
- | Among law firms, Kirkland & Ellis LLP was the top counsel to companies, with 61 deals, 44 of which it represented the buy-side. Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP was second with 27 deals. Jones Day and Latham & Watkins LLP tied for third with 22 deals each.
- | Among PR firms involved in private equity transactions, Kekst and Co. was first with 19 transactions, in 14 of which it represented the buy-side. Joele Frank, Wilkinson Brimmer Katcher and Sard Verbinen & Co. LLC tied for second, with 18 transactions each. Chris Tofalli Public Relations LLC ranked third with 11 transactions.

The full article is [available online](#). For more information about The Deal's Private Equity coverage, go to www.thedeal.com.

About The Deal's Private Equity League Tables

The Private Equity League Tables include global deals involving PE firms, either on the buy side or sell side, regardless of whether financial terms were disclosed. Credit is given to all advisory firms involved on the deal, not only firms that advised on the PE side or a PE client. Deal types range from leveraged buyouts, add-on acquisitions, management-backed buyouts and any deal where a PE firm had a stake in the target, buyer or seller. Transactions where the investment implied at least a 30% stake in the target we're also included, as were minority investments where PE executives joined target boards.

About The Deal

The Deal (www.thedeal.com) provides actionable, intraday coverage of mergers, acquisitions and all other changes in corporate control to institutional investors, private equity, hedge funds and the firms that serve them. The Deal is a business unit of TheStreet, Inc. (NASDAQ: TST, www.t.st), a leading financial news and information provider. Other business units include TheStreet (www.thestreet.com), which is celebrating its 20th year of producing unbiased business news and market analysis; BoardEx (www.boardex.com), the leading relationship mapping service of corporate directors and officers; and RateWatch (www.rate-watch.com) which supplies rate and fee data from banks and credit unions across the U.S.

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