

## MVP: Weil's Andrew Chizzik

By Kevin Pinner

*Law360 (October 13, 2023, 1:08 PM EDT)* -- Andrew Chizzik of Weil Gotshal & Manges LLP advised Genstar Capital Formation on a \$12.6 billion buyout fund this year and advised Brookfield Asset Management on several significant matters, earning him a spot among Law360's 2023 Fund Formation MVPs.

### ***His biggest accomplishment over the past year:***

Chizzik advised Brookfield on the Brookfield Global Transition Fund, which closed in June 2022 at \$15 billion, making it the largest private fund for supporting the transition to net-zero carbon emissions.

"This was a unique project given that it was Brookfield's first impact fund and the largest of its kind by a significant margin with a variety of complex issues," he said.

Asked what his biggest accomplishment was over the past year, Chizzik said, "Staying sane." Immediately after closing on Brookfield's project, he picked up an adviser role for another major fund by Genstar Capital, a leading private equity firm.

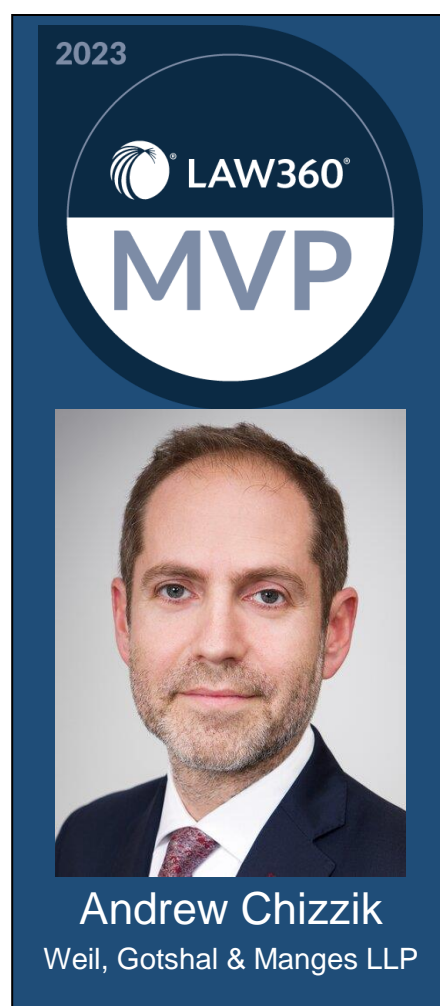
"To go straight from that into Genstar XI, which raised \$12.5 billion in one close, with an additional committed co-invest alongside it, was quite a one-two punch for the year," Chizzik said.

### ***His proudest moment in the past year:***

Chizzik's proudest moment in the past year came in April, when Weil closed on Genstar Capital Partners XI LP, a fund focused on investments in finance, software, health care and industrial products.

"It was the culmination of so much hard work for such a fantastic team here at Weil, and I was so proud of the end result," Chizzik said. "I was also very pleased to be a part of this historic fundraiser for Genstar — to raise \$12.5 billion in one closing in the current market environment was beyond impressive, and we were fortunate to play a part in it."

The fund took one closing to reach its hard cap, with many subscriptions coming from Genstar's existing client base and with limited partners including endowments, pension plans, sovereign wealth funds and



family offices. Two years earlier, Chizzik helped Genstar form Genstar Capital Partners X LP, an \$11.7 billion fund focused on a similar mix of sectors compared to its successor.

***His biggest challenge in the past year:***

Advising Brookfield on its climate transition fund required the MVP to "learn the language" of environmental, social and corporate governance standards, he said. He had to become proficient in key performance indicators, the European Union's Sustainable Finance Disclosure Regulation, "greenwashing" and Section 506(c) of the Securities Act, which allows the issuer of a security to advertise an offering as long as subscribers are all accredited investors.

"After almost 20 years of practicing as a funds lawyer, it feels like we're all being forced to become regulatory lawyers — a trend that continues to accelerate," Chizzik said. "While I'm used to looking for creative ways to work through issues with clients and investors alike, this was a whole new area for us to master."

According to Chizzik, the "day-to-day regulatory impact on our practice was minimal" when he first started practicing. "Now, while my desk is still cluttered with LPAs [limited partnership agreements], comment memos and side letters, the 600-page private fund rule and analyses thereof take up a lot of prime real estate, as well as a material chunk of each day."

For the 2004 graduate of Fordham University School of Law, it amounts to "teaching a middle-aged dog two new tricks!"

*--As told to Kevin Pinner.*

Law360's MVPs of the Year are attorneys who have distinguished themselves from their peers over the past year through high-stakes litigation, record-breaking deals, and complex global matters. A team of Law360 editors selected the 2023 MVP winners after reviewing more than 900 submissions.