

Erik Belenky

Partner
Corporate, Finance and Investments

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Erik Belenky focuses on mergers and acquisitions, where he represents public and private companies, as well as private equity firms, in the full range of M&A activity, including significant acquisitions, divestitures, joint ventures, and other strategic transactions. Erik also has substantial experience counseling companies, including boards of directors and C-Suite executives, on takeover defense, proxy contests, shareholder activism and corporate governance.

Erik has advised numerous leading public and private companies on substantial M&A matters, such as Newell Brands, General Electric Company, Baker Hughes Company, Georgia-Pacific, RELX Group (formerly, Reed Elsevier), The Home Depot, United Parcel Service and Xerox Holdings Corporation. Recent representative transactions include acting for Newell Brands in its acquisition of Jarden Corporation; General Electric Company in the sale of its Small Industrial Motors business to Wolong Electric Group; Baker Hughes Company in the sale of its global Natural Gas Solutions business to First Reserve; RELX Group in the acquisition of real time global flight data provider, FlightStats; Mailchimp in its pending sale of Intruit; and Xerox in its tender offer and proxy fight for HP.

For the last 11 consecutive years, Erik has been listed as a top M&A attorney in *Chambers USA*. He is also listed in M&A by *The Legal 500 US* and *Best Lawyers in America* and has been recognized as a "Client Service All Star MVP" in *BTI Consulting Group*.

Erik was formerly a member of the board of trustees of The Schenck School (an independent school in Atlanta, GA for children with dyslexia).

Matters

Advised **Mailchimp**, a leading email marketing company to small and mid-market businesses, in its sale to Intuit (NASDAQ: INTU) for \$12 billion in cash and stock. The transaction was the largest self-funded technology deal in U.S. history.

Represented **Xerox Holdings Corporation** in its tender offer and proxy fight for HP Inc.

Advised Newell Brands Inc. in numerous transactions, including:

Its acquisition of Jarden Corporation in a cash and stock transaction valued at \$60 per share, or approximately \$16 billion in equity value;

The sale of its Pure Fishing business to Sycamore Partners for approximately \$1.3 billion in cash;

Its sale of The Waddington Group to Novolex Holdings, a portfolio company of The Carlyle Group, for approximately \$2.3 billion in cash;

The \$1.95 billion sale of its Tools business, including the Irwin®, Lenox®, and Hilmor® brands, to Stanley Black & Decker, Inc.;

The pending sale of The United States Playing Card Company ("USPC") to Cartamundi Group, a leading manufacturer and distributor of playing cards and board games;

The sale of its Process Solutions business to One Rock Capital Partners, LLC for \$500 million in cash;

The \$395 million sale of Rawlings Sporting Goods Company, Inc. to Seidler Equity Partners and Major League Baseball - *The Daily Deal's* Most Innovative Middle Market Deal of the Year (2018);

The sale of its Winter Sports businesses to private equity firm Kohlberg & Company for \$240 million, subject to adjustment;

The sale of its Pine Mountain® fire starters and fire logs business, and Diamond® matches, fire starters, lighters, toothpicks, and laundry business, to Royal Oak Enterprises, a leading manufacturer of charcoal and grilling products; and

Its entry into a settlement agreement with Starboard Value LP that ended Newell's ongoing proxy contest with Starboard.

Represented Baker Hughes Company in multiple transactions, including:

The sale of its specialty polymers business to SK Capital

The sale of its global Natural Gas Solutions (NGS) business to two separate buyers, First Reserve and Pietro Fiorentini;

The sale of its A-C Compressor service and repair business to Rotating Machinery Services, Inc.; and

The sale of its Rotoflow™ turboexpander business to Air Products (NYSE: APD).

Advised RELX plc and its affiliates in numerous transactions, including:

Proagrica, a division of RELX, in its acquisitions of SST Software, a precision agriculture information solutions company, and CDMS, a leading provider of compliance data and solutions to support agronomic recommendations and decisions;

The acquisition by FlightGlobal, the aviation arm of Reed Business Information (a division of RELX) in its acquisitions of FlightStats and Diio LLC;

The sale by Reed Business Information (a division of RELX) in the sale of a 51 percent stake in Reed Construction Data (RCD) to Warburg Pincus, and the sale of 100 percent of RSMMeans to The Gordian Group, a Warburg Pincus portfolio company; and

The acquisition of ICIS (a division of RELX) of Chemical Data, a leading provider of US petrochemical price benchmarks and predictive analytics.

Represented American First Finance, a leading virtual lease-to-own and retail finance provider, in

its pending sale to FirstCash, Inc. (NASDAQ: FCFS) for up to \$1.47 billion in cash and stock.

Represented General Electric Company in a variety of transactions, including:

The sale of the small industrial motors business of its Power Conversion division to Wolong Electric Group Co., Ltd.;

The sale of its Commercial Distribution Finance, Vendor Finance, and Corporate Finance platforms to Wells Fargo & Co.;

The sale of its Industrial Air & Gas Technologies business to Colfax Corporation (NYSE: CFX);

The acquisition of the Salof group of companies, designers of mini LNG and CO2 technologies and facilities.

Represented **Sweetwater Sound**, the nation's largest e-commerce retailer of musical instruments and pro audio equipment, in its growth equity investment by Providence Equity Partners.

Represented **Les Entreprises Barrette Ltee** in the sale of Barrette Outdoor Living (BOL) to TorQuest Partners and Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec. BOL is North America's leading manufacturer of wood-alternative fence and railing products.

Represented **The Vincit Group**, a leading provider of food safety and pathogen control services for the protein industry, in its investment by Harvest Capital Partners.

Advised **Georgia-Pacific** in its acquisition of the Temple-Inland Building Products business from International Paper Company for \$750 million; its acquisition of Excel Displays & Packaging and affiliated entities; and the sale of its JV interest in Vania and Polive to Johnson & Johnson.

Represented **The Home Depot** in multiple roll-up acquisitions.

Advised **Gemino Healthcare Finance** and its investors (including EDG Partners and D. E. Shaw) in the company's sale to Solar Senior Capital Ltd. Gemino is a nationwide provider of asset based and term loans to small and mid-size healthcare service providers.

Represented **ARINC Incorporated** and its shareholders, American Airlines, Inc., Continental Airlines, Inc., Delta Air Lines, Inc., Northwest Airlines, Inc., United Air Lines, Inc., and US Airways, Inc., in the sale of the company to The Carlyle Group.

Credentials

EDUCATION

J.D., Duke University

B.A., Colby College

Hansard Scholar Academic Program, London School of Economics and Political Science, UK

ADMISSIONS

Georgia

Recognition

BTI Client Service All Star

2021

Leader in M&A

CHAMBERS USA

M&A

LEGAL 500 US

M&A; Corporate Law

BEST LAWYERS IN AMERICAS

Most Innovative Deal of the Year — The Deal Awards Middle Market

THE DEAL, 2018

Insights

ARTICLE

May 20, 2021

Welcome to The Insider

CLIENT ALERT

December 11, 2020

BlackRock's 2021 Policy Guidance

December 7, 2020

Significant 2021 Proxy Advisor Policy Changes

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News

CASES & DEALS

September 13, 2021

Mailchimp to be acquired by Intuit for \$12 Billion

IN THE NEWS

October 28, 2021 • Source: Law360 and The Texas Lawbook

Cal Smith, Erik Belenky, Nathan Mihalik, Zack Peffer, Hap Shashy and John Sweet advise American First Finance in its \$1.47B cash-and-stock deal with FirstCash

RECOGNITION

September 17, 2021

BTI Consulting Names Three King & Spalding Partners 2021 M&A Client Service All-Stars

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