

Ex-Greenberg Traurig Tax Atty Joins Covington's Tax Group

By **Derek Major**

Law360 (March 19, 2019, 8:11 PM EDT) -- Covington & Burling LLP announced a former Greenberg Traurig LLP transactional tax attorney experienced in mergers and acquisitions and private equity transactions has joined the firm's tax practice group in New York.

Kevin Zaragoza, who joined Covington Monday, has experience in helping clients with leveraged buyouts, dispositions, and partnership and joint venture transactions. Zaragoza also has assisted clients on minority investments, restructurings, growth investments and other complex transactions, according to a statement by the firm.



Kevin Zaragoza

Zaragoza said he was drawn to Covington because of the reputation of its international tax practice.

"Covington has an excellent international practice," Zaragoza said. "It's kind of an exciting time to be a tax lawyer after tax reform and all the changes that are happening in regulations, and Covington has a lot of interesting cross-border work that I wanted to be a part of."

Additionally, Zaragoza advises clients and investors in formation funds and equity securities in many industries including retailing, energy, consumer products and technology.

"I'm a general transactional tax lawyer focusing on M&A and private equity," Zaragoza said. "The firm has an incredible transactional practice and so I'm really just happy to join the team and get deals done."

Zaragoza earned his bachelor's degree from Yale University, his law degree from Yale Law School and his doctorate in philosophy from Princeton University.

Zaragoza said transactional tax wasn't his first career choice. After college he entered a graduate program in philosophy and became a professor at the University of Georgia, but when he discovered transactional tax, he couldn't walk away from it.

"Law for me was a second career," Zaragoza said. "From college I went to a Ph.D. program in philosophy and was teaching for a few years. Some people that I was close to pushed me for a couple of years to go to law school. I eventually went to law school and took some tax classes and found them fascinating."

Zaragoza added that working as a philosophy professor and working in tax have more in common than people think.

“The kinds of conceptual thinking that you’re trained in as a philosopher is incredibly useful and applicable to tax practice,” he said.

Daniel Luchsinger, chair of the firm’s tax practice group, said Zaragoza’s experience would be a boost to the firm and its clients.

“Kevin’s particular experience in working on tax aspects of M&A and private equity transactions, including fund formation, and partnership tax experience emanating from this private equity work, is invaluable as the practice continues to grow,” Luchsinger said. “Clients will undoubtedly benefit from Kevin’s experience as tax partnership transactions have expanded over the past decades, and partnership tax law has become more sophisticated and complex, especially in the wake of tax reform.”

--Editing by Tim Ruel.