

Podcast: Barington's Mitarotonda on Avon, Outback Steakhouse and Xerium

EXCLUSIVE

The Activist Investing Today podcast takes a look at an activist fund manager who has been taking a collaborative, private-equity approach to the public markets for almost twenty years.

By [Ronald Orol](#)

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James Mitarotonda

James Mitarotonda, who has run activist fund **Barington Capital** since 2000, took some time to speak to The Deal's Activist Investing Today podcast.

In a wide-ranging conversation, Mitarotonda, says he takes a collaborative, private-equity approach to public market investments in companies that frequently have high barriers to entry. However, Mitarotonda acknowledges that he will launch a director-election fight if necessary. For example, Barington is seeking to install two directors onto the board of **Xerium Technologies Inc.** (XRM) as part of an effort to drive the paper machine manufacturer to explore a "strategic transaction" that he believes would facilitate the refinancing of its debt to more favorable terms.

Beyond, Xerium, Mitarotonda spoke to The Deal about his ongoing campaigns at other well-known companies, such as Outback Steakhouse-owner Bloomin Brands Inc. (BLMN) and beauty products company **Avon Products Inc.** (**AVP**), where he has a directorship.

Here's the [podcast](#).