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John F. Savarese is currently Of Counsel at Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz, after having been a partner in the Litigation Department for more than 30 years. He has represented a wide array of *Fortune* 500 corporations, major financial institutions and senior executives in SEC and other regulatory enforcement proceedings, as well as white-collar criminal investigations, complex securities litigation, and internal investigations. His extensive experience includes major investigations concerning securities disclosure, accounting fraud, insider trading, environmental regulation, government contracts, criminal tax and criminal antitrust.

Mr. Savarese joined Wachtell Lipton after working in the United States Attorneys' Office for the Southern District of New York, where he tried numerous jury trials, received the Attorney General's John Marshall Award for Outstanding Legal Achievement, and also served as Chief Appellate Attorney. Prior to his work with the United States Attorneys' Office, Mr. Savarese served as a law clerk to Justice William J. Brennan of the United States Supreme Court, and to the Honorable Louis H. Pollak of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Savarese is regularly recognized as one of the world's top litigators, including being selected in [*International Who's Who of Business Lawyers*](#), [*Chambers USA Guide*](#) and *Lawdragon's* 500 Leading Lawyers

in America. He has taught for many years a white-collar criminal law and procedure course at Harvard Law School and was the first chairman of the New York City Bar Association's White Collar Criminal Law Committee. He is a member of the American Law Institute, serves as an advisor to the ALI's project on Principles of Law, Compliance, Enforcement, and Risk Management and also to NYU Law School's Program on Corporate Compliance and Enforcement.

Mr. Savarese also formerly served as chair of the board of trustees of the Vera Institute of Justice and of the board of trustees of The Brearley School in New York, and he now serves on the advisory boards at Harvard Law School, Equal Justice Works, Vera Action, the Nature Conservancy, and the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law.

Mr. Savarese graduated *magna cum laude* from Harvard University in 1977 and received his JD *cum laude* from Harvard Law School in 1981, where he was an editor of the *Harvard Law Review*.

Clerkships

Honorable William J. Brennan, Supreme Court of the United States, 1983–1984

Honorable Louis H. Pollak, U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, 1981–1982

Recent Publications

[The Supreme Court's Business Docket: October Term 2025 in Review](https://wp.nyu.edu/compliance_enforcement/2026/07/23/the-supreme-courts-business-docket-october-term-2025-in-review/), in Columbia Law School's Blog on Corporations and the Capital Markets, July 23, 2025 and

https://wp.nyu.edu/compliance_enforcement/2026/07/23/the-supreme-courts-business-docket-october-term-2025-in-review/ NYU Law School's Blog on Compliance and Enforcement, July 23, 2025.

[Wachtell Lipton Discusses Supreme Court Rejection of Investor-Loss Limit on SEC Disgorgement](#), in Columbia Law School's Blog on Corporations and the Capital Markets, June 9, 2026.

[Risk Management and the Board of Directors](#), in Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance, September 25, 2025.

[Wachtell Lipton Discusses Supreme Court Business Docket for October Term 2024](#), in Columbia Law School's Blog on Corporations and the Capital Markets, July 22, 2025.

[DOJ Announces New Foreign Corrupt Practices Act Enforcement Guidelines](#), in NYU Law School's Blog on Compliance and Enforcement, June 9, 2025.

[White-Collar and Regulatory Enforcement: What Mattered in 2024 and What to Expect in 2025](#), in Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance, February 5, 2025 and [NYU Law School's Blog on Compliance and Enforcement](#), February 28, 2025.

[Wachtell Lipton Discusses Trump Administration's New White-Collar Enforcement Priorities](#), in Columbia Law School's Blog on Corporations and the Capital Markets, February 14, 2025.

[Wachtell Lipton Discusses the SEC's Disbanding of Its ESG Enforcement Task Force](#), in Columbia Law School's Blog on Corporations and the Capital Markets, September 20, 2024.

[Wachtell Lipton Offers Summer Takeaways in SEC Enforcement](#), in Columbia Law School's Blog on Corporations and the Capital Markets, September 5, 2024 and [NYU Law School's Blog on Compliance and Enforcement](#), September 16, 2024.

[Wachtell Lipton Discusses the Supreme Court's Business Docket Last Term](#), in Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance, July 12, 2024, [Columbia Law School's Blog on Corporations and the Capital Markets](#), July 16, 2024 and [NYU Law School's Blog on Compliance and Enforcement](#), August 7, 2024.

[Wachtell Lipton Discusses DOJ Insider Trading Verdict Based on Use of 10b5-1 Plans](#), in Columbia Law School's Blog on Corporations and the Capital Markets, June 28, 2024

[Keeping Deferred Corporate Charges Deferred: Some Dos and Don'ts](#), in NYU Law School's Blog on Compliance and Enforcement, May 23, 2024.

[Implications of the SEC's "Shadow Trading" Verdict](#), in NYU Law School's Blog on Compliance and Enforcement, April 18, 2024.

[White-Collar and Regulatory Enforcement: What Mattered in 2023 and What to Expect in 2024](#), in NYU Law School's Blog on Compliance and Enforcement, February 8, 2024.

[The SEC's Enforcement Action Against SolarWinds Underscores Growing Scrutiny Over Cybersecurity Internal Controls, Reporting and Disclosures](#), in NYU Law School's Blog on Compliance and Enforcement, November 13, 2023.

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

[Pressure on DEI Initiatives Continues to Mount](#), in Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance, August 19, 2023 and [Columbia Law School's Blog on Corporations and the Capital Markets](#), August 22, 2023.

[DEI Initiatives Post-SFFA: Considerations for Boards and Management](#), in Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance, August 9, 2023, [Columbia Law School's Blog on Corporations and the Capital Markets](#), August 9, 2023 and [NYU Law School's Blog on Compliance and Enforcement](#), August 14, 2023.

[The Supreme Court's Business for October Term 2022](#), in Columbia Law School's Blog on Corporations and the Capital Markets, July 17, 2023.

[The Fall of "Affirmative Action" and Its Implications for Employers](#), in Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance, July 5, 2023.

[Supreme Court Rejects Challenge to California Law Alleged to Burden Out-of-State Industry](#), in NYU Law School's Blog on Compliance and Enforcement, May 17, 2023.

[Wachtell Lipton Discusses Constitutional Challenges to Ongoing SEC and FTC Administrative Proceedings](#), in Columbia Law School's Blog on Corporations and the Capital Markets, April 19, 2023.

[A Sign of the Times in SEC Cyber Enforcement](#), in NYU Law School's Blog on Compliance and Enforcement, April 12, 2023.

[White-Collar and Regulatory Enforcement: What Mattered in 2022 and What to Expect in 2023](#), in NYU Law School's Blog on Compliance and Enforcement, March 2, 2023.

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

[Important Supreme Court Business Cases Decided During October Term 2021 and Cases to Watch in October Term 2022](#), in Columbia Law School's Blog on Corporations and the Capital Markets, July 6, 2022.

[DOJ Delivers Stark Message About Corporate Cooperation](#), in Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance, March 8, 2022.

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

[White-Collar and Regulatory Enforcement: What Mattered in 2021 and What to Expect in 2022](#), in Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance, February 2, 2022 and [Columbia Law School's Blog on Corporations and the Capital Markets](#), February 10, 2022.

[Revisiting Whistleblower Response Procedures in Light of SEC's Whistleblower Bounty Payments Milestone](#), in Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance, September 21, 2021.

[Vermont's Fossil Fuel Suit Underscores Climate-Change Pressures Faced by U.S. Companies](#), in Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance, September 17, 2021.

[SEC Maintains Focus on Contingent Liabilities](#), in Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance, August 27, 2021.

[A New Variation in SEC Insider Trading Enforcement](#), in Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance and Financial Regulation, August 20, 2021, [Columbia Law School's Blog on Corporations and the Capital Markets](#), August 23, 2021 and [NYU Law School's Blog on Compliance and Enforcement](#), August 21, 2021.

[Latest SEC Enforcement Action Reinforces Critical Need to Maintain Effective Disclosure Controls Concerning Cybersecurity Breaches and Risks](#), in Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance, August 18, 2021 and [Columbia Law School's Blog on Corporations and the Capital Markets](#), August 20, 2021.

[Important Supreme Court Business Cases Decided During October Term 2020 and Cases to Watch in October Term 2021](#), in Columbia Law School's Blog on Corporations and the Capital Markets, July 15, 2021.

[Supreme Court Confirms that "All" Evidence Rebutting Price Impact Must Be Considered on Motions to Certify Securities-Fraud Classes](#), in Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance, July 6, 2021.

[A New Angle on Cybersecurity Enforcement from the SEC](#), in Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance and Financial Regulation, June 26, 2021.

[Cybersecurity Oversight and Defense – A Board and Management Imperative](#), in NYU Law School's Blog on Compliance and Enforcement, May 12, 2021 and [Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance](#), May 14, 2021.

[Mass Incarceration: Where Do We Go From Here?](#), Report of the New York City Bar Association's Task Force on Mass Incarceration, January 2017.