

## **Former Assistant U.S. Attorney and Chief of the Major Frauds Section, Douglas Axel, Joins Sidley Austin in Los Angeles**

Los Angeles (February 18, 2010) – [Sidley Austin LLP](#) announced today that Douglas A. Axel, former Assistant United States Attorney in the Central District of California and Chief of the office’s Major Frauds Section, has joined Sidley as a partner, resident in the Los Angeles office.

As Chief of the Major Frauds Section since October 2007, Axel was responsible for all federal white-collar crime prosecutions in Los Angeles, Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties involving public corruption, corporate fraud, investor fraud, mortgage fraud, procurement fraud, health care and other government program fraud and tax fraud. He coordinated criminal white-collar enforcement activities among the region’s investigative agencies including the FBI, Postal Inspection Service, United States Secret Service, all federal Inspectors General, all Defense Department criminal investigative services (DCIS, NCIS, Army CID), Internal Revenue Service, Securities and Exchange Commission, Federal Trade Commission and others.

Since joining the U.S. Attorney’s Office in 2001, Axel personally prosecuted dozens of white-collar cases involving charges of securities fraud, insider trading, investor fraud, bank fraud, government fraud and obstruction of justice. Among the cases Axel handled was *United States v. Milberg Weiss Bershad & Schulman LLP*. He also was the lead prosecutor in a number of jury trials and argued cases before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Prior to serving as Chief of the section, Axel served as a Deputy Chief for two years.

“Doug is a talented and well-known prosecutor with significant experience in some of the most important cases and investigations in California involving financial and securities crimes,” said Anne E. Rea, the member of Sidley’s Management Committee responsible for its West Coast offices. “Doug is an outstanding addition to Sidley’s white collar, SEC enforcement and litigation teams, and we are delighted that he is joining us.”

“Sidley has all of the attributes I was seeking in a law firm: a deep bench of talented lawyers, a culture of excellence, sound management and an outstanding client base,” said Axel. “I am thrilled to be joining the Sidley team.”

“Doug is joining a group of exceptional trial lawyers in the Los Angeles office, including Kim Dunne, who was the Chief of the Public Corruption and Government Fraud Section of the U.S. Attorney’s Office prior to joining us, ” said Michael C. Kelley, managing partner of the Los Angeles office and a member of the firm’s Executive Committee. He added, “Handling high-

stakes matters for significant clients is a mainstay of our litigation and white collar practices and we think Doug will be a tremendous addition.”

Axel received his J.D. from the University of California Hastings College of Law, where he was first in his class, graduating *summa cum laude* and *Order of the Coif*, and served as Senior Articles Editor of the *Hastings Law Journal*. He received his B.S. from the University of California, Los Angeles. Axel clerked for the Honorable Melvyn Brunetti of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit and the Honorable David V. Kenyon of the United States District Court, Central District of California. Axel was awarded a 2009 Attorney General’s Award for Fraud Prevention.

Sidley’s White Collar group, with approximately 90 lawyers nationwide, is recognized for its significant experience in all aspects of corporate criminal defense and enforcement-related litigation - from internal investigations, to representing clients in grand jury investigations, to managing parallel criminal and civil proceedings, to trial, to extraditions and counseling on foreign criminal investigations, to FCPA investigations and to advising on voluntary disclosure and compliance issues, including issues under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act. Our lawyers have aggressively defended corporations and their executives, public officials and other individuals in cases involving allegations of securities fraud, bribery, perjury and false statements, tax fraud, antitrust violations, healthcare fraud, false claims, FDA violations, immigration fraud and environmental crimes.

Established in 1980, Sidley’s Los Angeles office has more than 140 lawyers, making it the largest non-California based law office in Los Angeles. Sidley’s Los Angeles lawyers regularly handle matters of substance for Fortune 500 corporations, government agencies, entrepreneurial businesses and associations with significant numbers of local, national and global clients. The office’s practice groups include corporate and finance, employment and labor, environmental, intellectual property and technology, insolvency, litigation, real estate and tax.

Sidley Austin LLP is one of the world’s largest full-service law firms, with approximately 1700 lawyers practicing in 17 U.S. and international cities, including Beijing, Brussels, Frankfurt, Geneva, Hong Kong, London, Shanghai, Singapore, Sydney and Tokyo. Every year since 2003, Sidley has been named to *Legal Business’* Global Elite, its designation for the 18 firms “that define the pinnacle of the legal profession.” Sidley is recognized for service and responsiveness – BTI, a Boston-based research and consulting firm, has named Sidley as one of only two firms to have been in the top ten of the BTI Client Service rankings every year since the inception of those rankings in 2001, and was number one in three of those years.