# FT PARTNERS FINTECH INDUSTRY RESEARCH

April 1, 2021

# FINTECH CEO INTERVIEW



with President & CEO Robert Jackson

Tech-enabled Title, Escrow & Default Solutions



The Only Investment Bank Focused Exclusively on FinTech

San Francisco • New York • London

### Overview of FT Partners

- Financial Technology Partners ("FT Partners") was founded in 2001 and is the only investment banking firm focused exclusively on FinTech
- FT Partners regularly publishes research highlighting the most important transactions, trends and insights impacting the global Financial Technology landscape. Our unique insight into FinTech is a direct result of executing hundreds of transactions in the sector combined with over 19 years of exclusive focus on Financial Technology

#### FT Partners' Advisory Capabilities



### FT Partners' FinTech Industry Research





Named Silicon Valley's #1 FinTech Banker (2016) and ranked #2 Overall by The Information



Ranked #1 Most Influential Person in all of FinTech in *Institutional Investors* "FinTech Finance 40"



Numerous Awards for Transaction Excellence including "Deal of the Decade"

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# Vantage Point

### **Vantage Point Title Overview**

#### **Company Overview**



President & CEO	Robert Jackson
Headquarters:	Clearwater, FL
Founded:	2008

- Vantage Point is a leading technology-enabled title, escrow and default services solutions provider for mortgage lenders, refinancing providers and brokers. Vantage Point streamlines the legacy title and closing process with robotic process automation and significant operational efficiencies
  - The Company is currently licensed in 45 states for title, and recently received regulatory approval in California
  - The Company specializes in complex cases across the wide spectrum of transactions, including REOs, DILs, reverse mortgages, modifications, and centralized purchases in addition to regular refinance and purchase
- The Company is nationally underwritten by Stewart Title, Fidelity National Title, First American Title Insurance Company, and North American Title Insurance Company

#### **Management Overview**



Robert Jackson
President & CEO



David Silcott
Co-President SVP
Licensing and Compliance



Josh Shaver Co-President, SVP

**Operations** 



Mark Geiger
VP Title and Default

#### **Transaction Types and Services**



#### Refinances

Vantage Point provides a centralized process that handles multiple types of residential refinances, including reverse mortgages and HELOCs



#### **Default Services**

Built a dedicated team to handle default services including deed in lieu, short sales, pre-foreclosures, and REO deals for clients



#### Commercial

Offers a dedicated team with one point of contact, online order placement, online file tracking of notes and status, and centralized closings



#### **Special Projects**

Works with partners to develop new processes and technologies to match the needs of the most complex title / escrow problems



#### **Escrow, Signing & Scheduling Services**

Provides nationwide loan closings and an established notary network, with the convenience of the customer in mind



#### **Title Only**

Ability to facilitate and support customer loans from order to policy – delivers title commitment, tax certification, and preliminary HUD

# Vantage Point

## **Interview with Vantage Point**



Robert Jackson
President & CEO

"Our scalable, centralized operating platform coupled with our proprietary processes and workflows create one point of contact for our multi-state, national clients."

### Please explain your business and key competitive advantages.

We are a leading technology-enabled title, escrow, default, commercial and residential solutions provider based in Clearwater, Florida. Our scalable, centralized operating platform coupled with our proprietary processes and workflows create one point of contact for our multi-state, national clients. VPG is a proven national partner-of-choice for large-scale financial services businesses, empowering our customers to process large, complex transaction volumes at great scale, accuracy, and speed.

We are licensed in 46 states and serve a large, highly regulated and fragmented market:

- Our client base includes independent correspondent lenders, brokers, mortgage banks, national & regional banks, Government Sponsored Entities (Fannie Mae) and other financial service institutions
- Our solutions address residential real estate refinancing, residential purchases, REO property transactions, and commercial purchase/refinance real estate transactions

We compete in an industry that has been resistant to change and continues to utilize manual, paper-based workflows, obsolete technology and opaque, inefficient closing processes. We embrace technology solutions to make ourselves and our clients more productive, efficient and profitable. Our operating margins are two to three times what our competition generates.

#### FT PARTNERS RESEARCH

# Vantage Point

## Interview with Vantage Point (cont.)



### Exclusive CEO Interview - Robert Jackson

"Most industries continue to adopt technology automation and we believe our industry and our clients will move ahead steadily in their adoption. VPG is well positioned to capitalize on these trends."

# How was VPG prepared for the COVID crisis and what impact did COVID have on lending?

As a regulated industry, title and escrow real estate services have been held back by old-school, conventional paper-based and manual-based processes, as mentioned previously. Technology is the cornerstone of our company. The "Vantage Point Way" reflects our obsession with technology and process automation solutions. We embrace technology to provide fast, accurate, and high-quality client services. In 2020, we developed and implemented proprietary Robotic Process Automations (RPAs) that automated six unique, time consuming, manual processes that helped our business and our customers operate more efficiently. We operate in a paper-less environment and integrate from our centralized operating platform directly into our key customers' LOS systems.

Given that our headquarters is based in Florida, for years we have been preparing to respond to a hurricane / pandemic-like event; in 2020, this pandemic event was COVID-19. When COVID-19 caused statewide lockdowns, we were able to operate with 80% of our staff working remotely. We didn't miss a beat. In fact, we discovered more process efficiencies operating with our remote staff. While our competition was scrambling to adapt to the unique demands of COVID-19, we were prepared and gained valuable market share in 2020.

An interesting structural shift in our market occurred in early 2020: COVID-19 helped accelerate the shift to make e-closings more frequent and accepted. In response to COVID-19, industry players and customers have since embraced tech-enabled, digital applications including digital appraisal, digital documentation, title and escrow to conduct their real estate transactions. We believe these trends are positive and can lead to more centralized, digital (vs. human interface) services.

Most industries continue to adopt technology automation and we believe our industry and our clients will move ahead steadily in their adoption. VPG is well positioned to capitalize on these trends.

#### FT PARTNERS RESEARCH

# Vantage Point

## Interview with Vantage Point (cont.)



### Exclusive CEO Interview - Robert Jackson

"Our revenues and orders more than doubled in 2020 and we currently have the capacity to double our monthly order volumes in 2021 (from 10,000 to 20,000 orders / month) with only a minimal investment in operations employees."

# Given the significant mortgage volumes, what has allowed Vantage Point to keep up with the increased demand?

VPG's platform was designed from inception to be scalable. We have an established track record of growth, while maintaining 5-star service levels and generating high profit margins. Unlike many of our competitors, VPG has embraced process automation and technological advantages. We encourage and support our clients to integrate from our operating platform directly into our clients' LOS systems – integrations allow our Company and our clients to process more transactions with greater efficiency and transparency, less errors and higher margins.

Our revenues and orders more than doubled in 2020 and we currently have the capacity to double our monthly order volumes in 2021 (from 10,000 to 20,000 orders / month) with only a minimal investment in operations employees. We have a robust centralized platform that is designed to automate workflows and transaction processes and allows VPG to earn operating margins approaching 50%.

#### FT PARTNERS RESEARCH



## Interview with Vantage Point (cont.)



### Exclusive CEO Interview - Robert Jackson

"Most of our growing base of large "blue-chip" clients started small with us — operating in just a few states initially; we earn their trust by taking on and solving their pain points."

### Why do clients choose Vantage Point over other alternatives?

Customer Service, the "Vantage Point Way" is our obsessive embracement of technology and process automation. Our tech-enabled solutions enable our company-wide staff to be client facing – focused on people and problem solving. Most of our growing base of large "blue-chip" clients started small with us – operating in just a few states initially; we earn their trust by taking on and solving their "pain points." Over time our solutions and superior customer service lead to additional wallet share gains.

With new customers, our unique automated platform allows our clients to:

- determine "real time fees" and access our online rate calculator
- make and track orders
- monitor status of individual files and tasks
- enter less keystrokes
- eliminate errors
- expand employee capacity as workflows and processes are triggered automatically

#### **FT PARTNERS RESEARCH**

# Vantage Point

## Interview with Vantage Point (cont.)



### Exclusive CEO Interview - Robert Jackson

"We built a dedicated team that provides default services to banks, servicers and other financial institutions that manage REO inventory. In late 2019, we were awarded a contract with Fannie Mae to provide default services in four states (FL, AL, MS & TN)."

# What will drive future growth and profitability with your business when volumes start to normalize/moderate?

Given our unique sales model, our dedicated Sales and Business Development executives spend most of their efforts seeking new clients. Our sales team, after helping on-board a new client, hands over the client maintenance responsibilities to our very talented operations staff. We are in the final stages of securing our state of California license (58 counties) and expect to be live in April 2021 capturing immediate revenues from our existing client base that is transacting in California.

We built a dedicated team that provides default services to banks, servicers and other financial institutions that manage REO inventory. In late 2019, we were awarded a contract with Fannie Mae to provide default services in four states (FL, AL, MS & TN). When forbearance restrictions are lifted later this year, we expect significant default service transactions to counteract reductions in our refi volumes. We expect this FNMA relationship will expand nationally and it represents a key "land-and-expand" growth opportunity.

Our market opportunity is vast: US real estate transactions represent between \$1.3-\$2.0 trillion in loan value. The Federal Reserve has been consistent in its policy statements to keep interest rates low, at least until 2023 given the severe impact of COVID-19. While market rates may fluctuate higher, we expect to continue growing our business. A number of our key clients have loan products and a "B" level customer base that are less impacted by a modest rise in interest rates.

VPG continues to diversify its clients, products and solutions, and is poised to capture centralized, technology-driven home purchase business – which is rapidly evolving from a localized, human/paper-based model to a more digital and centralized model. VPG is in a unique position to capitalize and lead this market segment.

### Selected FT Partners Research - Click to View



Finicity's \$1 billion Sale to Mastercard



Acima's \$1.65 billion Sale to Rent-A-Center



MoneyLion's \$2.9 billion Merger with Fusion Acquisition Corp.



Porch's \$1.1 billion Merger with PropTech Acquisition



Affirm Raises \$1.2 billion in its IPO



Blend Acquiers Title365 for \$500 million



Doma Merges with Capitol Investment Corp. V



Offerpad Merges with Supernova Partners Acquisition Company

**VIEW MORE FT PARTNERS RESEARCH** 

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# FT Partners - Focused Exclusively on FinTech

### Track Record of Success Across the Real Estate Tech Space

#### Underwriting **Automation**



#### Real Estate **Invoicing & Payments**



#### **Digital Mortgage** Origination



#### **Loan Origination Software**





# \$ 146,000,000 The Only Investment Bank

#### Home Improvement **Financing**



#### **Property** Insurance Solutions







Financial Technology Partners LP

FTP Securities LLC

is pleased to announce its role advising on the sale of

BLACK KNIGHT

for total consideration of

\$1,800,000,000

optimalblue



#### Real Estate **Payments**



#### Online Home Services Platform

## FT Partners Advises Porch on its Merger with PropTech Acquisition Corporation

#### **Overview of Transaction**

- On July 31, 2020, PropTech Acquisition Corporation ("PropTech"), a special purpose acquisition company ("SPAC") announced a definitive merger agreement with Porch.com, Inc. ("Porch")
- The business combination was completed on December 23, 2020, PropTech changed its name to Porch, and its common stock is scheduled to begin trading on the Nasdaq Stock Market under the ticker symbol "PRCH" on December 24, 2020
  - The deal represents a post-transaction equity value of \$1.079 billion
  - Transaction includes a \$150 million fully committed common stock private investment at \$10 per share led by Wellington Management Company, LLP
- Porch is a unique home services platform that provides leading ERP and CRM software to 11,000 inspection, moving and adjacent home services companies, gaining access to a proprietary and recurring sales funnel which captures a majority of homebuyers in the U.S. annually

### **Significance of Transaction**

- While creating significant liquidity for existing shareholders, Porch's
   Management team will continue to lead the merged Company as over 92%
   of their existing equity is expected to be rolled as part of the transaction
- The net proceeds raised from the transaction will be used to support Porch's working capital, pay down debt and fund expansion through acquisitions

#### FT Partners' Role

- FT Partners served as exclusive strategic and financial advisor to Porch
- Builds on FT Partners' expertise in navigating the unique process in selling companies to SPACs, and follows highly successful sales of FT Partners' clients Open Lending, CardConnect and REPAY

# Financial Technology Partners LP

is pleased to announce its exclusive role as strategic and financial advisor to



on its merger with



(NASDAQ: PTAC)

for a post-transaction equity value

\$1,079,000,000<sup>(1)</sup>



### FT Partners Advises Better.com on its \$160 million Series C Financing

#### **Overview of Transaction**

- On August 19, 2019, Better.com announced it has closed its Series C financing round for a total of \$160 million
  - The round included new investors Activant Capital, Ping An Global Voyager Fund, Ally Financial, Citi, AGNC, American Express Ventures and Healthcare of Ontario Pension Plan, as well as existing investors Goldman Sachs, Pine Brook and Kleiner Perkins
  - Better.com initially closed its Series C round in January 2019 for a total of \$70 million, but expanded the round due to high demand
  - The Company has now raised \$254 million in total financing
- Better.com is one of the fastest growing homeownership platforms in the U.S. and has funded more than \$4 billion in loans since its founding in 2016
  - The Company has reconstructed the process of buying and financing a home, step-by-step, using technology and automation to create the most efficient, cost-effective and user-friendly experience in the market
  - Better.com has grown 3x year-over-year (vs. -15% for the industry) and is currently funding \$375 million in mortgages a month, which puts the Company on track to lend over \$4 billion in 2019 alone

#### **Significance of Transaction**

- With strong investor demand including from high profile strategics, this financing round positions Better.com as a market leader in streamlining and digitizing the home loan process
- The additional capital will enable Better.com to enhance its offerings, grow its strategic partnerships, as well as expand its team by hiring an additional 400 people in sales and technology by the end of 2019

#### FT Partners' Role

- FT Partners served as strategic and financial advisor to Better.com
- This transaction highlights FT Partners' deep domain expertise in the Alt Lending / Real Estate Tech space as well as our successful track record generating highly favorable outcomes for leading FinTech companies globally

# Financial Technology Partners LP

is pleased to announce its role as strategic and financial advisor to



on its Series C financing from new investors















along with participation from existing investors

for total consideration of

\$160,000,000



## FT Partners Advises JetClosing on its \$9 million Financing

#### Overview of Transaction

- On July 30, 2020, JetClosing announced the close of its \$9 million Series B
  funding round led by funds and accounts advised by T. Rowe Price, with
  additional investments from Pioneer Square Labs and Trilogy Equity, bringing
  its fundraising total to \$35 million
- JetClosing is a leading digital title and escrow company for real estate transactions that provides unprecedented transparency, security, and efficiency throughout the home closing process via its innovative, centralized platform
- With a presence in Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Washington, JetClosing's team of veteran title professionals and technology leaders is expanding nationwide to provide digital title and escrow services to buyers, sellers, agents, lenders and borrowers
- JetClosing utilizes fully encrypted workflows for secure document transfers, wire transactions, remote online notarizations (RON), and e-signatures – user information is further guarded using multi-factor authentication, which introduces safe, transparent, and remote digital home closings and refinancings for the first time

#### Significance of Transaction

 The investment will fuel continued expansion for the cloud-based digital title company, streamlining historically manual, in-person processes that have lacked transparency and efficiency for home buyers, sellers, agents, and borrowers

#### FT Partners' Role

- FT Partners served as exclusive strategic and financial advisor to JetClosing
- This transaction highlights FT Partners' deep domain expertise and transactional experience across the Real Estate Tech & InsurTech sectors

# FTP Securities LLC

is pleased to announce its role as exclusive strategic and financial advisor to



on its Series B financing led by

# T.RowePrice®

for a total amount of

\$9,000,000



### FT Partners Advises Optimal Blue on its Sale

#### Overview of Transaction

- Optimal Blue has agreed to sell to GTCR, a leading private equity firm
- Backed by Serent Capital, Optimal Blue is one of the largest SaaS providers of enterprise services to mortgage originators & investors
- The Company created the first cloud-based Product & Pricing Engine ("PPE") and is now the largest independent provider of pricing solutions in the mortgage ecosystem
- GTCR has committed up to \$350 million of equity capital to the investment to pursue growth initiatives at Optimal Blue as well as complementary acquisitions to provide information and other digital services to the \$14 trillion mortgage marketplace

#### Significance of Transaction

- Represents one of the largest Mortgage Technology M&A transactions in recent times
- Represents a highly favorable outcome to Optimal Blue management and Serent Capital, its private equity backer

#### FT Partners' Role

- FT Partners served as exclusive strategic and financial advisor to Optimal Blue and its Board of Directors
- FT Partners leveraged its deep knowledge, extensive experience and broad industry relationships to help bring in a knowledgeable partner with deep domain expertise in financial services
- Transaction demonstrates FT Partners' continued success advising top-tier financial technology companies

# Financial Technology Partners LP FTP Securities LLC

is pleased to announce its exclusive role as financial advisor to



in its sale to





### FT Partners Advises TCI on its Sale to MeridianLink

#### Overview of Transaction

- On November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020, Teledata Communications Incorporated (TCI) announced its sale to MeridianLink, a portfolio company of Thoma Bravo
- Founded in 1982 and based in Islandia, NY, TCI is a leading SaaS-based loan origination platform, helping credit unions, community banks, and finance companies originate and approve consumer loans
- TCI offers a highly flexible, configurable platform providing Loan Origination Software (LOS), online account opening, digital branch, and online sales enablement
- TCI provides DecisionLender, a SaaS loan origination solution that was first released in 1998
- DecisionLender is an industry-trusted LOS that serves more than 300 banks, credit unions, and finance companies nationwide

#### Significance of Transaction

- TCI's combination with MeridianLink strengthens one of the leading providers in the consumer automotive lending space
- TCI and MeridianLink have highly complementary solutions and, combined, will help accelerate innovation in the LOS space

#### FT Partners' Role

- FT Partners served as the exclusive financial and strategic advisor to TCI
- The success of this transaction highlights FT Partners' role as the leading advisor to companies in the Banking and Lending Technology sector while also building on the Firm's breadth of knowledge and experience across the greater FinTech landscape

# Financial Technology Partners LP

is pleased to announce its role as exclusive strategic and financial advisor to



on its sale to



a portfolio company of





### FT Partners' Recent Awards and Recognition

## **Bloomberg**

### **Bloomberg**

- o FT Partners' Steve McLaughlin was featured on Bloomberg / Bloomberg TV
- View the full article and watch the live TV interview



#### **M&A Advisor Awards**

- Technology Deal of the Year (2019)
- o Cross Border Deal of the Year and Corporate / Strategic Deal of the Year (2018)
- Investment Banker of the Year (2017) Steve McLaughlin, CEO & Managing Partner of FT Partners
- o Investment Banking Firm of the Year (2016) FT Partners



### **LendIt FinTech Industry Awards 2018:**

o FT Partners wins Top Investment Bank in FinTech







### The FinTech Finance 40:

Steve McLaughlin ranked #1 in 2017 and 2018





### The Information's "Silicon Valley's Most Popular Dealmakers"

- o Ranked as the #2 top Technology Investment Banker by The Information subscribers (2016)
- o Only FinTech focused investment banking firm and banker on the list

### The Largest FinTech Advisory Practice in the World

