

Robert G. Leonard

Partner

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OVERVIEW

Robert Leonard, a partner in the firm's Asset Management and Investment Funds practice, has over 35 years of experience advising on the formation, structuring, and operation of hedge funds, funds of funds, and other private investment vehicles, both domestic and offshore. His clients include fund managers across a broad range of strategies, family offices, institutional investors, and investment advisers.

Robert has deep experience with complex fund structures, including master-feeder, mini-master, and side-by-side arrangements. He regularly counsels managers pursuing strategies such as long and short equity, multi-strategy, credit, distressed debt, mortgage-backed securities, global macro, quantitative, and direct lending.

In addition to fund formation, Robert advises on seed investments, founder and single-investor classes, and placement agreements, and works with clients to develop innovative strategies for capital raising. He also counsels on compensation structures, including equity and phantom equity arrangements, to help managers attract and retain key talent.

Robert is active in regulatory, trading and compliance matters. He regularly represents clients in regulatory examinations and investigations.

A recognized thought leader in alternative data and generative AI, Robert advises on compliance frameworks, risk assessments, due diligence, and contract negotiations in these evolving areas.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Recognized by *Chambers USA* for Hedge Funds, USA-Nationwide, 2014-2026
- Recognized by *Chambers Global* for Hedge Funds, USA-Nationwide, 2026
- Recognized by *The Best Lawyers in America*® for Private Funds/Hedge Funds Law in New York, NY, 2027
- Selected to *Super Lawyers*®, 2006 2011, 2016-2023, 2026

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Panelist, “The Regulatory Horizon: What Investment Firms Need to Prepare for Next” Future of Private Markets Summit hosted by Grant Thornton and Align US Services, June 2026
- Panelist, “Risk of Private Funds”, AON Investment Management Symposium–Democratization, Regulation, and Risk, April 2026
- Speaker, “Current Regulatory Environment”, Hedge Fund General Counsel Roundtable Dinner, March 2026
- Panelist, “Product Innovation Part 2: Trends in the Private Funds Market,” Asset Management and Investment Funds Fall Conference—Boston, November 2025

EDUCATION

- J.D., Brooklyn Law School, 1985
- B.A., Hobart and William Smith Colleges, 1982

ADMISSIONS

- Bar of New York

THOUGHT LEADERSHIP *POWERED BY HUB*

- November 2025, 2025 Asset Management and Investment Funds Fall Conference—Boston

NEWS & EVENTS

- 29 October 2026, Asset Management and Investment Funds Conference Series—New York
- 4 June 2026, K&L Gates Receives Nearly 235 Firm, Individual Rankings in 2026 *Chambers USA* Guide
- 12 February 2026, *Chambers Global* 2026 Guide Ranks K&L Gates Lawyers, Practices
- 28 July 2025, K&L Gates Strengthens Asset Management and Investment Funds Practice With New York Partner Addition

MEDIA MENTIONS

- 19 February 2026, *Private Equity Law Report* | SEC Proposes Amendments to Small Entity Definitions for Investment Advisers
- 11 February 2026, *FundFire* | Hedge Funds Aim to Accelerate Use of Alt Data, Especially Jobs Info

AREAS OF FOCUS

- Asset Management and Investment Funds
- Derivatives and Commodities
- Emerging Managers, Seed Investors, and GP Stakes
- Global Distribution
- Global Financial Services Regulation
- Hedge Funds
- Institutional Investors
- Investment Advisers
- Investment Funds
- Private Equity Funds
- Real Estate Funds

INDUSTRIES

- Financial Services