



William Savitt

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William Savitt is the co-chair of the Litigation Department of Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz. His practice focuses on representing corporations and directors in litigation involving mergers and acquisitions, proxy contests, corporate governance disputes, class actions involving allegations of breach of fiduciary duty and regulatory enforcement actions relating to corporate transactions. Mr. Savitt writes and speaks extensively on corporate and securities law topics and is an adjunct law professor at Columbia Law School in the field of transactional litigation.

Mr. Savitt has played a leading role in high-stakes corporate governance and merger-and-acquisitions litigation in the Delaware Court of Chancery and in courts around the country. Among recent examples, Mr. Savitt successfully litigated the landmark case of *Corwin v. KKR Financial* in the Court of Chancery and the Delaware Supreme Court; defended Allergan in response to a hostile bid from Pershing Square and Valeant; defended Sothebys' shareholder rights plan against an activist investor attack; was lead trial counsel in the successful and unprecedented litigation effort of Vulcan Materials Company to obtain a court order enjoining an attempted hostile takeover by an industry rival; has defended corporate bylaw and charter provisions in courts around the country; has tried numerous M&A cases to successful verdict; and was lead attorney in the United States and Canada in Lions Gate Entertainment's successful multi-national defense of Carl Icahn's takeover attempt. Mr. Savitt is a recognized authority

on multi-jurisdictional corporate litigation and has defended numerous corporate merger and class action fiduciary challenges in Delaware, New York, California and elsewhere, including recent successful defenses of the New York Stock Exchange's merger with the InterContinental Exchange, the going-private sale of Dell, Inc. and the merger between Saks Fifth Avenue and Hudson's Bay Company.

Mr. Savitt graduated *magna cum laude* from Brown University and received a M.Phil. from Columbia University in European legal history. He graduated from Columbia Law School in 1997, where he was editor-in-chief of the *Columbia Law Review*. Upon graduation from law school, Mr. Savitt served as a law clerk to the Honorable Pierre N. Leval of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit for the 1997 term and to the Honorable Ruth Bader Ginsburg of the Supreme Court of the United States for the October 1998 term. Among other professional recognitions, Mr. Savitt has been named by *Chambers USA: America's Leading Lawyers for Business* as a leading securities litigator, by *Lawdragon* as one of the 500 leading lawyers in the United States, by Benchmark Litigation as a "litigation star" and as a leading authority in the *International Who's Who of Corporate Governance*. He is a member of the American Law Institute, the Board of Directors of the New York Legal Aid Society and the Board of Trustees of the *Columbia Law Review*, Inc., and is a past executive director of Interfaith Hunger Appeal, a New York-based international hunger relief organization.

Clerkships

Honorable Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Supreme Court of the United States, 1998 - 1999

Honorable Pierre N. Leval, United States Court of Appeals, Second Circuit, 1997 - 1998

Recent Publications

[The Corporate Governance Review](#), U.S. chapter, Law Business Research, London, Ninth ed. 2019 (Eighth ed. 2018, Seventh ed. 2017, Sixth ed. 2016, Fifth ed. 2015).

[REIT M&A: Use and Overuse of Special Committees](#), Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance and Financial Regulation, February 20, 2019.

[Delaware Provides Guidance on Books-and-Records Inspection Rights](#), in Harvard Law School Forum on

Corporate Governance and Financial Regulation, February 14, 2019.

[Cross Border M&A - 2019 Checklist for Successful Acquisitions in the United States](#), in Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance and Financial Regulation, January 30, 2019.

[Post-Closing Merger Litigation - The Road Ahead](#), in Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance and Financial Regulation, January 16, 2019.

[REIT M&A in 2019](#), in Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance and Financial Regulation, January 4, 2019.

[California Appeals Court Confirms Enforceability of Delaware Forum-Selection Bylaws](#), Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance and Financial Regulation, January 2, 2019.

[The MAC is Back: Court of Chancery Finds Material Adverse Change](#), in Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance and Financial Regulation, October 9, 2018.

[REIT M&A in a Complex Market](#), in Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance and Financial Regulation, June 23, 2018.

[The New New Regime in Delaware Appraisal Law](#), in Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance and Financial Regulation, March 1, 2018.

[Activist-Driven Dealmaking Falls Flat](#), in Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance and Financial Regulation, January 22, 2018.

[Delaware's Prudent Approach to the Cleansing Effect of Shareholder Approval](#), in Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance and Financial Regulation, January 16, 2018.

[Cross-Border M&A -- 2018 Checklist for Successful Acquisitions in the United States](#), in Columbia Law School's Blog on Corporations and the Capital Markets, January 10, 2018.

[Delaware Supreme Court Again Speaks to Market Evidence in Appraisal: Dell](#), in Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance and Financial Regulation, December 16, 2017.

[Court of Chancery Dismisses Challenge to Stock Reclassification](#), in Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance and Financial Regulation, December 14, 2017.