

ENTERTAINMENT, SPORTS, AND MEDIA CRISIS MANAGEMENT AND STRATEGIC RESPONSE

SIDLEY

All crises — whether arising from a corporate emergency, a catastrophic event, or negative publicity — require a coordinated response on an expedited timeline. Sidley has a proven track record of helping clients manage entertainment, sports, and media (ESM) crises which require quick action, strategic insight, and litigation know-how critical to protect our clients’ businesses and reputations. Working closely with our clients in both responding to and handling ESM crises, we provide tailored solutions to address the circumstances of all situations.

Our ESM Crisis Management team has deep experience with highly sensitive government and internal investigations, M&A transactions, capital raisings, financings, cutting-edge distribution deals, tax matters, high-profile litigation, restructurings, and regulatory matters. We use an industry-focused approach, drawing upon the significant, relevant experience of our lawyers across practice areas to deploy swift, well-planned crisis responses. Major ESM companies and their boards seek our counsel in an emergency as we provide thoughtful, seamless advice for multi-faceted crises. Harnessing our firm’s global resources, Sidley is able to quickly assemble the right team for complex transactional, regulatory, and litigation matters in the ESM sector that span multiple legal disciplines.

Why Sidley?

We have decades of experience serving as the “first response” team in the face of ESM crises to establish and manage both the initial and long-term legal strategies and assist with remediation efforts.

Our lawyers represent a broad spectrum of domestic and international clients in the entertainment and media space.

Our work includes:

- Internal investigations, including whistleblower complaints
- Responses to investigations by the Department of Justice (DOJ), Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), state Attorneys General, and other oversight bodies
- Advising boards and audit and special committees
- Counseling on compliance, governance, litigation risks, and potential exposure arising from alleged misconduct, investigative findings, and negative publicity
- Cybersecurity breach incident response and prevention
- Congressional inquiry or subpoena response

SIDLEY PROTECTS CLIENTS ON MULTIPLE FRONTS

- Business Interests/Reputation
- Public/Media Relations
- DOJ/FBI/Law Enforcement
- Litigation/Settlement/Alternative Resolution
- SEC
- Board Inquiries/Shareholder Activism
- Congress
- Class Action/MDLs/State Coordinated Actions
- Government Agencies

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CONSISTENTLY RANKED AMONG TOP FOUR FIRMS FOR CRISIS MANAGEMENT IN THE U.S. AND GLOBALLY

— CHAMBERS CRISIS & RISK MANAGEMENT 2021-2023

TALENT. TEAMWORK. RESULTS.

- Managing legal, policy, political, or public relations considerations related to an investigation
- Advice regarding workouts or restructurings for companies where intellectual property is a key asset
- Securities disclosure issues
- Sexual misconduct and other employment-related allegations

How We Add Value

Sidley's ESM Crisis Management team understands the level of trust that is required to handle the challenges that arise on the onset, in the midst of, and after a crisis. Our lawyers know how to balance internal and external effects, relationship dynamics, and optics.

We will collaborate with you to help frame the narrative, recognizing that your reputation is paramount and media attention will only continue. Steps often include: mapping out a strategy based on clear objectives considering all stakeholders; managing immediate and longer-term communications, including internal and external strategies; preserving and gathering factual evidence; interacting with regulators and other government agencies proactively and in response to inquiries; and coordinating all of the moving pieces so that you can focus on achieving your business goals.

We have represented:

- An international retailer regarding an investigation stemming from allegations by the media that one of their suppliers engaged in slave labor, underpays its workers, and requires them to work in unsafe conditions that are linked to health problems.
- A former senior officer of a National Football League (NFL) team in a high-profile NFL investigation into the organization's culture, policies, and allegations of workplace misconduct.
- Global broadcast giant beIN Media Group in a high-profile crisis and politically charged international dispute with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- Several prominent former social media company executives in DOJ, SEC, and FTC investigations into the acquisition of the company, and a Congressional investigation and testimony before U.S. House Oversight and Accountability Committee into allegations of social media censorship.
- Ohio State Head Football Coach Urban Meyer related to an investigation into allegations arising from athletic department issues.
- An international casino resort in responding to and managing the aftermath in a crisis situation in Las Vegas.

RANKED AMONG THE BEST
IN CALIFORNIA MEDIA &
ENTERTAINMENT: TRANSACTIONAL/
LITIGATION AND IN NATIONWIDE
SPORTS LAW

— CHAMBERS USA 2023

"Sidley is brilliant. They are easy to work with, practical and strategic. They have great experience dealing with all aspects of government investigations and crisis management, e.g. media relations and internal communications. So it is really everything."

— CHAMBERS CRISIS & RISK MANAGEMENT 2023:
GLOBAL-WIDE

MEMBERS OF OUR TEAM HAVE
BEEN NAMED TO BILLBOARD'S "TOP
MUSIC LAWYERS" LIST FOUR YEARS
IN A ROW

— BILLBOARD MAGAZINE 2020-2023

"Sidley has very deep expertise in the entertainment space, and the ability to cover both general and specialized work... Sidley's advice is invaluable across all matters. Their understanding of the marketplace and what is market standard is second to none."

— CHAMBERS USA 2023: CALIFORNIA—
MEDIA & ENTERTAINMENT: TRANSACTIONAL