

## ACHIEVEMENTS

# Chambers USA Ranks Sidley as Top Law Firm for Takeover Defense

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June 6, 2024

Chambers USA published its selective list of leading practices and lawyers in the United States for the category “Takeover Defense.” Sidley was ranked in Band 1 as top law firm for this practice for the third year in a row. In addition, the co-chairs of Sidley’s Shareholder Activism and Corporate Defense practice, Kai Liekefett and Derek Zaba, were both ranked individually in Band 1 and 3, respectively.

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Chambers USA commented:

**Sidley** houses market-leading expertise in shareholder activism defense.

*“Sidley Austin is the best in the business at activism defence work.”*

*“The Sidley Austin activism team have seen every possible situation and offer terrific insights on the most complex issues. They have unparalleled experience.”*

*“Sidley Austin’s responsiveness and service levels are exceptional.”*

**Kai Liekefett** co-chairs the firm’s Shareholder Activism practice, and retains a strong reputation for his defense work and proxy fight expertise. He is active in situations on both the domestic and international stages.

*“Kai is a pioneer in the field of shareholder activism defense.”*

*“He engenders real loyalty from his clients based on his personality, careful counsel and knowledge of the law.”*

*“Kai is a consummate professional in this space. He’s the fighter you want on your side. He has deep knowledge, experience and expertise.”*

**Derek Zaba** splits his time between the firm’s Palo Alto and New York offices and co-chairs its Shareholder Activism practice.

*“Derek is extremely responsive, very knowledgeable and presents very well in front of the board and executives.”*

*“Derek is one of the brightest defense attorneys in the business. He consistently delivers sound advice*

*and as a result he's very well liked by boards.”*

*“Derek is very creative, an excellent tactician, and a great listener.”*

*“Derek has a great style about him. He's very even-keeled in how he delivers advice and he remains very calm and collected in negotiations.”*

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These Chambers rankings follow Sidley's No. 1 rankings by *Bloomberg*, *FactSet*, *Diligent* and *LSEG* for company-side engagements by legal advisers globally and in the United States in recent years. Sidley is also ranked in Tier 1 by *The Legal 500 (U.S.)* for “Shareholder Activism – Advice to Boards,” which also lists Kai Liekefett and Derek Zaba individually as leading lawyers for advice to boards. Additionally, Sidley was recognized by *The Deal* as “Activist Defense Law Firm of the Year” two years in a row.

In the past five years, Sidley has represented companies in more than 150 proxy contests, several hundred activist campaigns, and dozens of settlements — more than any other defense law practice in the world.

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