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Joseph S. Payne is Counsel in the Corporate Department of Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz. He represents issuers and financial institutions in a broad array of public and private capital markets transactions, including initial public offerings and other equity offerings, investment-grade, high-yield and convertible debt financings, liability management transactions and SPAC deals. He has advised on transactions in a wide variety of industries, including the biotech, consumer goods, financial services, industrials, natural resources, pharmaceuticals, TMT, transportation and utilities sectors. He also advises U.S. public companies on general corporate, securities-law and governance matters.

He received his J.D. from Columbia Law School, where he was a James Kent Scholar, earned the Parker School Recognition of Achievement in International and Comparative Law and served as Public Affairs Editor of the *Columbia Journal of Transnational Law*. He received his A.B. from Harvard University. Prior to attending law school, Joe served as a Surface Warfare Officer in the United States Navy and received the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal.

Recent Publications

[Wachtell Lipton Discusses Proposed End of Quarterly Reporting and Action on Shareholder Litigation](#), in Columbia Law School's Blog on Corporations and the Capital Markets, September 26, 2025