



Robin Panovka

Partner, Real Estate M&A

P: 212.403.1352

RPanovka@wlrk.com

Robin Panovka co-chairs Wachtell Lipton's Real Estate and REIT M&A practices, which are consistently at the forefront of M&A and other major transactions in the REIT, private equity, real estate, hospitality and gaming industries. He also advises on activism defense, strategy, cross-border transactions, and large scale development projects, including the redevelopment of the World Trade Center and Little Island in Manhattan.

Representative matters can be found at [Real Estate M&A Practice](#).

Robin has long been named one of the *Lawdragon* 500 Leading Lawyers in the U.S., and is ranked as one of the leading M&A and REIT lawyers by *Chambers*, *Legal 500*, *Who's Who Legal* and similar publications. He has been featured in a number of publications, including [Lawdragon Magazine](#) and *American Lawyer*, and is a recipient of New York University's Urban Leadership Award. Robin was named one of the top 10 most influential REIT lawyers shaping U.S. real estate landscape by [Business Today](#), which noted that he "dominates the scene with his in-depth knowledge in bulge-bracket M&A and REIT corporate law." Law 360 named him MVP in [2024](#) and previously [2022](#) for his work in real estate M&A.

He writes and lectures widely, including co-authoring "REITs: Mergers and Acquisitions," a leading treatise published by *Law Journal Press*. He is co-chair of the NYU REIT Center and has served as an adjunct professor at Columbia Business and Law Schools and in NYU's Masters in Real Estate Program.

He is a founding director of the International Institute for the Study of Cross-Border M&A (XBMA), a joint venture among Peking University, Cambridge and NYU. He regularly chairs annual conferences for the NYU REIT Center, Practising Law Institute and XBMA. He is also active on a number of educational and non-profit boards, including the boards of Duke Law School and NYU's Real Estate Institute; is a fellow of the American Bar Foundation and the American College of Real Estate Lawyers; and is a member of the Economic Club of New York.

Robin was heavily involved in the redevelopment of the World Trade Center for more than a decade following its destruction on September 11, 2001 and played a hand in negotiating the master plan and "footprint swap" which paved the way to rebuilding, as chronicled in the [Cornell Real Estate Review](#), *American Lawyer Magazine* and other publications.

Recent Publications

[REITs: Mergers and Acquisitions](#), Law Journal Press, updated through 2025 (first published 2006).

[Rebuilding the World Trade Center](#), in *Cornell Real Estate Review* Vol. 10, July 2012.

[The Real Estate M&A and Private Equity Review](#), co-editor and co-author of U.S. chapter, *Law Business Research*, London, Tenth ed. 2025 (Ninth ed. 2024; Eighth ed. 2023; Seventh ed. 2022; Sixth ed. 2021; Fifth ed. 2020; Fourth ed. 2019; Third ed. 2018; Second ed. 2017; First ed. 2016).

[REIT M&A in 2025](#), 2025.

[Little Island: Wachtell Lipton Advises on a Not-So-Little Project](#), in *Lawdragon*, December 3, 2024.

[REITs Come of Age](#), in *The Business Lawyer*, Volume 79 Issue 1, February 9, 2024.

[Cross-Border M&A - 2023 Checklist for Successful Acquisitions in the United States](#), in *Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance*, January 7, 2023.

[Mind the REIT Gap: REIT M&A in 2023](#), December 7, 2022.

[Ground Zero Master Plans: The Commercial Imperative](#), an online discussion between experts for future plans regarding the development of Ground Zero. Sponsored by The Skyscraper Museum, December 1, 2021.

[Cross-Border M&A – 2022 Checklist for Successful Acquisitions in the United States](#), in Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance and Financial Regulation, January 22, 2022.

[REIT M&A and Strategy in 2022](#), January 3, 2022.

[REITs in 2021](#), January 11, 2021; also available at [Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance](#).

["New" IRS Guidance Provides Relief from Dividend Payment Requirement for REITs](#), May 6, 2020.

[REITs and Covid-19: 15 Key Issues for Boards as They Chart the Course Forward](#), in Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance, May 13, 2020.

[REIT M&A and Activism: Preparing for Threats in the Covid-19 Environment](#), April 6, 2020.

[REIT M&A in 2020](#), January 6, 2020.

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

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

[Lawyer Limelight: Robin Panovka and Adam Emmerich](#), in Lawdragon Magazine, January 7, 2018.

[REIT M&A, Governance and Activism - Themes for 2017](#), in Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance and Financial Regulation, January 4, 2017.

[Taking REITs Private - The Playbook is Back in Play](#), in Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance and Financial Regulation, October 21, 2015.

[REIT M&A: Much Since 2000, More Ahead](#), in GlobeSt.com, August 31, 2015.

[M&A is 'Wave of the Industry' for REITs](#), in GlobeSt.com, April 16, 2015.

[Only Death, Taxes and REITs Are Inevitable](#), in Premises, Spring 2015.

[Am Law 100 Trio Advises on \\$2.6 Billion Senior Housing Buy](#), in American Lawyer, June 2, 2014.

[Am Law Duo Put to Bed \\$1.3 Billion Hotel Venture](#), in American Lawyer, May 13, 2014.

[Industry Observers Have Mixed Outlook on REIT M&A](#), on REIT.com, January 17, 2013.

[Sixth Circuit Upholds Tortious Interference Verdict Against Auction Loser's Overbid](#), in The Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance and Financial Regulation, July 2, 2011.

[Silverstein's Army](#), in The American Lawyer, September 2007.

[REIT M&A Transactions-Peculiarities and Complications](#), in The Business Lawyer, Volume 55 Number 2, February 2000.