

NORTH TEXAS DEALMAKERS

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BY JON PRIOR

**MARK SOLOMON****PARTNER,
ANDREWS KURTH**

Mark Solomon has represented clients among all types and deals of all sizes. So, how is early 2017 for M&A? "It's going absolutely bangbusters ... locally, no inhibitors, everything is green." There's a lot of equity and when debt is needed, interest rates will remain very low by historical standards, he added. And with it being harder for larger, public companies to grow organically, they're having to satisfy shareholders by growing through acquisitions - adding fuel to an already hot market.

**EVAN STONE****SECURITIES AND
CORPORATE
GOVERNANCE
CHAIR, GARDERE**

Evan Stone not only represents wealthy family offices, private equity firms, hedge funds, and other institutional investors, but he helps from the ground floor with fund raising too and its changing regulations. There has been some interest from investors recently to buy up retailers, an industry that has been under a lot of pressure, he said, to go with what he expects will be a surge in activity for the market overall. "We have definitely seen an uptick in at least the interest."

**TOM TIPPETTS****PARTNER,
HAYNES AND
BOONE**

Tom Tippetts is a partner with Haynes and Boone working from both a Dallas and Denver office. He has represented corporations and private equity firms on M&A and has helped with venture capital investments too. Tippetts also worked on distressed M&A deals and reorganizations. Like a lot of M&A deal makers in town, he's considered a generalist, working across several industries.

**PATRICIA VILLAREAL****OF COUNSEL,
JONES DAY**

Pat Villareal has represented both public and private companies for more than three decades. She's worked on mergers and acquisitions under the Jones Day umbrella. She worked with the team advising Dallas-based Oncor Electric in its sale to NextEra Energy announced last year for \$18.4 billion.

**WES WILLIAMS****CORPORATE &
SECURITIES LEADER,
THOMPSON &
KNIGHT**

Wes Williams, who focuses on the oil and gas business, represented Yates Petroleum Corp. in a \$2.5 billion merger with EOG Resources last fall. He's "seen a big uptick in the amount of M&A going on" to start 2017 too. Most of the activity is taking place in the Permian and in the "stack and scoop" areas of Oklahoma where production costs are still low. But deals are still coming out of the downturn as struggling companies are selling off assets as prices have now recovered.

**MIMI YU****ASSOCIATE,
JONES DAY**

Mimi Yu has been involved in numerous transactions involving technology companies. An interesting one: Amtel Corp.'s sale to Microchip Technology Inc. announced last year. The deal was for about \$3.56 billion, but Amtel had originally entered into an agreement to be bought by Dialog Semiconductor in the fall of 2015 for \$4.6 billion. After Dialog's shares slipped on the news, the value of the deal "decreased significantly," according to Jones Day, and Microchip put in an offer.

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**Staff Writer Korri Kezar
will discuss the latest
news and critical trends
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