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Robert Chidester Named a 2026 Notable Leader in Law by Crain's Chicago



Robert Chidester

Gould & Ratner Managing Partner [Robert Chidester](#) has been named a 2026 Notable Leader in Law by Crain's Chicago Business, recognizing his leadership within the firm, his work on behalf of his clients, and his dedication to serving the community.

As a Managing Partner, Robert has played a central role in Gould & Ratner's growth strategy, including helping launch and expand the firm's Denver office, which opened in 2024. Before becoming Managing Partner, Robert served for three years as Chair of the firm's Corporate Practice.

Alongside his firm management responsibilities, Robert maintains an active practice advising investment firms, family offices, and middle-market businesses on capital raises, fund formation, M&A, and other corporate transactions. His work spans a range of industries and draws on extensive experience in areas including energy, technology, intellectual property, and international business.

Robert also contributes his time outside the firm by supporting Shatterproof, a national nonprofit working to prevent and treat addiction. He also mentors entrepreneurs and students through relationships with university programs, sharing his perspective on venture formation, investment strategy, emerging technologies, and leadership.

In a Q&A with Crain's accompanying the recognition, Robert shares his perspectives on trust and delegation, building teams for sustainable growth, understanding clients' industries, and the importance of curiosity and humility.

[Read Robert's interview in Crain's here.](#)