Charlie Sommers

Partner

Sidley Austin LLP

*Securities Enforcement and Regulatory*

CHARLIE SOMMERS advises financial services firms on a broad range of regulatory, compliance, enforcement and transactional matters. In this capacity, he has represented clients before the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA), Federal Reserve Board (FRB) and various other state and federal regulators.

Prior to joining Sidley, Charlie served as special counsel at the SEC in the Division of Trading and Markets. There, he worked extensively on two proposed Commission rulemakings relating to equity market structure: (i) proposed amendments to Rule 15b9-1 (broker-dealer exemption from FINRA membership); and (ii) proposed amendments to Regulation ATS to enhance disclosure obligations of NMS Stock ATSs. Charlie also contributed to the Commission’s Equity Market Structure Literature Review, reviewing economic literature related to high frequency trading and market fragmentation to inform regulatory policy. In addition, Charlie was heavily involved in the Commission’s regulation of ATSs, including those trading NMS stock (dark pools), options, private securities, and non-equity securities.

While at the Commission, Charlie also worked on a wide variety of proposed rule changes by self-regulatory organizations including those related to complex orders in options markets, equity market order types, regulatory immunity, corporate governance, auction mechanisms, and over-the-counter trading. Charlie’s SEC experience also includes the review of Investors Exchange LLC’s (IEX) application to become a national securities exchange.

Trevor A. Levine

Counsel

Lowenstein Sandler LLP

*Commodities, Futures & Derivatives Group*

Trevor Levine represents financial services firms and digital asset companies navigating complex regulatory frameworks, rapid commercial growth, and government investigations. His clients include exchanges, intermediaries, market participants, and technology companies. Trevor has deep experience advising clients on issues and regulatory inquiries related to the Commodity Exchange Act, federal securities laws, FINRA rules, and state money transmission laws. He leverages this experience to help clients develop and operationalize a wide range of compliant and innovative financial products and structures, including advising them through any necessary registration processes.

Most recently, Trevor served as general counsel for a brokerage firm that focused on the digital asset, Bitcoin mining, and data center sectors through multiple regulated subsidiaries, including a FINRA-registered broker dealer, a NFA-registered introducing broker, and a New York BitLicensee. Trevor also worked as in-house counsel for a large, regulated digital asset trading platform, where he guided the company through acquiring and/or obtaining a suite of CFTC, SEC, and state licenses.

Previously, Trevor practiced with two AmLaw 100 firms, where he represented clients facing a variety of government investigations, including CFTC investigations into reporting violations and market manipulation, and state/federal investigations into consumer lending practices. He has also advised a number of companies on the development and launch of blockchains, corresponding cryptocurrencies, and decentralized applications.

Brendan J. Koeth

Partner

Lowenstein Sandler LLP

*Emerging Companies & Venture Capital*

Brendan Koeth’s practice focuses on M&A and private securities offerings in the fintech, social media, technology, media, telecommunications, life sciences, and education industries.

Counseling clients on both the buy and sell side and throughout all stages of their companies’ life cycles, Brendan works with startups as well as venture capital, growth, and private equity funds. He represents public and private companies, including strategic investors and their portfolio companies, in complex and diverse M&A transactions, private equity investments, minority investments, leveraged buyouts, carve‐outs, corporate restructurings, and other general corporate matters. He also advises emerging companies, private equity sponsors, and their portfolio companies on corporate governance and general legal matters.

While in law school, Brendan interned with the District of Columbia Department of Insurance, Securities and Banking, Securities Bureau, and the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission Division of Enforcement; he was also an M&A analyst for Thomson Reuters.

Student Panelist:

Edward Reddington is a J.D. candidate at The Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law, where he is pursuing a Securities Law Program Certificate.  He holds a B.A. from Dickinson College, where he played varsity baseball.  He previously served as a Staff Member of the Catholic University Law Review, Volume 74, and is the President of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Team.  He has interned with the American Bankers Association and the Contract Litigation Division of the U.S. Army JAG Corps, and was a Summer Associate at Lowenstein Sandler LLP.  He will return to Lowenstein Sandler in Washington, DC as a Corporate Associate in Fall 2026.