



Wesley Davis

Associate

wdavis@stradley.com

Philadelphia, PA: 215.564.8640

Wesley Davis focuses his practice on counseling investment companies — including mutual funds, closed-end funds, 1933 Act-only exchange-traded products (ETPs) and exchange-traded funds (ETFs) — and investment advisers on regulatory, compliance and transactional issues. Notably, he has advised on the formation, registration, listing and launch of industry-first, 1933 Act-only bitcoin and ether ETPs.

Wesley advises investment management clients in all aspects of legal representation, including drafting and reviewing registration statements, proxy solicitation materials and other regulatory filings; researching various securities and corporate law issues; and preparing board materials.

During law school, he served as a summer law clerk for U.S. Magistrate Judge Maureen Kelly of the Western District of Pennsylvania. Wesley also was an intern for the Temple Low Income Taxpayer Clinic and worked as a legal assistant at a high-volume personal injury firm in Philadelphia.

Featured Representative Matters

- Represented Franklin Templeton in the launch of Franklin Crypto Index ETF, a new index-based, digital-asset-backed ETP.
- Represented Franklin Templeton in connection with the formation, registration, listing and launch of Franklin Ethereum ETF, one of the industry's first spot ether ETPs.
- Advised Franklin Templeton on the formation, registration, listing and launch of Franklin Bitcoin ETF, one of the industry's first spot bitcoin ETPs.

Memberships

- Member, Stradley Ronon Inclusion Committee

Services

- Retail Alternative Funds
- Exchange-Traded Funds (ETFs)
- Digital Assets, Tokenization & Blockchain
- Investment Advisers
- Investment Management

Education

- Temple University Beasley School of Law (J.D., *cum laude*)
- University of Pittsburgh (B.A.)

Admissions

- Pennsylvania

Publications

“Fat-Free” ESG: SEC Proposes Rule Changes Related to Fund Names and Fund and Adviser Disclosure Related to ESG Investment Strategies

June 3, 2022

SEC Adopts Universal Proxy and Proposes to Rescind Certain 2020 Proxy Solicitation Rules

November 23, 2021

DOL Proposes New ESG & Proxy Voting Rule

October 13, 2021

Experience

Stradley Ronon Advises Franklin Templeton on its Third Digital Asset ETP Launch in the Past Year

Stradley Ronon represents Franklin Templeton in expanding its digital asset ETP suite, providing counsel on the formation, registration, listing and launch of the Franklin Crypto Index ETF.

The Stradley team is led by partners Steve Feinour and Miranda Sturgis, and includes partner Kenneth Greenberg and associates Wesley Davis, Rachel Charamella, Sam Kishiyama and Jeremy Gottlieb. The tax team includes partners Dean Krishna and Rich Peterson.

Stradley Ronon Advises Franklin Templeton on Historic Spot Ether ETF

Stradley Ronon served as counsel to Franklin Templeton on the formation, registration, listing and launch of a new exchange-traded product, Franklin Ethereum ETF — one of several spot ether ETFs to receive listing approval from the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. The Franklin Ethereum ETF offers investors exposure to ether, the second-largest digital asset by market capitalization, in an ETF wrapper.

Stradley Ronon Advises Franklin Templeton on Industry-First Spot Bitcoin ETF

Stradley Ronon advised Franklin Templeton on the formation, registration, listing and launch of the Franklin Bitcoin ETF, one of 11 spot bitcoin exchange-traded funds (ETFs) to receive listing approval from the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) on January 10.

The Franklin Bitcoin ETF offers investors exposure to bitcoin in an ETF wrapper, thereby providing access through traditional securities brokerage accounts and avoiding the complexities of handling bitcoin directly. The Franklin Bitcoin ETF, which trades on Cboe, issues shares backed by bitcoin held by the fund's custodian.