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***Contact: Antoinette C. McGovern
Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP
Tel: (212) 728-8404
Email: amcgovern@willkie.com***

**PRIVATE EQUITY PARTNER KFIR ABUTBUL
JOINS WILLKIE'S ENERGY PRACTICE**

New York, NY (August 3, 2017) – Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP today announced that Kfir Abutbul has joined the firm's Private Equity Practice Group as a partner in Houston. Mr. Abutbul was formerly a partner at Kirkland & Ellis LLP in its Houston office.

Mr. Abutbul focuses on advising private equity sponsors, their portfolio companies, and management teams on the execution and successful completion of key corporate transactions both domestically and throughout Africa, Asia, Latin America, and his native Israel. He advises clients on mergers and acquisitions, divestitures and spin-offs, leveraged buyouts, joint ventures, the formation of sponsor-backed investment platforms and related corporate counseling.

Mr. Abutbul has also worked extensively with distressed debtors and investors of debt and equity on recapitalization, disposition and restructuring transactions, both in and out of bankruptcy court. During his time in Houston, Mr. Abutbul has focused on power and renewables, industrials and chemicals, as well as general energy and infrastructure transactions, including in steel manufacturing, mining and transmission facilities, and oil field services.

“We continue to add top talent to our team of lawyers who specialize in private equity transactions in the energy sector and broader buyout space,” said Bruce Herzog, Willkie’s partner in charge of the Houston office. “Kfir checks all of the boxes that we and our clients care most about: legal acumen and experience, commitment to client service, prodigious work ethic and commercial sensibility. In addition, Kfir is a terrific guy whom we’ve known from his days as a former Willkie associate in our New York office. We’re delighted to have him rejoin our firm.”

“I know the Willkie culture well as a former associate in the New York office,” said Mr. Abutbul. “When the opportunity arose to rejoin the Willkie platform, with its top tier private equity practice, commitment to forging long term client relationships in energy and power and a refreshingly collaborative work environment, I was thrilled. I’m excited to join the outstanding team in Houston and to work closely with Willkie’s clients around the globe.”

Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP is an international law firm of more than 700 attorneys with offices in New York, Washington, Houston, Paris, London, Frankfurt, Brussels, Milan and Rome.

Our international network of private equity specialists collaborate to provide comprehensive legal services to clients. We actively represent more than 75 U.S. and international private equity sponsors and more than 200 portfolio companies and management teams across a broad range of industries.