

## Rising Star: Cahill Gordon's Javier Ortiz

By Lauren Berg

*Law360 (August 14, 2025, 4:00 PM EDT)* -- Javier Ortiz of Cahill Gordon & Reindel LLP advised financing banks on an unusual and complex cross-border asset-based loan for Apollo Global Management's \$6 billion acquisition of auto parts-maker Tenneco Inc., earning him a spot among the complex financial instruments attorneys under age 40 honored by Law360 as Rising Stars.

### Why he's a complex financial attorney:

After earning his undergraduate degree in politics from New York University, Ortiz went into NYU Law School with an open mind, but he said he knew he didn't really want to be in the courtroom. Instead he wanted to test his chops as a transactional lawyer, which led him to Cahill Gordon, a firm with robust and well-respected financial practice areas.

"It felt like a great fit from day one," said Ortiz, who joined the firm as an associate in 2010. "I've been able to build great relationships with clients and colleagues."


"And it is such a cool experience to work on things that people read about in the Wall Street Journal," he added.


### A big deal he worked on recently:

Ortiz, who focuses on loans in his practice, was the lead partner in 2023 advising the financing banks on a complex, cross-border \$1 billion asset-based loan in Apollo's \$6 billion acquisition of Tenneco. Apollo announced it was taking the auto-parts-maker private in February 2022.

The sprawling ABL required Ortiz and his team to manage multiple banks, navigate several jurisdictions with varying rules and collateral requirements, and then integrate the \$1 billion loan with an existing cash pool.

2025





**Javier Ortiz**  
Cahill Gordon & Reindel

Age: 39  
Home base: New York  
Position: Partner  
Law school: New York University School of Law  
First job after law school: Associate at Cahill Gordon

What's more, in Mexico, the lead bank sought a fideicomiso — a type of trust that is more common in real estate and rarely seen in ABLs — which kept Ortiz on his toes as he coordinated the structuring with numerous local attorneys while educating other lenders who had never used a fideicomiso in this context.

"It can take a lot of work to make sure it fits with an ABL," Ortiz said, adding that "it was a learning experience for the U.S. lawyers."

#### **Other notable cases:**

During that same time, from summer 2023 through February, Ortiz helped create the original ABL financing when private equity firm Platinum Equity Advisors LLC bought aerospace supply chain management company Incora and then merged it with logistics company Wesco Aircraft Holdings Inc.

The ABL originally involved the U.S., Canada and the U.K., with Ortiz later adding Mexican assets to give the company covenant relief and help it gain liquidity, according to the firm. The firm noted that Mexico is an uncommon ABL jurisdiction, which added to the deal's complexity and the subsequent bankruptcy's complexity.

Cahill Gordon represented the ABL agent and lenders during the bankruptcy process while Ortiz, who has never been involved with a bankruptcy transaction, acted as an ABL "expert witness" to help his colleagues answer legal questions and to provide timelines and details of the credit agreement.

Then, as Incora prepared to emerge from bankruptcy, Ortiz led work on the new \$600 million ABL exit facility, helping organize the syndicate and meet tight deadlines tied to the exit.

Beginning when he was a mid-level associate in 2015 to the present — now as a partner — Ortiz has also worked on multiple transactions for Western Digital Corp. and Sandisk Corp., including the \$18 billion in loans and bonds when hard drive manufacturer Western Digital first acquired Sandisk.

This year, Western Digital decided to spin out Sandisk, and Ortiz advised the financing sources on the \$2 billion term loan and \$1.5 billion revolver loan to Sandisk as it became an independent company.

#### **What motivates him:**

For Ortiz, the fast-paced, ever-changing nature of his clients' deals keep him coming to work every day. And the transactions are only getting bigger and more complex, he noted.

"The job certainly isn't boring," he said, laughing. "It's a very fast-moving job. Even problems that seem similar might require different solutions."

"As a transactional lawyer, you're doing what you can to make both sides happy," Ortiz added.

#### **On the future of his specialty:**

The complex financial instruments practice continues to grow, according to Ortiz, who foresees ABLs getting bigger and more complex as more companies use them. He also sees more multinational deals coming down the pike.

"Borrowers are often looking for more availability," Ortiz said. "I wouldn't be surprised to see more ABLs in more jurisdictions."

*--As told to Lauren Berg. Editing by Kristen Becker.*

*Law360's Rising Stars are attorneys under 40 whose legal accomplishments belie their age. A team of Law360 editors selected the 2025 Rising Stars winners after reviewing more than 1,100 submissions. Attorneys had to be under 40 as of April 30, 2025, to be eligible for this year's award.*

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