



WAYNE A. WATKINSON

Principal , Hackensack

PRACTICE AREAS

- Distressed Real Estate
- Financial Institutions Regulatory

PRACTICE FOCUS

Wayne Watkinson is an attorney whose practice, since 1996, has concentrated on representing mortgage lenders and brokers and depositories in compliance, transactional, corporate and litigation matters. In addition, he assists clients in establishing mortgage companies, in obtaining mortgage banking licenses throughout the country, in preparing for and responding to state licensing examinations and defending administrative enforcement actions.

He previously served for ten years as Deputy Attorney General assigned to represent the New Jersey Banking Department and as a regulatory officer with the N.J. Banking Department. In these roles, he assisted the Department in drafting the Interstate Banking and Branching Act, L. 1996, c. 17, the law which permitted foreign and out-of-state banks to branch into New Jersey for the first time, and the Licensed Lenders Act, L. 1996, c.157, the law which regulated mortgage bankers and brokers, consumer lenders and sales finance companies. His responsibilities with the Department also included providing agency advice, representing the Department in litigation and enforcement matters, drafting regulations and reviewing proposed legislation. He began his career working with Central Appellate Research in the N.J. Administrative Office of the Courts, where he provided research and memoranda for the judges of the Superior Court, Appellate Division.

Wayne has lectured on various regulatory issues before the Institute for Continuing Legal Education (ICLE), the N.J. Mortgage Bankers Association of N.J, the N.J. Association of Mortgage Brokers, among other groups. He has participated in several ICLE Consumer Credit Regulation Forums, and he organized ICLE panels on Mortgage Compliance Issues, the Consumer Fraud Act and on Mortgage Basics. He has been a frequent instructor for pre-licensing and continuing education courses, including courses approved by the Nationwide Multistate Licensing System & Registry (“NMLS”).

Wayne currently serves on the board of the Banking Law Section of the N.J. Bar Association, and previously served as the Chair of that section, and is also the former Chair of the Legislative Committee and the Consumer Finance Committee. He is an active member of the Community Home Lenders of America (CHLA), a trade group supporting independent mortgage bankers. <https://www.communitylender.org/>

REPRESENTATIVE MATTERS

- New Jersey Mortgage Bankers Assoc. v. N.J. Real Estate Comm., 283 N.J. Supr. 233 (App. Div. 1995)
- Trico Mort Co., Inc. v. Forero, 275 N.J. Supr. 91 (App. Div. 1994)

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

- Regulatory Panel, Regional Conference of Mortgage Bankers, May 4, 2023
- Basics of Bank Regulation, New Jersey Institute for Continuing Legal Education, September 15, 2022

PUBLICATIONS

- Viewpoint: It’s Time to Take Another Look at the SAFE Act, Scotsman Guide, April 2020
- Viewpoint: Is This Mortgage Licensing Requirement Appropriate?, Scotsman Guide, April 2020

EDUCATION

- Stetson University College of Law – St. Petersburg, Florida, J.D.
- Dickinson College, Carlisle, Pennsylvania, B.A.

ADMISSIONS

- New Jersey