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## 40 Under 40: Kevin DeSanto

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**Managing director and investment banker, KippsDeSanto & Co.**

After spending nine years at [Houlihan Lokey Inc.](#), DeSanto made the entrepreneurial leap in 2007 and co-founded investment bank KippsDeSanto & Co., which serves the defense and technology sectors. He was an adviser on six major deals in 2010 worth nearly \$500 million. The 36-year-old has a bachelor's in finance from [Georgetown University](#). He's married and has two sons, Carter, 3, and Mason, 1.



**What was it like to leave your job to start your own firm?** It was a little bit scary and a little bit exciting. For me personally, it was a great opportunity to broaden my horizons and be a part of running a business.

**What's the biggest stereotype about investment bankers?** Probably that they're always trying to put a deal together irrespective of whether it's in the best interests of the clients.

**What's one thing people would be surprised to learn about you?** That I go to every home Georgetown basketball game

**What are you superstitious about?** Deals closing.

**What do you do to not jinx it?** Never talk about the fee.

**What are you most afraid of?** Failure. And snakes.

**Who fascinates you?** Alex Rodriguez. He gets paid all that money and has been quite a bust over the last few years.