



## William W. Hooper

Partner

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### *Related Services*

Corporate & Finance ■ Financial Services ■ Payments & Fintech ■ Mergers & Acquisitions ■ Capital Markets & Securities ■ Corporate & Business Transactions ■ Bank Regulatory ■ Financial Services - Mergers & Acquisitions

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*Will is an M&A and capital markets attorney with a depth of experience in the banking, fintech, and payments industries. Public and private companies rely on Will to guide them through complex strategic transactions, both in the United States and abroad.*

Will Hooper is a co-leader of Alston & Bird's Banking/M&A Team. Will focuses his practice on the representation of fintech companies, banks, and private equity investors in complex strategic transactions, including M&A, securities offerings, and strategic investments, with significant experience in cross-border transactions. Will also represents public and private companies in the financial services industry in regulatory, corporate governance, and SEC reporting matters.

Will has been recognized by *Best Lawyers: Ones to Watch*® "Ones to Watch" in the Banking & Finance Law category.

### *Representative Experience*

#### ***Payments and Fintech***

- Represented a global merchant acquirer in its acquisition of a well-known and established payments gateway business in the UK and Ireland.
- Represented a global financial services company in its acquisition of a provider of loyalty solutions for merchants and consumers.
- Represented CPS Payment Services in its \$78 million sale to Repay Holdings Corp.
- Represented a global merchant acquirer in its acquisition of a point-of-sale software provider with operations in the United States, Belize, Ireland, and Lithuania.
- Represented a global merchant acquirer in its acquisition of numerous merchant portfolios in the United States and the UK.
- Represented a global merchant acquirer in its acquisition of a payment technology company in Norway.
- Represented top U.S. retailers in the negotiation of key payment processing agreements.
- Represented numerous merchant acquirors, payment facilitators, and ISOs in negotiating key commercial agreements and strategic partnerships.
- Represented a global payments company in its acquisition of a payment technology company in Gibraltar.
- Regulatory counsel to a B2B payments company in its \$300 million private capital raise.

#### ***Capital Markets***

- Represented Southern National Bancorp of Virginia Inc. in its \$65 million public offering of subordinated notes.
- Represented The First Bancshares Inc. in its \$65 million private placement of subordinated notes and subsequent exchange offer for identical registered subordinated notes.
- Represented Northpointe Bancshares Inc. in the private placement of \$95 million of depositary shares representing 1/40th of a share of its non-cumulative perpetual preferred stock, series B.
- Represented The First Bancshares Inc. in its \$50.8 million follow-on offering of shares of its common stock.
- Represented one of the largest banks in the United States in a minority investment in a health care payments company.
- Represented a wealth management company in a \$50 million private recapitalization.
- Represented investors and issuers in numerous recapitalizations of banks and bank holding companies involving issuances of voting and non-voting equity securities.
- Counsel to underwriters and placement agents in numerous public and private offerings of equity and debt securities.
- Counsel to numerous bank holding companies in public and private securities offerings, including common stock, preferred stock, depositary shares, and debt.

## **Bank M&A**

- Counsel to The First Bancshares Inc. in seven acquisitions of other community banks.
- Counsel to SmartFinancial Inc. in its acquisition of Progressive Financial Group Inc. and the pending acquisition of Sevier County Bancshares Inc.
- Counsel to FB Financial Corporation in its acquisition of Clayton Bank and American City Bank.
- Counsel to one of the largest banks in the United States in its disposition of its health savings account line of business.
- Counsel to Piedmont Bancorp Inc. in its acquisitions of WestSide Bank and Mountain Valley Bank.
- Counsel to CoastalSouth Bancshares Inc. in its acquisition of Foothills Financial Corporation.
- Counsel to FirstSouth Bancorp Inc. in its sale to First-Citizens Financial Corporation.
- Counsel to Charter Financial Corp. in its sale to Centerstate Bank Corporation.

## **Publications & Presentations**

### **Publications**

- “High Stakes of Transformational Bank Mergers Prompt Skepticism,” *Bloomberg Law*, October 29, 2024
- “No More Grading on a Curve: OCC Revamps Its Community Reinvestment Act Rules,” *The Banking Law Journal*, October 2020.

### **Education**

- University of Tennessee (J.D., 2014)
- University of Tennessee (B.S., 2011)

### **Admitted to Practice**

- Georgia