



John W. White

PARTNER, CORPORATE

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John W. White is Chair of the Corporate Governance and Board Advisory Practice. From 2006 through 2008, he served as Director of the Division of Corporation Finance at the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, which oversees disclosure and reporting by public companies in the United States.

During his over 30 years as a partner at Cravath, Mr. White has focused his practice on representing public companies in a wide variety of areas, including public reporting responsibilities, corporate governance matters, public financings and restatements and other financial crises.

While on the SEC staff, Mr. White led the Division through one of the most significant and prolific rulemaking periods in its history, including the Commission's adoption of final rules addressing executive compensation disclosure, Sarbanes-Oxley Section 404's internal control requirements, internet access to proxy materials, oil and

gas disclosure, use of interactive data in financial reporting, shareholder proposals relating to the election of directors, private offerings, and capital raising and reporting by smaller public companies, as well as the Commission's issuance of guidance regarding the use of corporate websites. International initiatives included acceptance of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) by foreign private issuers, the proposed roadmap for use of IFRS by U.S. issuers and modernizing the Commission's rules on cross-border tender offers and deregistration and exemption from registration of foreign issuers, as well as revisions to the public reporting regime for foreign private issuers. He played an integral role in the SEC's response to market turmoil throughout 2008, ensuring that the Division acted swiftly and appropriately to facilitate strategic transactions and access to capital for public companies.

Mr. White has served as a member of the Financial Accounting Standards Advisory Council (FASAC), which advises the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB), and as a member of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board's Standards and Emerging Issues Advisory Group. Mr. White also serves on the Board of Directors and Executive Committee of Financial Executives International (FEI) and chairs the Advisory Council of USC's SEC and Financial Reporting Institute. He is a frequent speaker on corporate governance and the securities laws. Mr. White served three years on the New York Stock Exchange's Legal Advisory Committee, four years as Chairman of the Securities Regulation Institute and five years as Co-Chair of PLI's Annual Institute on Securities Regulation. Additionally, he serves as an inaugural member of The American College of Governance Counsel. Mr. White was twice selected by National Association of Corporate Directors (NACD) as one of the 100 most influential people in the boardroom and corporate governance community. He has been recognized by *Chambers USA* in both securities regulation and capital markets, as well as by *The Legal 500 US*, *The Best Lawyers in America* and Ethisphere Institute's "Attorneys Who Matter." *Lawdragon* has named Mr. White a nationwide "Legend" and inducted him as a "Power Broker" into its "Hall of Fame."

Mr. White received a B.S. with honors in accounting from the University of Virginia in 1970, and in May 1970 he received the Elijah Watts Sells award for the highest score in the nation on the Uniform CPA Examination. He received a J.D. *magna cum laude* from New York University School of Law in 1973, where he was Managing Editor of the *Law Review*. Before joining Cravath, Mr. White served as a law clerk to Hon. John J. Gibbons of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

Mr. White joined Cravath in 1975 and was elected a partner in 1980. At Cravath, he has served as Recruiting Partner, Corporate Managing Partner, Finance Partner and twice as Head of the Corporate Department.

EDUCATION

- J.D., 1973, New York University School of Law
Order of the Coif, cum laude
- B.S., 1970, University of Virginia
with Honors

CLERKSHIPS

- Hon. John J. Gibbons, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit

ADMITTED IN

- New York

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Bar Association

- Corporate Governance Committee, Section of Business Law
- Federal Regulation of Securities Committee, Section of Business Law

Federal Bar Association

- Securities Law Section, Executive Council

International Bar Association

New York City Bar Association

New York State Bar Association

ORGANIZATIONS

Financial Accounting Standards Board's (FASB) Financial Accounting Standards Advisory Council

Public Company Accounting Oversight Board's (PCAOB) Standing Advisory Group

- Member, 2010-2018

Financial Executives International (FEI)

- Board of Directors
- Executive Committee

Securities Regulation Institute

- Executive Committee
- Chairman, 2008-2010
- Vice Chairman, 2005-2007

Practising Law Institute

- Chair, Audit Committee, Board of Trustees, 2023-2010, 2006-2002

PLI Securities Regulation in Europe

- Advisory Committee

New York Stock Exchange Legal Advisory Committee

- Member, 2004-2006

SEC Historical Society

- Board of Trustees
- Audit Committee

The American College of Governance Counsel

- Inaugural Member

R A N K I N G S

Chambers Global

- Capital Markets: Debt & Equity - USA (2018-2011, 2006)
- Capital Markets (2005-1998)

Chambers USA

- Capital Markets Lawyer of the Year (2006)
- Capital Markets: Debt & Equity - Nationwide (2017-2010)
- Securities Regulation: Advisory - Nationwide (2024-2010)

The American Lawyer

- Dealmaker of the Year (1999)

Best Lawyers in America

- Corporate Compliance Law (2025-2013)
- Corporate Governance Law (2025-2012, 2007)
- Corporate Law (2025-2013)
- Securities/Capital Markets Law (2025-2012, 2007)
- Securities Regulation (2025-2012)

Lawdragon

- 50 Legends of the 500 Leading Lawyers in America (2015)
- 500 Leading Dealmakers in America (2024-2021, 2007)
- 500 Leading Lawyers in America (2015-2007)
- Hall of Fame (2016)

The Legal 500 US

- Capital Markets: Debt Offerings (2013-2010)

- Capital Markets: Equity Offerings (2010)

NACD Directorship

- The Directorship 100 (2015, 2014)

Ethisphere Institute's "Attorneys Who Matter"

- Top Gun (2015)
- Specialist – Private Practice (2014)

Elijah Watts Sells Award (Highest score in the nation on the Uniform CPA Examination), American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, 1970

Law and Policy Award (Sarbanes-Oxley Section 404), U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, 2007