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David M. Adlerstein is counsel in the Corporate Department at Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz. His practice focuses on mergers and acquisitions, capital-raising transactions, corporate governance, and other corporate and securities law matters, with a focus on financial institutions and technology transactions. Mr. Adlerstein has worked on a broad array of public and private company acquisitions, divestitures, joint ventures (including numerous credit card programs), securities offerings and corporate governance matters. He is a member of the Firm's Crypto Team and frequently writes and speaks about blockchain technology and digital assets. He also provides counsel to several nonprofit organizations on a *pro bono* basis.

Born in Cambridge, England, Mr. Adlerstein received a B.A. *cum laude* in Philosophy and History from Brandeis University in 1994 and a M.A. in European Politics from Lund University in Lund, Sweden in 1999. He received his J.D. from Columbia Law School in 2002, where he was a notes editor of the *Columbia Law Review* and a three-time Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar.

Prior to joining Wachtell Lipton as a corporate associate in 2005, Mr. Adlerstein was an associate at Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP. Before beginning his legal career, Mr. Adlerstein served as a sergeant in the Paratroopers Brigade of the Israel Defense Forces.

Mr. Adlerstein is a member of The Economic Club of New York and The Wall Street Blockchain Alliance, is a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation, and is Chair of the Financial Services Technology Joint

Subcommittee of the ABA Business Law Section's Commercial Finance Committee and Private Equity & Venture Capital Committee. He serves on the boards of the American Friends of Rambam Medical Center and of The MirYam Institute, and is a multi-year mentor in the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity Success in Law School Mentoring Program.

Recent Publications

[Cryptoasset Developments: Observations on the Thawing Crypto Winter](#), in NYU Law School's Blog on Compliance and Enforcement, January 18, 2024.

[Risk Management and the Board of Directors](#), in Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance, September 30, 2023.

[Congressional Bill Proposes Comprehensive Cryptoasset Legal Framework Amidst SEC's Continued Regulation-By-Enforcement](#), in International Journal of Blockchain Law, July 13, 2023.

[Wachtell Lipton Discusses Congressional Bill Proposing Comprehensive Cryptoasset Legal Framework](#), in Columbia Law School's Blog on Corporations and the Capital Markets, June 16, 2023.

[SEC Halts Cryptoasset "Staking-As-A-Service" Program Amidst Tightening Regulatory Enforcement Environment](#), in NYU Law School's Blog on Compliance and Enforcement, February 28, 2023.

[Crypto Bankruptcies Reveal Fault Lines in Asset Recovery](#), in International Journal of Blockchain Law, Volume IV, December 2022.

[Initial Observations on the FTX Debacle](#), in NYU Law School's Blog on Compliance and Enforcement, November 19, 2022.

[Cryptoassets and the SEC's Mandate](#), in Columbia Law School's Blog on Corporations and the Capital Markets, October 19, 2022.

[Risk Management and the Board of Directors](#), in Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance, September 17, 2022.

[Enhancing Cryptoasset Industry Regulation Using Existing Tools](#), in Columbia Law School's Blog on Corporations and the Capital Markets, August 23, 2022.

[Recent Developments Highlight Fundamental Legal Considerations for DAOs](#), in Columbia Law School's Blog on Corporations and the Capital Markets, July 12, 2022.

[Emerging Issues in Decentralized Governance and the Lessons of Corporate Governance](#), in Harvard Law School Forum in Corporate Governance and Financial Regulation, June 4, 2022, [Columbia Law School's Blog on Corporations and the Capital Markets](#), June 6, 2022 and [Insights: The Corporate & Securities Law Advisor](#), Volume 36 Number 8 (August 2022).

[The Growing Enforcement Focus on Cryptoassets](#), in Columbia Law School's Blog on Corporations and the Capital Markets, February 23, 2022.

[SEC Proposes Cybersecurity Rules for Registered Investment Advisers and Funds](#), in Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance, February 12, 2022.

[Cryptoassets at an Inflection Point](#), in NYU Law School's Blog on Compliance and Enforcement, October 8, 2021.

[Why ICOs Could Eat Delaware's Lunch](#), in CoinDesk.com, April 21, 2018.

Regulatory Litigation, in Successful Partnering Between Inside and Outside Counsel, Robert L. Haig editor-in-chief, published by Thomson Reuters 2021.

[A 21st Century "Kodak Moment": the Kodak and WENN Digital Security Token Sale](#), in Crowdfund Insider, January 9, 2018.

[The ICO Governance Deficit](#), in CoinDesk.com, September 10, 2017.

[Are Smart Contracts Smart? A Critical Look at Basic Blockchain Questions](#), in CoinDesk.com, June 26, 2017.

[FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS DEVELOPMENTS - The M&A Landscape: Financial Institutions Rediscovering Themselves Amid Continued Regulatory Change, Intensifying Investor Activism and Technological Disruption](#), in The Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance and Financial Regulation, January 29, 2015.