



John L. Robinson

Partner, Corporate

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John L. Robinson is a partner at Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz. He focuses on mergers and acquisitions, corporate governance and general corporate and securities matters. John's practice includes cross-border and domestic mergers, acquisitions and divestitures, joint ventures, carve-outs and private equity transactions. He also advises companies on takeover defense and in responding to shareholder activism and proxy contests.

John has been recognized by [Lawdragon](#) as one of the leading 500 dealmakers in America. John had leading roles in the \$6.4 billion acquisition of Maxar Technologies by Advent International and British Columbia Investment Management Corp., which was named by [IFLR](#) as Private Equity Deal of the Year (2024), and in the \$12.2 billion combination of Tim Hortons with Burger King Worldwide, which was named by *The American Lawyer* as Global M&A Deal of the Year: Canada. John was also named one of Hollywood's Top Dealmakers by [The Hollywood Reporter](#) in 2022.

John received his A.B. in economics, *summa cum laude*, from Dartmouth College, where he was a Rufus Choate Scholar. He received his J.D. with distinction from Stanford Law School, where he was a senior editor of the *Stanford Law Review*.

Prior to law school, John worked as an associate consultant at the business strategy consulting firm L.E.K. Consulting, in its Boston and Paris offices.

John has represented clients in a variety of industries, including:

Diversified Manufacturing

- **Univar Solutions** in:
 - its \$8.2 billion acquisition by Apollo Global Management and the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority
 - its \$2.0 billion acquisition of Nexeo Solutions; and
 - its \$640 million disposition of Nexeo’s plastics business
- **Hubbell Incorporated** in:
 - its \$3 billion acquisition of NSI Industries from Sentinel Capital Partners
 - its \$1.1 billion acquisition of Systems Control, a portfolio company of Comvest Partners
 - its \$1.1 billion acquisition of Aclara Technologies from Sun Capital Partners;
 - in the \$350 million sale of its Commercial and Industrial Lighting Business to GE Current, a Daintree Company; and
 - the reclassification of its dual-class common stock into a single class of common stock
- **RTX Corporation** in its \$1.3 billion sale of its Cybersecurity, Intelligence & Services business
- **M3-Brigade Acquisition III Corp.** in its \$950 million business combination with Greenfire Resources
- **WESCO International** in its \$4.8 billion acquisition of Anixter International
- **Rockwell Automation** in its response to a \$29 billion unsolicited takeover bid by Emerson Electric
- **AV Homes** in its \$963 million sale to Taylor Morrison Home
- **Eagle Materials** in the separation of its heavy and light materials businesses
- **United Technologies** in its \$3.5 billion sale of its Hamilton Sundstrand industrial products businesses to BC Partners and Carlyle
- **EADS NV** in its proposed €35 billion dual-listed company combination with BAE Systems plc
- **Apollo Management Group** and **CEVA Logistics** in the sale of CEVA’s Pallecon container logistics business unit to Brambles Industries Limited

Technology, Media and Telecommunications

- **Charter Communications** in its \$34.5 billion merger with Cox Communications
- **Seagate Technology Holdings plc** in its \$119 million all-cash acquisition of Intevac

- **Maxar Technologies** in
 - its \$6.4 billion acquisition by Advent International
 - the CAD\$1 billion sale of its MacDonald, Dettwiler and Associates business to a consortium of financial sponsors led by Northern Private Capital
- **Michael Jordan** in the sale of the Charlotte Hornets to a group led by Gabe Plotkin and Rick Schnall
- **Creative Artists Agency** in:
 - the acquisition by Groupe Artémis of a majority stake in Creative Artists Agency, previously held by TPG Capital.
 - its acquisition of ICM Partners
 - the investment by TPG Capital to acquire a controlling interest in CAA, and related debt and equity recapitalization transactions; and
 - a \$120 million investment and joint venture transaction with a consortium led by China Media Capital.
- **M3-Brigade Acquisition II Corp.** its \$2.85 billion merger with Syniverse
- **Telesat Corporation** in its \$5.0 billion Up-C transaction with Loral Space & Communications Inc. and PSP Investments
- **CenturyLink** in:
 - its acquisition of Level 3 Communications in a cash and stock transaction valued at approximately \$34 billion, including the assumption of debt; and
 - its \$2.5 billion acquisition of SAVVIS, Inc.
- **Verizon Communications** in its \$130 billion acquisition of Vodafone Group Plc’s 45% interest in Verizon Wireless
- **Searchlight Capital Partners** in its co-investment in the \$4.3 billion acquisition of Rackspace Hosting, Inc. by funds affiliated with Apollo Global Management
- **Grupo Prisa** in its \$1.5 billion combination with Liberty Acquisition Holdings and its related rights issuance
- **Goldman Sachs Capital Partners** in the sale of its interests in a joint venture with Canwest Global Communications Corp. in connection with Canwest’s approximately C\$2 billion sale of its broadcasting assets to Shaw Communications

Healthcare and Biotechnology

- **Actelion** in its \$30 billion acquisition by Johnson & Johnson and the spin-off of its drug discovery operations and early-stage clinical assets

- **Pacira BioSciences** in the withdrawal by DOMA Perpetual of its proxy fight for the company's 2025 annual meeting
- **Abbott Laboratories** in the \$4.3 billion sale of its vision care business to Johnson & Johnson
- **Cardinal Health** in:
 - its \$1.9 billion acquisition of Johnson & Johnson's Cordis business; and
 - its \$2.1 billion acquisition of AssuraMed

Financial Institutions

- **The Villages** in the \$710 million acquisition of Villages Bancorporation by Seacoast
- **Visa** in its €21.2 billion acquisition of Visa Europe Ltd.
- **MetLife** in its disposition of \$7.5 billion in retail banking deposits, representing the majority of its depository business, to GE Capital
- **Knight Capital Group** in:
 - its acquisition of Penson Futures; and
 - the sale of its institutional fixed income and trading business to Stifel Financial
- **Santander Holdings USA** in various public debt securities transactions
- **AllianceBernstein** in its acquisition of SunAmerica's alternative investments group
- **Bank of America** in its \$2.5 billion sale of Grupo Financiero Santander to Banco Santander

Utilities

- **MDU Resources Group** in:
 - its spin-off of Knife River Corporation, including a related debt-for-equity exchange and the secondary offering of MDU's retained stake in Knife River; and
 - the announced spin-off of its construction services business, MDU Construction Services Group
- **SUEZ** in its €26 billion acquisition by Veolia
- **Duke Energy** in its \$32 billion merger with Progress Energy
- **NextEra Energy** in:
 - its \$6.5 billion acquisition of Gulf Power Company, Florida City Gas and the Stanton and Oleander Power Projects from The Southern Company; and
 - its proposed \$4.3 billion acquisition of Hawaiian Electric Industries

Retail and Consumer Goods

- **American Eagle Outfitters** in its \$350 million acquisition of Quiet Logistics and other strategic supply chain investments
- **Altria** in its \$2.8 billion investment in Cronos Group
- **Tim Hortons** in its \$12.2 billion combination with Burger King Worldwide, Inc.
- **Groupe Casino** and **Cnova N.V.** in:
 - Cnova’s initial public offering;
 - Cnova’s reorganization of Cnova Brazil within Casino’s Brazilian affiliate, Via Varejo; and
 - Casino’s take-private tender offer for Cnova
- **Dufry AG** in:
 - its €328 million acquisition of the remaining interest in Folli Follie Group;
 - its CHF 1.4 billion acquisition of The Nuance Group; and
 - its CHF 3.8 billion acquisition of World Duty Free S.p.A.
- **DSW** in:
 - its \$375 million acquisition of Camuto Group’s operations; and
 - a joint venture with Authentic Brands Group for the Camuto Group intellectual property

Recent Financing and Capital Markets transactions

- **TPG Capital** and **Sixth Street Partners** in connection with their preferred investment in Vice Media
- **WESCO International** in:
 - its \$2.8 billion senior notes offering in connection with the acquisition of Anixter International; and
 - its cash tender offer for up to \$600 million of Anixter International’s notes, and related consent solicitations, in connection with the acquisition of Anixter
- **Edison International** in its \$800 million registered direct offering of common stock
- **American Eagle Outfitters** in its Rule 144A offering of up to \$460 million of convertible senior notes
- **DICK’S Sporting Goods** in its \$575 million convertible senior notes offering with related call spreads
- **Telesat Canada** in:
 - its \$400 million senior secured notes offering and \$1.9 billion term loan refinancing; and
 - its \$550 million senior notes offering

Recent Publications

[Shareholder Activism: Ten Trends for 2026](#), in Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance, October 16, 2025 and [NYU Law School's Blog on Compliance and Enforcement](#), October 23, 2025.

[The Tide Continues to Turn on the ESG Regulatory Front](#), in NYU Law School's Blog on Compliance and Enforcement, March 21, 2025.

[The Legal 500 Country Comparative Guides: Corporate Governance \(United States\)](#), 7th ed. 2025 (6th ed. 2024, 5th ed. 2023, 4th ed. 2022).

[Corporate Governance in the United States: Overview and Outlook](#), in In-House Lawyer, Winter 2022.

[Overview of Recent Public M&A Activity in the United States](#), in Beck'sches M&A-Handbuch (Beck's Manual on Mergers & Acquisitions), Verlag C.H. Beck oHG, Second ed. 2022 (First ed. 2017).

[The New SEC Regulation S-K Rules: Practical Advice for Companies](#), in Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance, October 14, 2020.

[Regulators Around the World Address Short Selling in Response to the Covid-19 Market Crisis](#), in Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance and Financial Regulation, March 26, 2020.

[Shareholder Activism and Governance in France: Proposed Reforms](#), in Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance and Financial Regulation, October 8, 2019.

[The Maturing Market for Representation and Warranty Insurance](#), in Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance and Financial Regulation, April 5, 2018.

[United States of America](#), in Securities World, 4th ed., published by Thomson Reuters (Professional) UK Limited, 2014.