

Activist Defense

The activist and shareholder landscapes have undergone dramatic changes in recent years. Activists have launched campaigns against companies of all sizes, institutional investors are more willing to cooperate with activists, and historic takeover defenses have declined in effectiveness. Against this challenging backdrop, King & Spalding has developed an innovative and highly sophisticated approach to monitoring, anticipating and preparing for activist and event-driven hedge fund activity, enabling companies and boards to respond from a position of strength while they seek to protect and enhance long-term shareholder value. Led by Jim Woolery, head of King & Spalding's M&A and Corporate Governance Practice, our team builds on Jim's years of boardroom experience in M&A and activism as a leading lawyer, investment banker and hedge fund manager.

Our work spans the spectrum of activist defense: ranging from vulnerability and corporate government analyses and updates; to shareholder reviews and engagement guidance, drawing on our own relationships with institutional and hedge fund investors; to ongoing stock and event monitoring; to boardroom-level counsel in proxy campaigns and strategic transactions.

Anchored by our Corporate Monitoring and Preparedness Program, our practice includes a team of in-house financial analysts drawn from top-tier investment banks, who track and synthesize data across multiple proprietary resources to identify activist activity and trends.

Insights

CLIENT ALERT

May 30, 2019

Implications for Public Companies from Continued Growth and Assertiveness of Passive Investors

CLIENT ALERT

April 10, 2019

Investors Issue Call to Action About Board Evaluations

Capability Lawyers



James C. Woolery (Jim)
New York



Robert J. Leclerc (Rob)
Atlanta



William C. Smith III (Cal)
Atlanta



Keith M. Townsend
Atlanta



Jonathan Wu (Jon)
New York



John M. Anderson
Atlanta

Recognition

Ranked as a top 5 law firm
for corporate governance
DIRECTORS & BOARD
MAGAZINE

A top 20 US law firm advising
on corporate governance
matters
CORPORATE BOARD
MEMBER MAGAZINE

ARTICLE

February 20, 2019

The Ashland-Cruiser Proxy Contest: A Case Study

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Events

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

April 1, 2019

Richard Fields to Speak at Corporate Board Member's Boardroom Summit

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT

March 21, 2019

Richard Fields to Speak at Harvard University's 2019 Corporate Governance Roundtable

[VIEW ALL](#)

News

IN THE NEWS

March 5, 2019

Jim Woolery, King & Spalding's head of M&A and Corporate Governance, discusses the impact of Wellington's public vote on the Bristol-Myers / Celgene transaction with CNBC's David Faber

IN THE NEWS

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IN THE NEWS

February 13, 2018

K&S counsels Darwin Deason, Xerox's third-largest shareholder, in his attempt to nullify the joint venture between Xerox and Fujifilm

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