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TRAILBLAZERS

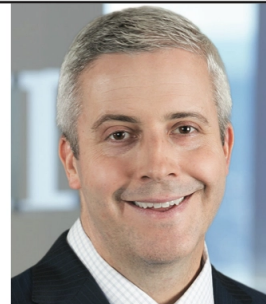
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NEILL P. JAKOBE

ROPES & GRAY LLP



What was the genesis of the idea/path that has made you a trailblazer?

I don't think it was a specific moment, but the overall journey. I worked as an M&A attorney, as a litigator and an investment banker before joining Ropes & Gray, and since joining Ropes have had the opportunity to lead the Chicago office and our global private equity practice.

Collectively, these experiences have helped me to develop insight into both the technical legal issues which we have to navigate, but also how to develop and run a business. In serving our clients, this experience drives me to develop tailored, practical solutions for our clients' complex problems. These experiences have combined to prepare me well for the task of helping our clients navigate the many business and personal challenges they faced during this especially challenging year.

What sort of change has resulted from the concept?

We deepened client relationships, demonstrating the importance of understanding both deal and financial markets in addition to our clients' varied businesses. I find that times of stress and uncertainty can be the best times to build relationships – it's when loyalty and commitment matters most and you see who really has your back. It's easy to be engaged when deals are plentiful and financing markets are strong, but our firm, group and office made a tremendous effort this year to help clients when their investments and the deal market were facing historic pressures, disruption and uncertainty.

What bearing will this have on the future?

Clients see we are there for them when they need us the most, and I expect we will continue to expand our practice and our relationships as we continually seek to better understand their businesses, and our own. As we have throughout this unprecedented year, we will continue to innovate, to help our clients create value regardless of the economic environment.