



Joseph S. Payne

Counsel, Corporate

P: 212.403.1124

JSPayne@wlrk.com

Joseph S. Payne is Counsel in the Corporate Department of Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz. He represents issuers financial institutions and other market participants 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.

Since joining Wachtell Lipton in 2025, Joe has advised the Firm's clients on a number of transformative capital markets and corporate transactions, including:

- Salesforce in connection with its \$25 billion investment-grade bond offering and concurrent \$25 billion accelerated stock repurchase (ASR) program, one of the largest bond financings of all time

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- Abbot Laboratories in connection with the financing aspects of its \$23 billion acquisition of Exact Sciences
- Global Payments in the financing aspects of its \$5 billion acquisition of Worldpay and subsequent bond financings
- Pinterest in connection with its \$1 billion investment by Elliot and concurrent entry into a \$1 billion ASR program
- Danone in connection with the disposition of 100% of its stake in Lifeway Foods in an SEC-registered secondary transaction
- 3M in connection with a partial sale of its stake in Solventum in a SEC-registered secondary transaction
- Teck Resources in its proposed merger of equals with Anglo American
- Jetro Restaurant Depot in connection with its proposed acquisition by Sysco Corporation

Recent Publications

[Wachtell Lipton Discusses SEC Expansion of Five Business Day Debt Tender Offer Criteria](#), in Columbia Law School's Blog on Corporations and the Capital Markets, July 7, 2026

[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