



Private Equity Group Named Private Equity Law Firm of the Year

For two years in a row, Chambers & Partners has chosen Kirkland & Ellis LLP as the Private Equity Law Firm of the Year. This is the first time any firm has achieved a consecutive win in this category. The prestigiousness of this award signifies the strength and scope of the Firm's Private Equity Practice.

"Kirkland & Ellis's private equity group is national in scope and operation. No other midwest firm comes close to rivaling its dominance."

—Chambers & Partners

2003 USA Private Equity Law Firm of the Year

In 2003, Chambers Global Awards named Kirkland & Ellis LLP the "USA Private Equity Law Firm of the Year." Chambers presented the award at the inaugural dinner in London. The Firm faced competitors Simpson Thacher & Bartlett and Weil, Gotshal & Manges to win the award for its leading global private equity practice. The Firm was commended for its representation of many clients, including long-standing client Madison Dearborn Partners in their acquisition of Jefferson Smurfit, the largest-ever European LBO.

The Chambers Global Awards shortlisted firms by its own research carried out during the past twelve months compiling the Chambers Global, USA and UK legal directories. The winning firms were decided by a distinguished panel of judges made up of international corporate buyers of legal services.

2002 Private Equity International Law Firm of the Year

In 2002, Chambers Global Awards named Kirkland & Ellis LLP the "Private Equity International Law Firm of the Year." The Firm was chosen over a group of finalists comprised of the best global private equity law firms. Summarizing its research, Chambers noted simply that Kirkland's private equity group has an "astronomical reputation."

The Chambers Global Awards Program is intended to honor the finest performers in the various disciplines of international commercial law. The awards are based on research undertaken for *Chambers Global: The World's Leading Lawyers*, for which Chambers contacts lawyers and businesspeople throughout the world. Chambers & Partners, the international legal publisher and research company, publishes guides to lawyers and law firms that are relied upon by businesspeople worldwide.