

Joseph R. Slights III

PARTNER

Litigation
Wilmington, DE

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FOCUS AREAS

Arbitration
Board and Internal
Investigations
Commercial Litigation
Corporate Governance
Corporate Governance
Litigation
Litigation
Securities Litigation
Shareholder Engagement
and Activism
State Attorneys General

HIGHLIGHTS

- **Experienced Litigator and Corporate Law Advisor**
Joe has over three decades of legal experience, both on the bench of two nationally renowned commercial trial courts and in private practice. He has tried more than 25 jury trials to verdict and has appeared in all of Delaware's state and federal courts.
- **Former Vice Chancellor of the Delaware Court of Chancery**
Joe presided over a number of high-profile disputes during his service as Vice Chancellor and is a well-known and well-respected figure in the Delaware legal community and nationally among corporate governance scholars and practitioners.
- **Former Judge of the Delaware Superior Court**
Joe presided over several complex multi-jurisdictional class actions and was instrumental in creating the Court's Complex Commercial Litigation Division.

EXPERIENCE

Joseph R. Slights III, a former Vice Chancellor of the Delaware Court of Chancery, is a partner in Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati's litigation department, where his practice focuses on corporate governance counseling and litigation. He was sworn in as Vice Chancellor of the Court of Chancery in 2016 after he was nominated by then-Governor Jack Markell and unanimously confirmed by the state senate.

Prior to his appointment, Joe was a partner at the Delaware law firm Morris James, LLP where he practiced corporate and business litigation and chaired the firm's Alternative Dispute Resolution practice. Before that, he served a 12-year term as a judge on the Superior Court of Delaware, where he was instrumental in forming the court's Complex Commercial Litigation Division, a division of the court that specializes in adjudicating business disputes in jury and non-jury trials. Previously, Joe was a trial lawyer in the Delaware-based firm Sidney Balick PC (now Balick & Balick) and a corporate litigator in the Delaware-based firm Richards, Layton & Finger PC.

Joe has been an adjunct professor at Widener University School of Law, and currently is on the adjunct faculty of Vanderbilt University School of Law and Washington & Lee University School of Law. He has served as a delegate to the National Conference of State Trial Court Judges, and a liaison between the Judicial Division and Business Law Section of the American Bar Association. He regularly serves as a mediator and arbitrator in high-stakes disputes.

CREDENTIALS

Education

- J.D., Washington and Lee University School of Law, 1988
- B.S., James Madison University, 1985

Associations and Memberships

- Fellow, American College of Governance Counsel
- Member, American Law Institute
- Member, American Bar Association
- Member, Delaware Bar Association
- Member, American Bar Foundation
- Past President, Richard S. Rodney American Inn of Court

Honors

- Named among Lawdragon's "500 Leading Litigators in America," 2025-26
- Delaware State Bar Association Daniel L. Herrmann Professional Conduct Award (2012)
- Delaware State Bar Association Distinguished Mentoring Award (2006)
- Recognized in the 2013-2016 editions of *Delaware Today* magazine as a Best Lawyer in Alternative Dispute Resolution

Admissions

- State Bar of Delaware
- Supreme Court of Delaware
- U.S. District Court for the District of Delaware
- U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit
- U.S. Supreme Court

INSIGHTS

Select Speaking Engagements

- Panelist, "The Future of Delaware Law," Wilson Sonsini Webinar, April 2025
- Presenter, "The Status and Future of Corporate Law and Governance," Wilson Sonsini MCLE Program, January 23, 2025
- "Case Law Matters: Identifying and Dealing with Controlling Stockholders," ABA Business Law Hybrid Section Annual Meeting, September 2022