



Securities Litigation



STEFAN ATKINSON

Partner

Kirkland & Ellis

New York, NY, US

T: +1 (212) 446 4803

E: stefan.atkinson@kirkland.com

PERSONAL BIOGRAPHY

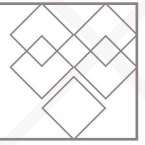
Stefan Atkinson is a highly regarded litigation partner who handles all manner of high-stakes disputes, with a particular focus on critical securities and M&A litigation matters. He is known for devising novel strategies to win complex cases. Clients describe him as “masterful in his presentation to the court” and “a talented attorney and trusted adviser”. He possesses a keen ability to parse complex legal issues and present them with simplicity, clarity and precision. He is known for his strategic thinking, meticulous preparation and responsiveness – qualities that have earned him the respect of his clients and peers.

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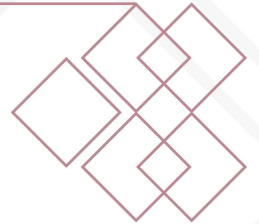
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Q&A WITH STEFAN ATKINSON



Reflecting on your career, how have your goals and aspirations evolved over time? Have there been any unexpected achievements or shifts in direction?

◆ When I started my career in big law nearly 20 years ago, I did not expect to be here long term. I thought this would be a short stop on my way to government work or perhaps a job in the business world. But almost immediately, I realised that I loved the work and the experiences I was being afforded. Every day flew by, and the years did too. I simply forgot to move on and ultimately decided that I wanted to try to be a partner, however much of a long shot that felt like at the time. I did not previously have any family or friends in big law, so I was not exactly sure what it took to make it or whether being a partner was something I would enjoy. But I was fortunate to have amazing mentors who were patient and encouraging. I am lucky to love what I do.

How do you mentor and inspire younger colleagues within your firm? Can you share a success story of someone you have guided?

◆ The best way to encourage and motivate young associates is to give them meaningful opportunities and experiences beyond those that they have undertaken in the past. There is no better way to learn than to do – take a deposition, examine a witness in court, take the lead on a brief. I have never seen associates develop more quickly than when they are thrown into the deep end. I once worked with an associate who wanted to develop but was worried about failing. I gave her a deposition – her first one ever. She was nervous in advance and nauseous the morning of. But she did wonderfully and now is one of our go-to lawyers for depositions. She would not have learned so fast by reading a book on depositions or even

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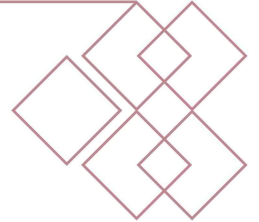
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by watching others. Only by taking risks and stepping up could she have become as good as she is.

What qualities and values do you believe are essential for building strong, trusting relationships with clients?

◆ In my opinion, the only way to build strong, trusting relationships with clients is to put in the work, sometimes over years, and demonstrate to them that you are loyal, tenacious and principled. Of course, a good lawyer needs to be responsive and do good work. It helps to be a warm and friendly person. But building trust with clients takes more than that, in my experience. It takes truly understanding the client's business and goals. It takes thinking more broadly than just the lawsuit before you when considering how to achieve the client's objectives. It takes saying 'no' to your client when you believe that doing so best serves their ultimate interests. If you can develop a relationship with clients where they see you as an honest broker who will do everything in your power to help them achieve their goals, then you will have succeeded. ■



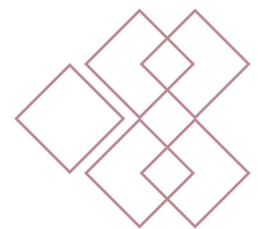
"A GOOD LAWYER NEEDS TO BE RESPONSIVE AND DO GOOD WORK. IT TAKES TRULY UNDERSTANDING THE CLIENT'S BUSINESS AND GOALS. IT TAKES THINKING MORE BROADLY THAN JUST THE LAWSUIT BEFORE YOU WHEN CONSIDERING HOW TO ACHIEVE THE CLIENT'S OBJECTIVES."

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**REPRESENTATIVE ENGAGEMENTS**

- ◆ Twice successfully achieved dismissal of a purported securities fraud class action against Sumo Logic and its former chief executive and chief financial officer in the Northern District of California.
- ◆ Achieved a key win for AIM ImmunoTech Inc. in proxy litigation against activists in Delaware.
- ◆ Represented Chico's, a Sycamore portfolio company, and its former chief executive in securing the dismissal with prejudice of a purported shareholder class action in Florida.
- ◆ Representing CenterPoint Energy and its current and former directors and officers in derivative litigation in the Texas Business Court.
- ◆ Representing ArcLight Capital Partners, a portfolio company, and certain D&Os in two putative class actions stemming from ArcLight's take-private acquisition of American Midstream Partners.
- ◆ Representing Acadia Healthcare in a putative securities class action alleging violations of sections 10(b) and 20(a) of the Exchange Act.
- ◆ Representing Zenith Electronics LLC, an LG affiliate, in litigation in the Delaware Chancery Court.

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