

Corporate Practice Advised GKIDS in Acquisition Agreement by Toho

10.16.2024

Sheppard Mullin represented GKIDS, the animation producer and distributor behind the Oscar-winning animation *The Boy and the Heron*, in its sale to Japanese entertainment leader Toho Co., Ltd. Under the terms of the agreement, GKIDS will become a wholly-owned subsidiary of Toho International, the U.S.-based subsidiary of Toho Co.

For nearly 15 years, GKIDS has redefined the perception of animation as an artistic medium on par with live-action film by introducing American audiences to the critically-acclaimed films of other master filmmakers from around the world. GKIDS has amassed over 13 best animated features nominations at the Academy Awards, including this year's winner Hayao Miyazaki and Studio Ghibli's *The Boy and the Heron*.

The acquisition is expected support Toho's expansion outside of Japan and connect its Japanese and international productions, creators and studios more directly and widely with creators and fans overseas. It is also expected to allow GKIDS to tap the synergies and capabilities of the larger Toho parent group, while maintaining its distinct brand, organization and management team.

The Sheppard Mullin team that advised GKIDS was led by partner Shon Glusky and included partners Dmitriy Chelnitsky, Niya Tang and Ed Xia, and associates Brian Egan, Matthew Greenberg and Patrick Hao.

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Attorneys

Dmitriy Chelnitsky

Brian C. Egan

Shon E. Glusky

Patrick H. Hao

Niya Tang

Edward Xia

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