

TEXAS LAWYER

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TEXAS
LEGAL AWARDS
2024



DEALMAKER OF THE YEAR FINALIST: Jeffrey Chapman



Courtesy photo

Jeffrey A. Chapman of Gibson,
Dunn & Crutcher.

Jeffrey Chapman is a partner with Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, and he is one of the finalists for Texas Lawyer's Deal-maker of the Year award. Read a Q&A with him below.

What were your most significant achievements of 2023?

My most significant achievements of 2023 involved two very different

transactions: representing Pioneer Natural Resources in its sale to Exxon and Citation Capital in its acquisition Cibo Vita (a food manufacturer). The Pioneer deal was the largest transaction in the world last year. It involved counseling



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the Pioneer board in assessing a variety of strategic alternatives in addition to the deal with Exxon, negotiating the merger agreement with Exxon and its counsel Davis Polk, and advising the Pioneer board in the context of the Federal Trade Commission's investigation of antitrust-related issues involving Pioneer. The Cibo Vita transaction involved advising a brand new private equity fund in its first acquisition and assessing all the issues a new group of PE executives faces in structuring and executing their first deal together.

What does it take to become a trusted transactional lawyer in Texas?

Obviously, deep experience, strong intellectual skills, a prodigious work ethic and impeccable judgment. Most important, though, is integrity. The board is often making the most important decision it will ever make, and it needs to trust the word of its counsel. For that matter, so does opposing counsel. A trusted transactional lawyer's word must be his or her bond. If it is not, nothing else matters.