

**THE 2025 DEALMAKERS  
OF THE YEAR**



**M. BREEN HAIRE AND SHAMUS CROSBY  
SIMPSON THACHER & BARTLETT**

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**By Patrick Smith**

On its face, the deal that Breen Haire and Shamus Crosby, two corporate attorneys for Simpson, Thacher & Bartlett, were working on for KKR, involving T-Mobile and Metronet, was complicated enough.

“We represented KKR, and it was a multi-headed transaction,” Haire said in an interview. “We had the M&A deal (KKR buying Metronet), we had a JV (joint venture) between KKR and T-Mobile that had to last and anticipate future needs, and we also documented the shift of Metronet from a residential fiber company into a wholesaler. It was three deals in one.”

The “highly technical commercial arrangement between T-Mobile and Metronet” was no easy task either, the duo said, and it was made somewhat more difficult by the arrival of Hurricane Beryl along the Southeastern portion of Texas in June 2024. Haire and Crosby were working out of the firm’s Houston office when power went down for more than two million people for the two weeks prior to the deal closing. They went remote, in search of electricity.

That required some pivots on working location and time—not desirable elements in a high-speed, high-priority deal.

(The deal has yet to close, with full regulatory approval still pending, according to reports).

Tactical obstacles and all, Haire and Crosby leaned on their own strong working relationship, the duo said, to keep things moving on the aggressive timeline the participants set.

“To me, the big important thing was the ease with which Breen and I worked together,” Crosby said. “Every part of the deal was interrelated, but we worked in parallel. The history Breen and I have working together, along with the reps we have had with KKR, really helped.”

Haire and Crosby said they have done a number of deals with KKR over time, and their knowledge of how the client works, the players involved and the dynamic they had developed over the years pushed things through.

They said the project—which turns Metronet, the country’s fastest-growing pureplay fiber company, into a wholesaler—is part of a string of infrastructure work done by KKR. And it is something that Haire and Crosby have leaned into as they move forward with the PE firm.

“We have been covering the full waterfront of deals they (KKR) do in the space,” Haire said. “Energy, power, digital infrastructure, including things like data centers...have allowed us to really know KKR and how they do deals.”

Even if the lights aren’t on.