

Brian D. Christiansen

Skadden

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Financial Institutions Regulation and Enforcement



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Education

J.D., The George Washington University, 2002 (with honors; Member, *The George Washington Law Review*)

B.S., University of Virginia, 1999 (McIntire School of Commerce, Finance)

Bar Admissions

District of Columbia

Associations

Chairman, Mergers and Acquisitions Subcommittee, Banking Law Committee, American Bar Association (2011-2015)

Brian Christiansen counsels U.S. and international banking organizations, nonbank financial services firms, and their investors and counterparties in connection with transactions and financial regulatory matters. Mr. Christiansen has helped clients structure and execute acquisitions, investments and corporate transactions; obtain charters; raise capital; develop new products; implement compliance programs; conduct internal investigations; and resolve enforcement actions. He has an active practice assisting innovative and nontraditional financial services and technology firms navigate federal and state regulatory regimes. Mr. Christiansen represents clients before all of the major financial services regulatory agencies, including the Federal Reserve, FDIC, OCC and state banking departments. He is a member of Skadden's integrated team that handles complex and often groundbreaking matters in the financial services industry.

Recognition

Mr. Christiansen has been named a "market leader" in the area of financial services regulation by *IFLR1000*, was named to *Global Banking Regulation Review's* 45 Under 45 and is recognized as a leading practitioner by *The Best Lawyers in America*. He also is recognized in multiple nationwide categories of *Chambers USA*, in which clients have said he is "very talented," "able to take something very complex and put it into layman's terms" and "looks to get to a commercial conclusion while providing thoughtful and protective advice."

Representative Matters

Banking Transactions

- **Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.** in the sale of its institutional retirement and trust business to an affiliate of Principal Financial Group, Inc.
- **OceanFirst Financial Corporation**, a bank holding company based in New Jersey, in its separate acquisitions of seven publicly traded and privately held community bank and thrift organizations
- **Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation**, a global banking organization based in Japan, in multiple transactions, including its investment in The Bank of East Asia, Ltd., its acquisition of American Railcar Leasing and its investment in Ares Management Corporation
- **Flagstar Bank, FSB** in its purchase and assumption of more than 50 branches from Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.
- **Stone Point Capital** in multiple transactions, including as lead investor in the recapitalization of Standard Bancshares, Inc. and its subsequent sale to First Midwest Bancorp, Inc., and in its investments in Atlantic Capital Bancshares and TriState Capital Holdings, Inc.
- **Green Bancorp, Inc.** in its initial public offering, multiple acquisitions and subsequent merger with Veritex Holdings
- **Dogwood State Bank**, a community bank based in North Carolina, in its formation through the recapitalization of Sound Bank, installation of a new board and management team, and implementation of new strategic plan
- **American Express, Bank of America, JPMorgan Chase and Wells Fargo** in their formation of TruSight, a company that conducts third-party risk assessments across the financial services industry
- **Anchor BanCorp Wisconsin Inc.** in its first-of-its-kind restructuring and recapitalization through a prepackaged bankruptcy process, subsequent initial public offering and later acquisition by Old National Bancorp
- **Viking Global Investors**, as special counsel, in its controlling investment in Rockefeller Capital Management, a wealth management firm operating a national trust bank

Fintech Transactions

- **LendingClub Corporation** in regulatory matters in connection with its acquisition of a national bank and transition to become a bank holding company
- **Social Capital Hedosophia V**, a special purpose acquisition company, in its merger with Social Finance, Inc. (SoFi)
- **Zip Co Limited** in its \$400 million acquisition of QuadPay Inc., which provides technology-enabled buy-now-pay-later services
- **Worldpay, Inc.**, a global ecommerce and payments processing company, in its merger with FIS, which valued Worldpay at \$43 billion
- **Live Oak Bancshares, Inc.** as founding investor in Finxact, LLC, a company that develops and provides core banking technology
- **Deutsche Bank AG** in its acquisition of an equity stake in ModoPayments, LLC, a payments technology startup
- **PayPal Holdings, Inc.** in its acquisitions of iZettle AB, a leading small business commerce platform in Europe and Latin America, and Hyperwallet, a global payout platform
- **TPG Capital**, as special counsel, in its investments in GreenSky, a technology-driven consumer and business lending platform, and Varo Money, a *de novo* online retail bank

Regulatory Counseling and Enforcement

- a **specialty lender** in connection with a regulatory consent order related to safety and soundness
- a **European online bank** on regulatory matters related to its entry into the United States
- a **publicly traded banking organization** in an internal investigation related to transactions with affiliates
- a **global bank holding company** on compliance with the activity and investment limitations of the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956
- a **nonbank payments company** in its successful response to a licensing inquiry by a state banking agency
- a **regional banking organization** in connection with its resolution of a public enforcement action related to its anti-money laundering program
- a **director of a troubled bank** in the successful resolution of a federal regulatory enforcement action
- an **industrial loan company** in its negotiation of regulatory operating conditions

Recent Publications

- “Why Does the Brand of My Phone Affect My Credit Rating?,” *Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP*, February 3, 2021
- “Cross-Border Investigations Update – December 2020,” *Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP*, December 2020
- “ISDA Publishes Supplement and Protocol for Transition From IBOR to Alternative Benchmark Rates,” *Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP*, November 2, 2020
- “Updated Guide to the Main Street Lending Program,” *Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP*, June 10, 2020
- “Guide to the Federal Reserve’s Main Street and Other Lending Programs in Response to COVID-19 Pandemic,” *Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP*, April 13, 2020
- “Federal Reserve Lending Programs to Support U.S. Economy During COVID-19 Pandemic,” *Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP*, March 29, 2020
- “CARES Act Provides Much-Needed Stimulus for U.S. Businesses, Individuals,” *Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP*, March 27, 2020
- “Cross-Border Investigations Update,” *Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP*, September 2019
- “Regulatory Relief May Generate Increased M&A Activity Among Banks,” *Skadden’s 2019 Insights*, January 17, 2019
- “A Look at US and EU Fintech Regulatory Frameworks,” *Law360*, February 16, 2018
- “Fintech Deal Landscape to Remain Active in 2018,” *Skadden’s 2018 Insights*, January 23, 2018
- “The Trump Impact: Key Issues in Financial Services Reform for 2017,” *Skadden’s 2017 Insights*, January 2017
- “Federal Regulator Signals Willingness to Grant National Bank Charters to Fintech Companies,” *Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP*, December 8, 2016
- “Managing Regulatory Risk in Bank M&A,” *Deal Lawyers*, May-June 2015