

Navigating the Land of Opportunity: An Introduction to the Unique Legal System of the United States

Are you an international investor or business seeking new opportunities in the United States? If so, don't underestimate the complexity of the legal terrain in the American market. Success in the U.S. depends on a comprehensive understanding of its legal intricacies, regulatory framework, and localized practices to establish a secure, compliant, and prosperous business environment. In this article, Chambliss shareholders [Brian Eftink](#) and [Jeffrey Maddux](#), and Helge Nestler of [MxV Consulting Group](#) dive into the distinctions between the U.S. legal structure and global legal norms, provide a guide for international companies eyeing the limitless opportunities within the U.S., and urge them to exercise diligence and caution when navigating the unique legal landscape.



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Despite many reasons to invest in the U.S., international companies exploring new operations in the U.S. should consider the country's unique legal system and its impact upon the company's contractual, risk management, and operational decisions. While many foreign investors have heard about Americans' propensity to litigate, few understand that this aspect of the U.S. legal system hardly reflects the extensive gap between the U.S. structure and the legal system throughout most of the globe.

Common Law

Civil/Religious Law



Differences and Risks in the Legal System

Unlike much of the globe, which adheres to civil law, the U.S. follows the British common law system. The map above depicts the few countries that practice common law rather than civil or other forms of law. A primary distinction between the two legal systems is the amount of codified laws.

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