

Asset Management MVP: Paul Weiss' Marco Masotti

By **Andrew Strickler**

Law360, New York (December 20, 2016, 5:56 PM EST) -- Marco Masotti of Paul Weiss Rifkind Wharton & Garrison LLP presided over billions of dollars in fundraising this year for name brands in the alternative asset field like Apollo Global Management, earning him a spot among Law360's Asset Management MVPs.

As deputy chair of the firm's corporate department and co-head of the private funds group, Masotti is also focused on a firm strategy of advising a diverse group of clients, including buyout funds, credit funds, hedge funds, hybrids and seed capital funds, among others.

Firms that focus on just private equity or hedge funds "I think are strategically very pigeonholed," Masotti said. "A lot of managers of these major funds we work with are raising everything."

Among a long list of recent work are a pair of fundraisings for Avenue Capital Group: the launch of Avenue Europe Special Situations Fund III, targeting \$2.25 billion in total commitments; and Avenue Asia Special Situations Fund V, targeting \$1 billion for investment in debt and financial distress situations in Asia.

Continuing a relationship with private equity biggie Apollo Global Management, Masotti also helped lead the charge for the new Apollo Special Situations Fund, targeting \$750 million in total commitments, and a multibillion co-investment offering in connection with an investment in ADT Corp.

Over at Oak Hill Advisors LP, Masotti helped launch its flagship and largest committed fund, OHA Strategic Credit Fund II. Closing at \$2.7 billion from a diverse investor group, including public and private pensions and sovereign wealth funds, it will primarily do debt investments in distressed North American and European companies, according to the firm.

Masotti was also on the team with Harvest Partners raising funds for its latest private equity flagship, which closed with aggregate commitments that far outstripped an initial \$1.5 billion target.



“Harvest is a terrific client, a middle-market PE firm with a great team,” Masotti said. Funds for Harvest Partners VII “came together very quickly, settling at \$2.2 billion.”

Other notable matters Masotti worked on include Atlas Merchant Capital’s formation of a \$500 million financial services fund overseen by Bob Diamond and the lift-off of Gamut Capital’s debut fund, which is targeting \$1 billion.

Masotti was also busy with the launch of KKR’s Special Situations Fund II, a \$3.35 billion fund for corporate opportunities in which a company or owners have or may face reorganization or restructuring.

Meanwhile, Masotti also serves as chair of the ABA/IBA Annual International Conference on Private Investment Funds and co-chair of the Private Investment Funds Forum.

He’s also got a seat on the Paul Weiss management committee and leads a team of 35 dedicated private funds lawyers.

“Our model is to be diverse in the types of funds we work with, and being very quality-oriented as opposed to the biggest,” Masotti said.

--Editing by Emily Kokoll.