

Robert Chidester

Managing Partner



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Services / Industries

Corporate

Emerging Companies & Venture Capital

Intellectual Property

Family Offices, Businesses & Entrepreneurs

Clean Tech & Alternative Energy

Cannabis & Regulated Industries

Cybersecurity, Data Privacy & AI

Private Funds

Bio

Robert Chidester offers a unique perspective to his legal practice, drawing on his background in finance. Having raised a private equity fund, Rob has experience on both sides of the table, which allows him to offer clients a deeper understanding of the strategic, financial, and legal considerations that drive significant capital raises and complex transactions. Before rejoining private practice, he served as general counsel for a large family office, worked on the first raise of capital for an energy-focused private equity fund, and has worked in all aspects of the energy industry. His approach to client service combines technical expertise with a business-oriented mindset, helping clients achieve their goals with precision and efficiency.

Rob provides strategic counsel to investment firms, family offices and middle-market businesses in the United States and abroad on a range of corporate matters, including capital raises, private equity and venture capital fund formation, securities issuances, mergers and acquisitions, and commercial contracts. He also regularly serves as an outside general counsel, advising on both complex transactions and routine operational matters.

Rob has extensive experience helping clients manage strategic technology assets, especially in matters relating to “clean tech,” ESG, machine learning and generative AI matters. He also represents clients in the cryptocurrency space that provide software products, consulting, and other services, with a specific concentration in the decentralized finance (DeFi) space.

He also has experience in managing intellectual property acquisitions/divestments, as well as international patent registration strategies, and he has worked with clients in the acquisition of distressed assets through the bankruptcy process.

Some of Rob’s more recent successful transactions involving private equity and venture capital investments in technology companies include:

- Assisting family offices in clean energy technology investments or ESG funds, with an investment valuation of \$100 million
- Structuring/forming a syndicate investment group for purpose of deploying approximately \$100 million of capital into clean energy projects
- Managing three rounds of cross-border investments of \$30-40 million total into lithium-ion battery technology company

- Helping several family offices, funds and entrepreneurs make cryptocurrency investments ranging between \$50-100 million, primarily in the decentralized finance space
- Representing the lead investor in a \$20 million investment into a nickel-zinc battery technology company

Before he started practicing law, Rob previously served as a financial and policy analyst with the U.S. Department of Energy's Laboratory System. There, he evaluated energy technology research and energy infrastructure projects in China and Northeast Asia. As noted above, Rob maintains his involvement in the energy industry, working with both financing parties and operating companies in the clean energy, environmental and social consciousness industries on matters related to waste heat recapture, energy storage and solar energy.

Rob was named a "Notable Rising Star in Law" for 2021 by *Crain's Chicago Business*.

Credentials

Education

University of Pennsylvania Carey Law School

Whitman College

Bar Admissions

Colorado

Illinois

Minnesota

Pennsylvania

Speaking Engagements

- [Rob Chidester Presented at TotemVC Webinar, April 21, 2022](#)
- [New Pathways for Companies Looking for Capital – TEN TALKS With Gould & Ratner , August 5, 2020](#)

Key Cases or Transactions

- Represented a syndicate investment group for nearly a decade in the formation and structuring of the organization, as well as the deployment of ~\$100 million of capital into the clean energy space.
- Represented a US-UK syndicate investment group that invests in the ESG, energy storage and medical industries, in domestic trade investment negotiations and closings.
- Represented the lead investor in the \$20 million investment into a nickel-zinc battery technology company, and the transaction had a pre-money valuation of ~\$200 million.
- Represented a client who was the lead investor in two sequential rounds of a lithium ion battery technology company, where the client invested \$15 to \$30 million.
- Led the investment and restructuring of a waste heat recapture company, including making a \$5 million investment and restructuring the company to account for new circumstances.
- Represented a client in three discrete rounds of investments (over five years) in a solar technology company, and the transaction included both equity and convertible debt, for a total investment amount of between \$15 to \$20 million.
- Represented a cross-border client in three rounds of investment of \$30 to \$40 million into a lithium-ion battery technology company (with a pre-money value of \$150 million) over the past four years.
- Represented a company that converts waste materials into carbon tax credits, both in the United States and internationally, in various carbon tax markets.

- Represented an investor who invested \$5 million in a unique LED technology that alters the wavelength emitted by LED technology to improve agricultural yields.
- Represented several family office clients in clean energy technology investments, or ESG funds, with a valuation of \$100 million invested in various funds.
- Represented a shipping company that transports goods and various products using clean waterways in the Northeast United States, using electric vehicle barges as a way of reducing emissions.
- Represented a \$5 million investment into cell tower technology that improves 5G cell phone tower deployment.
- Represented an early stage software as a service provider (SaaS) that delivers business-to-business and peer-to-peer lending products for non-bank lenders and small and mid-sized banks.
- Represented a consulting client that helps customers design, build and deploy cryptocurrency miners at third-party locations to conserve electricity and create an alternative source of revenue. Additionally, they provide containerized solutions, designing a cost efficient, heat efficient and cooled location to run the computing hardware.
- Represented several family offices, funds, and other investors in cryptocurrency investments ranging between \$50 and \$100 million, primarily in the decentralized finance space.

News

Robert Chidester Named a 2026 Notable Leader in Law by Crain's Chicago, August 17, 2026

Sixteen Gould & Ratner Attorneys Named to Legal 500 City Elite List for Chicago, July 16, 2026

Gould & Ratner Selects Managing Partners, February 12, 2025

Gould & Ratner Selects Practice Chairs, Vice-Chairs, February 18, 2024

Gould & Ratner Selects Practice Chairs, Announces New Vice Chair Role, March 13, 2023

Gould & Ratner Represented Ichthus Capital in Non-Dilutive Financing with Saebo, November 11, 2022

Gould & Ratner Represented Ichthus Capital Partners in Closing of Inaugural Private Credit Fund, July 7, 2022

Gould & Ratner Joins Wall Street Blockchain Alliance, Enhancing Cryptocurrency & Blockchain Practice, June 6, 2022

Gould & Ratner Lawyers Named to Crain's 2021 Rising Stars in Law List, September 3, 2021

Gould & Ratner Advises Client Navier on Agreement for Argo Cryptocurrency Facility in West Texas, April 29, 2021

Rob Chidester Named Partner at Gould & Ratner, December 1, 2020

Corporate Practice Welcomes Robert Chidester, July 16, 2019

Publications

New Pathways for Companies Looking for Capital – TEN TALKS With Gould & Ratner, August 5, 2020