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DEALMAKERS OF THE YEAR Michael Aiello, Chairman of the Corporate Department Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP

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What were some of your most satisfying successes of the past year, and why? As a M&A dealmaker, I focus on novel and complex deals involving public companies and frequently find myself in the boardroom having to examine difficult situations and find quick solutions. I am grateful and honored that my clients entrust me with their most important, sensitive and transformative matters.



What qualities make a great dealmaker? Total commitment to your clients, the authenticity and insight to earn their trust and confidence, and the ingenuity to achieve their objectives.



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What recent market factors have been the most challenging in your practice area? Uncertainty always causes challenges in M&A, and everything you read in the news—from rising interest rates to soaring inflation to fears of a possible recession—has made market participants jittery over the past year or so. It is unclear when that fog is going to lift, but M&A is cyclical and will certainly rebound. We are extremely well-positioned to serve our clients when that happens.

A prospective client calls and asks why you or your team should be retained. What is your response? We bring deep expertise across the full spectrum of transactions and industries. Weil M&A lawyers know the playbook but also have the creativity, confidence and experience to know when to rewrite it.