

Partner, New York

Financial Institutions; Mergers and Acquisitions



T: 212.735.3554
F: 917.777.3554
sven.mickisch@skadden.com

Education

J.D., Columbia University School of Law, 2005 (James Kent Scholar; Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar)

LL.B., London School of Economics and Political Science, 2004 (Sir Morris Finer Memorial Prize)

Bar Admissions

New York

Languages

German
French
English
Dutch (proficient)

Sven Mickisch is co-head of Skadden's Financial Institutions Group. He handles complex transactions and regulatory matters in the financial services industry, with an emphasis on the banking/specialty finance and financial technology sectors. Mr. Mickisch also serves as co-head of Skadden's financial services initiative, which oversees coverage of the firm's financial services clients across all of its practices, and coordinates Skadden's global financial technology practice.

Mr. Mickisch has significant experience representing financial institutions in mergers, acquisitions and financing transactions, while also having a particularly active practice advising private equity firms transacting in the financial services sector. In addition, he has handled numerous restructurings and recapitalizations of financial institutions.

He is widely recognized for his work in the financial services space. He is consistently ranked as a leading attorney in financial institutions M&A by *Chambers USA* and was named a 2019 Fintech MVP by *Law360*.

His representations include the following transactions:

Banking / Specialty Finance

- **American Express** in the sale of its international banking division to Standard Chartered;
- **Anchor Bancorp Wisconsin** in its sale to Old National Bancorp, as well as its prior recapitalization, which was implemented via a "prepackaged" bankruptcy process;
- **Bank of N.T. Butterfield** in its recapitalization led by Carlyle, CIBC and other institutional investors, and its offering of preference shares guaranteed by the government of Bermuda;
- **Bear Stearns** in its sale to JPMorgan Chase;
- **BNP Paribas** in the sale of its oil and gas reserve-based lending business in the U.S. and Canada to Wells Fargo;
- **DMG Bancshares** in its capital raise anchored by Stone Point and Reverence Capital, and its acquisition of California First National Bank;
- **First Bancorp** in its acquisition of Banco Santander Puerto Rico;
- **Flagstar** in its acquisition of a Midwest branch network from Wells Fargo;
- **Green Bancorp** in its IPO, its acquisitions of multiple community banks and its merger with Veritex Holdings;
- **Greentech Capital Advisors** in its sale to Nomura;
- **Hanover Bancorp** in its successful proxy contest against a dissident shareholder;
- **HCBF Holding Company** in its merger with CenterState Banks;
- **Jefferies** in its acquisition of the operations of Faros Trading;
- **Leerink Partners** in its sale to Silicon Valley Bancorp;
- **SKBHC Holdings** in its acquisition of AmericanWest Bank via a first-of-its-kind Section 363 bankruptcy process, and in follow-on acquisitions of multiple community banks;
- **Sound Bank** in its implementation of a new strategic plan and recapitalization by institutional and local investors;
- **Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation** in its investments in Ares Management and Moelis & Company and its acquisition of American Railcar Leasing;
- **Sumitomo Mitsui Trust Bank** in its acquisition of an equity stake in Midwest Rail Corp. from Marubeni Corporation and its investment in GreensLedge Holdings;

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- the special committee of the board of directors of **UnionBanCal Corporation** in its going-private transaction with majority shareholder Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group;
- **Wells Fargo** in connection with the sale of its Institutional Retirement & Trust business to Principal Financial Group; its sale of its student loan business; and the sale of its asset management business to a group consisting of GTCR and Reverence Capital; and
- **Yadkin Financial Corporation** in its acquisition of NewBridge Bancorp and its sale to F.N.B. Corporation.

Financial Technology

- **American Express** in its acquisition of Loungebuddy;
- **American Express, Bank of America, JPMorgan Chase and Wells Fargo** in their formation of TruSight;
- **Bank of New York Mellon, Computershare, Clearstream, Deutsche Bank, HSBC, JPMorgan Chase and State Street** in their investment in Proximity;
- **Deutsche Bank** in its investment in Modo Payments;
- **eToro** in its business combination with FinTech Acquisition Corp. V;
- **E*TRADE** in its sale to Morgan Stanley;
- **JPMorgan Chase** in the sale of its blockchain platform Quorum to, and concurrent strategic investment in, ConsenSys Software;
- **Live Oak** in its investment in Finxact;
- **Vantiv** in its acquisition of Worldpay Group;
- **Worldpay** in its merger with FIS; and
- **Zip Co** in its acquisition of QuadPay.

Financial Services Private Equity

- **Blackstone** in its acquisition of a controlling stake in Exeter Finance; the acquisition by its portfolio company Lendmark Financial Services of certain branch offices and related loan assets from Springleaf Financial; and the sale of Lendmark Financial Services to Lightyear Capital;
- **Fortress** in connection with the recapitalization of Bay Cities National Bank (renamed Opus Bank); the merger between Opus Bank and Pacific Premier Bancorp; and its portfolio company Cetera Financial Group's sale to Genstar;
- **Further Global** in its acquisition of a controlling stake in U.S. Claims;
- **Pine Brook** in its acquisition of United PanAm Financial Corporation; its investment in Better Mortgage, Inc.; its investment in Fair Square Financial Holdings LLC; its investment in Origin Bancorp,

- Inc.; its acquisition of Triumph Capital Advisors LLC (renamed White Star Asset Management); and White Star's sale to Clearlake Capital;
- **Stone Point** in its investment in TriState Capital; the recapitalization of Standard Bancshares, Inc. and its subsequent sale to First Midwest Bancorp, Inc.; its investment in Atlantic Capital Bancshares, Inc.; its portfolio company AloStar Bank of Commerce's sale to State Bank and Trust Company; and its portfolio company Stretto's acquisition of CINgroup;
- **TPG** in its acquisition of The Warranty Group, Inc. and its subsequent business combination transaction with Assurant; its investment in GreenSky Trade Credit; its investment in Varo Money, Inc.; and its sale of Direct General Corporation;
- a consortium consisting of **WL Ross & Co., Blackstone Group, Carlyle Group and Centerbridge** in the acquisition of the banking operations of BankUnited, FSB in an auction by the FDIC, as receiver; and
- a consortium consisting of **Starwood Capital Group, TPG Capital, Perry Capital** and a joint venture between **WL Ross & Co. and LeFrak Organization** in their acquisition of an equity stake in a limited liability company that holds loan and real estate assets formerly owned by Corus Bank, N.A. in an auction by the FDIC, as receiver.

Other Financial Services

- **MetLife** in its acquisition of AFP Provida;
- **Morgan Stanley** in its acquisition of CLO assets of Assurant;
- **Refco** in the sale of Refco's global regulated futures brokerage business to Man Financial, Inc. in a bankruptcy auction; and
- **Wilton Re** in its sale to Canada Pension Plan Investment Board.

Publications

"Why Does the Brand of My Phone Affect My Credit Rating?" *Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP*, February 3, 2021

"Federal Reserve Lending Programs to Support U.S. Economy During COVID-19 Pandemic," *Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP*, March 29, 2020

"Valuation Challenges for Fintechs Highlight Legal Considerations in 'Down

Rounds," *Skadden's 2020 Insights*, January 21, 2020

"Regulatory Relief May Generate Increased M&A Activity Among Banks," *Skadden's 2019 Insights*, January 17, 2019

"Upcoming Uptick in Bank M&A Activity?" *Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance and Financial Regulation*, May 14, 2018