

Fin Accelerate  EMPOWERED BY
Jones Day

2025 WELCOME PACK

www.finaccelerate.com

CONTENTS

Welcome to FinAccelerate	1
About FinAccelerate	2
Program Schedule	3
FinAccelerate App	8
2025 FinAccelerate COHORT	9
Arda	9
Ashantix	10
Binaryx	11
Boonty	12
Borderless	13
Dhahaby	14
DwellFi	15
Ekalavya Networks	16
EquityNav	17
Fuspay	18
Grand	19
IBVM	20
ID-Bound	21
InvantX AI	22
Lombard Works & Co.	23
Philanthrify	24
Quadron	25
Retica Technologies	26
SuperStable	27
Toffee	28
Twocents.ai	29
UNYX	30
URCASH	31
Valar Solutions GmbH	32
WeLeap	33
2025 FinAccelerate Cohort Logo Grid	34
Finaccelerate Influencers	35
Jones Day Team	81
Jones Day Global Team	111



Legal Notice:

Jones Day is not the source of the information about the cohort companies and products in this document. Jones Day is not responsible for the content of third party sources. Jones Day does not endorse any company or product and does not advise on investing in any company or product.

© Jones Day 2025.

WELCOME TO FINACCELERATE

A warm welcome to FinAccelerate 2025!

We are delighted to have with us such an excellent cohort of innovative FinTech companies at different stages of development with such great potential. Please peruse this Welcome Pack to familiarize yourself with:

- (i) the program agenda;
- (ii) the 2025 FinAccelerate cohort companies;
- (iii) the Jones Day legal team supporting the cohort across multiple practice areas; and
- (iv) the team of world leading influencers involved with the program, some of whom will be speaking at Demo Day on the 23th of October and Interconnection Day on the 24th of October.

We hope you enjoy the program and become an integral part of the FinAccelerate ecosystem.

Sincerely,

Jones Day FinAccelerate Team

ABOUT FINACCELERATE

FinAccelerate is an intense accelerator program empowered by one of the world's leading and largest law firms, Jones Day. The program covers the fundamental areas of law relevant to innovative fintech companies and enables selected fintech businesses to access leading investors, corporations, financial institutions, and potential JV partners to accelerate their business.

Program Structure

The program is run over four key days and followed up with continuous engagement with a strong ecosystem of world-leading advisors, investors, and partners to the program.

Day 1: Tuesday, October 21, 2025

Know-How Sessions

Structured, one-hour know-how sessions for the fintech cohort companies, covering these key areas: capital markets, regulatory law, IP, corporate structure and funding, data and privacy, employment, tech agreements, and risk management.

Location: Jones Day's San Francisco Office
555 California Street, 26th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94104

Day 2: Wednesday, October 22, 2025

Q&A Sessions

A limited number of dedicated time slots for small group Q&A sessions that the fintech cohort can book with relevant lawyers presenting on topics from Day 1. General access with refreshment breaks provided.

Location: Jones Day's San Francisco Office
555 California Street, 26th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94104

Day 3: Thursday, October 23, 2025

Demo Day: Present Your Company

Fintech cohorts are given an opportunity to present their companies to an audience of invited institutions, VCs, influencers, and investors. Thought leaders are also invited to speak. A separate demo area will be available to showcase your technology.

Location: Jones Day's Silicon Valley Office
1755 Embarcadero Road
Palo Alto, CA 94303

Day 4: Friday, October 24, 2025

Interconnection Day: Meetings

Special sessions presented by our influencers and advisors. Opportunity to connect with and meet up with influencers and other cohort members in a relaxed environment.

Location: Jones Day's Silicon Valley Office
1755 Embarcadero Road
Palo Alto, CA 94303

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Day 1 Program – Tuesday, October 21, 2025

Jones Day's San Francisco Office: 555 California St., 26th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94104

8:45 am	Registration: Coffee and Breakfast	
9:15 am	Cohort Group Picture	
9:25 am	Short Welcome	
9:30 – 10:30 am	Panel 1: Company Investment	Tim Curry, Taylor Stevens, Cameron Reese, and Bret Stancil
10:30 am – 12:00 pm	Panel 2: Fintech Product Development and Regulation	Abradat Kamalpour, Michael Dawson, Mark Rasmussen, Laura Pruitt, Nathan Brownback, and Schuyler Schouten
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Lunch and Networking	
1:00 – 1:45 pm	Panel 3: Taxation	Lori Hellkamp and Amie Colwell Breslow
1:45 – 2:30 pm	Panel 4: Intellectual Property and Tech Transactions	Joe Melnik, Jennifer Bennett, Carl Kukkonen, and Ka-on Li
2:30 – 2:50 pm	Coffee Break	
2:50 – 3:35 pm	Panel 5: Data and Cyber	Jerry Ling, Jeff Rabkin, and Mary Alexander Myers
3:35 – 4:15 pm	Panel 6: Employment and Employee Equity	Kelsey Israel-Trummel and Dean Bachus
4:15 – 5:00 pm	Panel 7: Risk Management, Litigation, and Insurance	Jerry Ling, Brian McDonald, Peter Julian, and Nathan Brownback
5:00 – 6:00 pm	Networking and Drinks	

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Day 2 Program – Wednesday, October 22, 2025

Jones Day's San Francisco Office: 555 California St., 26th Floor, San Francisco, CA 94104

9:00 – 9:30 am	Registration: Coffee and Breakfast	
9:30 – 10:15 am	Presentation to Investors Training • Tim Curry, Partner, Jones Day • Pat Lavecchia, Founder & CEO, Oasis Pro Inc. • Antonio Beja, Equity Partner, Consensus Capital • Ben Hoxie, OM Venture Capital	
10:15 am	Cohort can book dedicated FAQ sessions with senior lawyers from the following practice areas: • Company and Investment • Fintech Product • Financial Regulation • Taxation • Technology Transactions • Intellectual Property • Data and Cybersecurity • Employee Benefits & Executive Compensation • Labor & Employment • Risk Management • Litigation • Insurance	

Light lunch will be available on Day 2.

* Advance notice by cohort members as to the team they would like to meet is much appreciated.
Please email preferences for up to four sessions.

* One-on-one meeting times 20 to 25 minutes.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Day 3 Program: Demo Day – Thursday, October 23, 2025

Jones Day's Silicon Valley Office: 1755 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303

8:15 – 9:00 am	Registration: Coffee and Breakfast	
9:00 – 9:10 am	Opening Welcome Remarks	
9:10 – 9:30 am	Fireside Chat: Avichal Garg, Founder & General Partner, Electric Capital	
9:30 – 10:30 am	Panel 1: VC & Investment Panel • Avichal Garg, Founder & General Partner, Electric Capital • Craig Schedler, Head of Intuit Ventures • Julian Love, Franklin Templeton Venture Capital • Alon Goren, Founding Partner, Draper Goren • Max Jungreis, Head of Digital Assets, Plug & Play • Antonio Beja, Equity Partner, Consensus Capital • Ben Hoxie, OM Venture Capital • Steve Payne, Partner, Pegasus Tech Ventures • Ryan Nichols, General Partner, DYDX Capital • Elliot Han, Chief Investment Officer & Partner, C1Fund Inc., and Partner, PGP Capital • Stephen MacKenzie, Patent Platform Services and Former MD, Koch Disruptive Technologies • Emmanuel Vallod, Hivemind Ventures	
10:30 – 10:45 am	Coffee Break	
10:45 – 11:45 am	Panel 2: Institutions & Innovation • Todd Stevens, Chief Capital Officer, Figure • Craig Schedler, Head of Intuit Ventures • Rebecca Macieira-Kaufmann, Public & Private Board Director and CEO Advisor • Nick Christian, Head of National FinTech and Specialty Finance, Silicon Valley Bank • Tony Pecore, SVP and Director, Digital Asset Management, Franklin Templeton • Aniket Bhardwaj, Vice President, Charles River Associates	
11:45 am – 12:35 pm	Cohort Presentations 1	
12:35 – 1:30 pm	Lunch	

Day 3 Program continued on next page

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Day 3 Program: Demo Day – Thursday, October 23, 2025

Jones Day's Silicon Valley Office: 1755 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303

1:30 – 2:15 pm	Panel 3: Scaling Up Fintech Companies	
	• Alka Gupta, Public Company Board Director, Former Fortune 500 Exec • Manoj Karnani, Managing Director, Accenture • Pat Lavecchia, Founder & CEO, Oasis Pro Inc. • Steve Payne, Co-Founder & Partner, Architect Partners	• Elliot Han, Chief Investment Officer & Partner, C1Fund Inc., and Partner, PGP Capital • Antonio Beja, Equity Partner, Consensus Capital
2:15 – 3:15 pm	Cohort Presentations 2	
3:15 – 3:30 pm	Coffee Break	
3:30 – 5:15 pm	Cohort Presentations 3	
5:15 – 5:45 pm	Panel 4: Specialized Knowledge	
	• Abradat Kamalpour, Partner, Jones Day • Frank Walczak, CEO & Founder, ARETEW3 • Jeff Schenk, Partner, Jones Day • Erik Min, Senior Director, FTI Consulting	• Rebecca Macieira-Kaufmann, Public & Private Board Director and CEO Advisor • Aniket Bhardwaj, Vice President, Charles River Associates • Leann Pinto, Principal, PFTC Group
5:45 pm	Reception	

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Day 4 Program: Interconnection Day – Friday, October 24, 2025

Jones Day's Silicon Valley Office: 1755 Embarcadero Road, Palo Alto, CA 94303

9:00 – 10:00 am	Coffee, Breakfast, and Free Meeting Time
10:00 – 11:00 am	Google Session
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Plug & Play Session
12:00 – 1:30 pm	Light Lunch and Free Time
1:30 – 2:30 pm	Silicon Valley Bank Session
2:30 – 3:00 pm	Coffee and Free Meeting Time
3:00 – 4:00 pm	Andreessen Horowitz – a16z crypto Session
4:00 – 4:30 pm	Free Meeting Time

* Please note that meeting rooms will be available during the scheduled presentations for meetings.

FINACCELERATE APP

Download The App

The FinAccelerate App provides useful information about the program, updates, biographies, and key program publications. The App is downloadable in Apple Store and Google Play.



FinAccelerate



Download on the
App Store



GET IT ON
Google Play





Arda

Arda is revolutionizing private markets by replacing manual, opaque deal processes with a programmable, verifiable infrastructure. It addresses inefficiencies in private credit, currently managed through PDFs, spreadsheets, and fragmented systems, by digitizing assets into verifiable instruments that enable real-time transactions, financing, pooling, and monitoring.

Business Outcomes

Faster Execution: Loans and asset transfers settle in days instead of months, supported by escrow, instant registry updates, and audit-ready closing packages.

Cheaper Capital: Automation of covenants, variance checks, and proofs reduces operational costs, lowering spreads.

Secondary Liquidity: Registry-native resales and compliant matching allow investors to exit or re-allocate portfolios without intermediaries or manual settlement.

Financing Unlocks: Automated borrowing-base monitoring, repo, and warehouse facilities with real-time eligibility checks reduce reliance on costly intermediaries.

Curated Portfolios & Tranching: Programmatic loan pooling with automated waterfalls, real-time monitoring, and zk-proof-verified covenants enables securitization benefits (diversification, tranching, structured returns) without SPVs or trustees

How It Works

Arda's core innovation is the Asset Pod, a verifiable application embedding compliance, privacy, and business logic into each asset. Every state change (e.g., assignment, covenant test, repayment, pooling) is recorded as cryptographic evidence, transforming private market exposures into programmable, regulator-ready digital records that can be financed, traded, or structured in hours.

Team

Oliver Harris, Co-Founder & CEO: Former Managing Director at Goldman Sachs, Head of Crypto Strategy at J.P. Morgan, and Head of Strategy for J.P. Morgan's International Consumer Bank.

Matt Sevey, Co-Founder & CTO: Previously led engineering at Celestia, delivering Rollkit and mainnet, and built Skynet's decentralized web for millions of users.

Toby Thwaites, Head of Product: Designed the first central-bank-regulated digital CCP at ClearToken and delivered platforms for OCC, CME, JPX, and major global banks.

Funding

Arda raised \$3M in pre-seed funding led by Lightshift.

2025 FINACCELERATE COHORT



Ashantix

Problem

At Ashantix, we're tackling a critical fragmentation in global finance: the lack of seamless interoperability between crypto, fiat, and mobile money systems. Current solutions rely heavily on centralized exchanges, creating friction, delays, and added costs.

Solution

Our breakthrough algorithm enables seamless transactions between crypto, fiat, and mobile money systems, allowing users to send or receive value in any form with ease. By bridging traditionally siloed payment rails, Ashantix unlocks underserved transaction types, supports financial inclusion, and positions itself as a scalable alternative to legacy platforms. With its next-generation wallet, Ashantix empowers individuals and businesses to access the global digital economy without limits.

Business Model

Our revenue model consists of two main streams:

B2C – We generate income through transaction fees from individual users.

B2B – We offer API integrations that allow businesses to provide seamless crypto, fiat, and mobile transactions. This service is available under three tiered plans—Free, Silver, and Premium—based on transaction volume.

Market Size

TAM: \$10.6T source: <https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/digital-payment-market-size-growth-mapping-ybd1f/>

SAM \$3.49T source: <https://www.statista.com/outlook/fmo/payments/digital-payments/north-america?currency=USD>

SOM \$181B source: <https://fitsmallbusiness.com/digital-payment-market-growth/>



Binaryx

For the past two years, we've been building a tokenization and DeFi platform for real-world assets — starting with real estate. Our mission is straightforward: to unlock wealth that is currently trapped in RWA and make it accessible and safer for everyone to invest in.

Since our launch in 2023, we've built an on-chain marketplace, integrated oracles, launched an MVP for a peer-to-peer real estate market, and created infrastructure for real estate professionals. We're now moving into DeFi tooling — lending, derivatives, and mortgage products.

So far, we've tokenized \$5 million worth of real estate across three countries. Over 2,000 co-owners already hold these assets, and we've hit \$600,000 in monthly sales — all with minimal marketing spend. You can already find us listed on DeFi Llama, and our user base has grown to over 50,000 registered users.

Legally, we operate through a U.S.-based DAO LLC in Wyoming, giving users real, legal ownership of assets — not just financial exposure. We chose real estate as our entry point because it's familiar to most investors, but our long-term vision includes many more RWA types.

You've probably seen many projects tokenizing assets. But unlike others, we're not just building another investment platform. We're creating a transparent on-chain infrastructure that anyone can use to tokenize and trade real-world assets. With working oracles, a liquid secondary market, and location diversity, we're already far ahead in terms of infrastructure maturity.

Most of our competitors sell financial products and struggle with heavy compliance. We focus on real ownership and web2-to-web3 adoption — helping everyday users understand tokenization and grow with us.

Our current ecosystem includes:

- A marketplace for construction and rental-ready properties
- A peer-to-peer on-chain market
- A verified Oracle network

Next up: DeFi tools, mobile apps, and even land tokenization.

We've been building this with a core team of full-time contributors, most of us in fintech and crypto, since 2017.



Boonty

Problem

Most loyalty programs are a hassle and pointless. They require apps, forms, or loyalty cards, and 81% of customers never engage (silent majority). This leads to wasted spend, poor retention, and low ROI for merchants. What could be a great channel for customer retention and acquisition can be consumed by friction and unforeseen costs.

Solution

Boonty embeds loyalty directly into the payment process => no signup, no friction, no app. The moment someone pays, they're rewarded via their payment method. GDPR-compliant and anonymous. 40 s Demo: <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=faCCRbjM8ns>

Product Highlights

- Seamless integration with POS terminals (Ingenico prototype validated)
- Automatic onboarding at checkout (100% participation rate)
- Remote installation – no staff training or manual setup
- Optional web app for deeper engagement (surveys, social sharing)

Go-To-Market

- Partner-led distribution through POS providers and banks
- Remote onboarding + integrated pricing model
- SaaS model + % of loyalty-based transactions

Opportunity Size

- TAM: \$225B global loyalty & rewards market
- SAM: \$4–10B card-linked offers in EU
- SOM: €17–25M (France/Benelux B2C retail with recurring footfall)
- CAGR of this market: 20.8%

Traction

- Live agreement with world's largest POS supplier
- Pre-agreements with 2 banks
- 6 pilots for events tested, 2K+ users, 150K raised for MVP, 500K for GTM.
- Q3 2025: live pilots, ~40 merchants ready to start from October, and interest from multiple franchises having between 5 to 350 stores each.

Team

- CEO (HEC, ex-embedded systems engineer, 50+ projects managed)
- CTO (IMT Atlantique eng., 20 yrs experience across telco (head of IT), ex head of AI)
- 2 full-time devs, (incl. 1 engineer), 2 full-time sales + Support from senior 30y exp. BD
- 4 advisors that validate the problem and bring global industry expertise (ex-CMO Auchan, ex Global director at Mastercard)



Borderless

Borderless is a global best execution network for stablecoin on & offramp. Fintechs plug-in once, compare real-time FX rates, and route transactions to leading stablecoin providers all over the world – all from one API. Customers generally want to connect to additional providers for a mix of three reasons: (1) expanding geographic coverage, (2) getting redundancy to existing providers in corridors they already operate, and (3) improving their FX margins by getting best execution across a pool of providers instead of relying on the rates of one or two.

2025 FINACCELERATE COHORT



Dhahaby

Dhahaby is a GCC-focused fintech platform that modernizes a centuries-old practice: borrowing against gold. Across the region, millions of individuals hold significant value in gold and jewellery, yet access to affordable and transparent credit remains limited. Dhahaby bridges this gap by enabling users to unlock liquidity securely, compliantly, and digitally.

Our platform allows customers to borrow against both physical and tokenized gold, supported by licensed jewellers and financial institutions. Core offerings include loan origination against gold and jewellery, a collateral-backed credit card launching with Mastercard in the UAE, and tokenized gold issuance with full traceability, redemption, secure digital custody, and trading. These services are delivered through an intuitive mobile experience designed to make accessing credit simple and fair.

For lenders, Dhahaby removes key barriers to expanding collateralized lending. Our infrastructure provides tamper-proof asset records via blockchain tokenization, AI-driven real-time valuations, and direct integrations with appraisers, vaults, and liquidity providers. This reduces fraud, streamlines operations, and enhances recoverability—allowing lenders to price loans more competitively and extend credit with lower risk. Together, these capabilities create a low-risk, efficient lending ecosystem that is regulator-ready from day one.

We are licensed under the Qatar Financial Centre, have signed a partnership with Mawarid Finance PJSC for card issuance and financing, and are actively engaged with both the Central Bank of Qatar and the Central Bank of the UAE through regulatory sandbox programs to ensure strong compliance and alignment with national priorities. To date, Dhahaby has raised \$370,000 from investors including Antler and Qatar Development Bank.

Our mission is to become the leading gold-backed financial services platform in the GCC, empowering both banked and unbanked consumers with fair, collateralized credit while helping financial institutions unlock new, low-risk lending opportunities.



DwellFi

DwellFi is an Agentic OS for private markets, combining AI automation with human oversight to revolutionize fund administration. We empower fund administrators, private equity firms, venture capital firms, and family offices to automate complex, error-prone, and time-consuming operations, including:

- Capital call processing
- Investor/LP reporting
- Reconciliation
- Structured document extraction from unstructured data

These are just the initial capabilities; with DwellFi, clients can rapidly build custom AI Agents and skills tailored to their unique workflows.

Key Advantages of DwellFi

Unlike fragmented low-code tools or self-built AI solutions, DwellFi stands out as a unified, cloud-agnostic platform meticulously designed for finance-grade security.

- Flexible Deployment: Operates within a client's own infrastructure or repository.
- Seamless Integration: Blends effortlessly with existing systems, eliminating the need for disruptive "rip-and-replace" overhauls.
- Future-Proof Adaptability: Continuously adapts to new models and API changes, significantly reducing ongoing maintenance burdens.

Tangible Results & Global Reach

Early clients have reported remarkable outcomes, including:

- 25% efficiency gains
- Significant reductions in errors
- 10+ hours saved per operations professional weekly, allowing teams to dedicate more time to critical LP relationships and strategic decisions.

Headquartered in Palo Alto, California, with a presence in Dubai, DwellFi proudly serves clients across the US, UK, EU, and GCC regions.

DwellFi's vision is to create a digital workforce that scales seamlessly with your team: fostering human + AI collaboration to make private markets faster, more accurate, and more resilient.



Ekalavya Networks

Overview

In today's volatile business environment, leaders are under pressure to make faster, more complex, and higher-impact decisions than ever before. Traditional dashboards, static analytics, and siloed reports fall short when decisions must balance financial, operational, regulatory, and strategic trade-offs in real time.

Executive-Grade Decision Intelligence (DI) platform bridges this gap by combining advanced analytics, AI, and human-centered design into a single, integrated capability that augments executive judgment and ensures decisions are consistent, explainable, and outcome-oriented.

Core Capabilities

- **Holistic View of Risk & Opportunity**
Connects structured (financial, operational) and unstructured (regulatory, market, geopolitical) data into a unified decision fabric.
- **Scenario Simulation & Foresight**
Models multiple futures using AI-driven simulations, stress tests, and probabilistic forecasts, helping leaders evaluate trade-offs before committing resources.
- **Decision Automation at Scale**
Where appropriate, routine or rules-based executive decisions can be automated, freeing leaders to focus on strategic judgment calls.
- **Explainability & Governance**
Built-in audit trails, regulatory alignment, and transparent AI models ensure that decisions can be defended to boards, regulators, and stakeholders.
- **Adaptive Intelligence**
Learns from past decisions and continuously refines recommendations as new data, risks, and market signals emerge.

Strategic Value for Executives

- **Accelerated decision cycles** without sacrificing quality
- **Reduced cognitive overload** for leadership teams
- **Increased resilience** by stress-testing strategies against disruption
- **Enhanced stakeholder trust** through explainable, transparent decision processes
- **Sustainable growth** by balancing short-term performance with long-term stability

Broader View of Our Capabilities

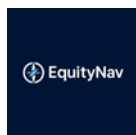
Our decision intelligence platform and services are designed to scale with executive needs across industries. We integrate:

- AI Agents & Small Language Models (SLMs) for contextual reasoning
- Knowledge Graphs to map complex relationships between risks, assets, and stakeholders
- Robotic Process Automation (RPA) to execute decisions seamlessly
- Human-in-the-loop design to ensure executives remain in control

Conclusion

Executive-Grade Decision Intelligence is not just about better data—it's about better outcomes. By combining institutional memory, predictive foresight, and transparent AI, we empower executives to make decisions that are faster, safer, and strategically aligned.

2025 FINACCELERATE COHORT



EquityNav

EquityNav is a tech-forward SaaS platform helping startup founders, employees, and executives make smarter, tax-optimized decisions around their equity compensation. We combine AI-powered scenario modeling, deadline alerts, and secure planning tools to simplify high-stakes choices long before they become costly mistakes.

The Problem

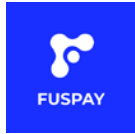
Equity decisions are complex, time-sensitive, and easy to get wrong. From 83(b) elections and AMT exposure to QSBS eligibility and tender offer timing, employees and executives often lack the tools to proactively model their outcomes. Spreadsheets and ad-hoc advice are not scalable, leaving millions of equity-holders exposed to avoidable risks.

The Solution

EquityNav delivers proactive, automated planning that complements traditional advice and empowers users to act confidently. Key features include:

- AI-powered scenario engine for “what-if” equity and tax planning
- Offer letter and grant analyzers with actionable tax insights
- Smart alerts for critical deadlines (83(b), AMT, vesting cliffs, expirations)
- Secure vault for documents and planning snapshots
- Advisor partner portal with exportable dashboards and co-planning capabilities

2025 FINACCELERATE COHORT



Fuspay

Fuspay is the fastest way to launch and scale a financial services business. In just days—not years—you can go live in 59 countries with our white-label platform. We provide everything you need: software or API, rails, backend liquidity operations, free hosting, customer and tech support, plus access to our licenses and partners' licenses. With Fuspay, there's no need for a tech team or heavy upfront costs—you can launch for just \$3,000 with a \$500 monthly SaaS fee. Whether you want to create a niche-based financial service or a broad offering, Fuspay lowers the barrier to entry and handles the infrastructure so you can focus on growth.



Grand

Grand is the **One-Stop Investment App for On-Chain Finance**, eliminating middlemen and providing self-custodial, biometric-secured, 1-click access to verified blue-chip DeFi and RWA protocols, without leaving the app. **Grand is simple and intuitive for Newcomers, yet powerful enough for Degens.**

Whether in a bull or bear market, Grand is designed to help users **preserve, grow, and access capital** with confidence, across volatile and stable cycles.

- **In bull markets:** Trade perps, speculate on blue-chip tokens, join vaults, and participate in ecosystem upside.
- **In bear markets:** Access RWA products like tokenized T-Bills and golds, stablecoin yield strategies, and risk-managed portfolios.
- **In all markets:** Use virtual wallets, pay with crypto, and control your assets with full sovereignty.

Raising \$1M to build v2 infra, run GTM pilots, and grow B2C funnels with existing strategic partnerships. Targeting 50K registered users with 15K MAU in 12 months.

Opportunity & Traction

- Powered through partnerships with Hyperliquid, Ondo, and Tether Gold.
- Collaboration with 10+ ecosystem partners, including a paid co-marketing agreement with Tether Gold.
- Insights gained from 100+ customer surveys
- Focused on 7.5 B+ smartphone users (expanding in MENA), Less than 0.2% adoption of DeFi products (Opportunity)
- 20% app revenue shared with active users, 5% of app revenue distributed via Cashback in BTC or Gold
- **100+ customer interviews** driving product design.

Revenue Streams

- **Transaction Fees** – 0.8% swap fee, 0.04% perp trading fee, 0.08% stock trading fee
- **Subscription Plans** – \$14.99 tier for pro users.
- **Indexes:** 0.125% monthly fee charged on Asset Under Management (AUM)

- **Smart Savings:** 5% performance fee (Staking, Re-staking, Lending, Gold, T-bills, etc.)
- **Partnership Revenue Share** – flexible split

Growth Strategy

Short-Term (6–12 mo)	• Launch Hyperliquid (HyperCore Perps and spot), Ondo Finance (T-bills and Stocks), and Tether Gold. • Release iOS & Android apps. • Grow in GCC & Turkey via social and community funnels.
Mid-Term (12-36 mo)	• Expand product catalog (Indexes, staking, DeFi Yield Products, Real Estate, and Commodities). • Enter the US market with the compliant stack.
Long-Term (36 mo+)	• Evolve into a fintech superapp — a globally usable, social + daily investment + payment platform.

Team Credentials

- **80+ years combined** in crypto, SaaS, fintech, and product leadership.
- 7 team members (3 co-founders, 1 product owner, 2 designers, 1 lawyer & compliance officer)
- Founders with **one exit, hackathon wins**, and **ecosystem mentorships**.
- Deep networks in GCC, Web3, and fintech sectors.
- Blockchain, SaaS, Finance & Product Development.

Funding Round

- **Raising \$1M** to fuel v1 launch and scale GTM.
- **Use of Funds:**
 - 46% R&D
 - 33% Marketing
 - 13% Operations
 - 8% Reserve

Goals:

- Integrate **Hyperliquid + Ondo.**
- Acquire **15,000+ MAU.**
- Capture **1% of Hyperliquid's trading volume** via native integrations.

2025 FINACCELERATE COHORT



IBVM

International Bitcoin Virtual Machine (IBVM) is revolutionizing blockchain as the world's first Bitcoin-native Zero-Knowledge Rollup Layer 2 with UTXO partitioning. Purpose-built to expand Bitcoin beyond its traditional role as a store of value, IBVM transforms the network into a programmable, scalable, and sustainable platform for decentralized finance (DeFi), smart contracts, and cross-chain innovation.

- **Unmatched Performance & Security**
 - 9,000+ transactions per second with near one-second finality with 67 Trillion transaction's capabilities daily with its ZK- Rollup compression algorithm.
 - Ethereum-style smart contracts & dApps directly on Bitcoin
 - Interoperability across 60+ blockchains and 1,500+ digital assets
- **Green Blockchain Innovation**
 - Rollup compression reduces Bitcoin's energy footprint by 99.9%
 - Cuts energy consumption from 438 GWh/day to just 0.438 GWh/day
 - Enables \$40B+ in annual savings, positioning IBVM as the world's greenest Layer 2
- **Ecosystem Growth**
 - IBVM Wallet: 100K+ downloads, 15K+ reviews, 4.9 rating
 - 200+ smart contracts deployed on testnet
 - Live services including IBVM Escrow and IBVM unified Swap
- **Community & Market Traction**
 - 90K+ followers on X (Twitter), 85K+ Telegram members
 - Millions raised at a \$140M valuation

IBVM is pioneering Bitcoin's next chapter: programmable, green, and built to scale

2025 FINACCELERATE COHORT



ID-Bound

TRIO: The Identity, Crypto, and Payments Ecosystem that Eliminates Online Financial Crime.

TRIO is on a mission to eliminate Theft, Fraud, and Money Laundering from the Internet.

The Problem-A Global Crisis of Trust

- **Crypto Theft:** Surging, with \$2.2 billion stolen in 2024, a 17% increase.
- **E-commerce Fraud:** Expected annual losses to exceed \$91 billion by 2028. For every \$1 of fraud, retailers lose \$3.75.
- **Money Laundering:** Globally, \$800 billion to \$2 trillion is laundered each year. Despite over \$300 billion spent on compliance and cybersecurity, less than 1% of laundered money is recovered.

A Market Ripe for Disruption

Our Bold Claim: From Risk Reduction to Risk

Elimination. Traditional solutions are reactive, offering only risk mitigation. TRIO is proactive, designed from the ground up to eliminate theft, fraud, and money laundering. Our solution restores trust and security for all parties in online transactions.

The TRIO Solution

- Total Security for a Trillion-Dollar Market.
- Built on the Public Ethereum Blockchain and powered by our proprietary Cloud-Based Identity technology, TRIO creates a scalable, secure ecosystem with built-in KYC safeguards. This foundational approach directly addresses user concerns and is designed for widespread, reliable adoption.
- *Current Stage: MVP*

Unique Selling Proposition: The TRIO Advantage

- **100% Crypto Account Guarantee:** Your funds are safe. Our patented solution offers 100% theft and access loss protection for ETH-pegged tokens. This is an unparalleled safeguard for high-net-worth individuals and institutional investors.
- **Fraud-Free E-Commerce:** Our proprietary "Pay with TRIO" feature guarantees non-repudiation, eliminating mistrust between buyers and sellers. This drives a significant boost to a seller's bottom line.
- **Zero-Tolerance for Money Laundering:** The TRIO ecosystem is designed to be free from money laundering, making DeFi KYC-ready and compliant with future regulations like the Genius Act.
- **Direct P2P Trust:** We enable secure peer-to-peer trust without the need for traditional, costly middlemen, opening up a myriad of new business cases.

Proprietary Technology & Intellectual Property

Our extensive technology is protected by **four U.S. patents**, providing a strong competitive moat.

Don't Just Take Our Word For It. Validate Our Claims

[Get on Board https://id-bound.com](https://id-bound.com). **TRIO Theft-Free**

DIY Validation: We challenge you to try to transfer TRIO tokens to an arbitrary address. Our technology is so secure that even if you are coerced, the transaction will fail. Experience quantum-resistant theft protection firsthand.

ID-BOUND
CO-FOUNDERS

Dr. Eli Talmor, Serial Entrepreneur, www.linkedin.com/in/elitalmo
Rita Talmor, B.A., Software Leader, www.linkedin.com/in/rita-talmor-9995671a/

2025 FINACCELERATE COHORT



InvantX AI

InvantX is an AI-powered investment copilot designed for self-directed investors who want to make smarter, faster, and more informed decisions. Rather than spending countless hours researching, analyzing, and interpreting market data alone, investors can rely on InvantX to surface the key insights that directly connect market signals to their personal portfolios.

The Problem

Self-directed investors face an overwhelming challenge: endless streams of financial data, market news, and company reports- each requiring time, context, and expertise to interpret properly. Every investor sees this data through their own unique lens, yet most tools treat everyone with generic, one-size-fits-all outputs. The result? Missed opportunities, costly mistakes, and mounting frustration.

Our Solution

InvantX bridges this gap by acting as a personalized interpreter between the market and the investor. Our platform doesn't just aggregate data, it makes sense of it. We apply AI-driven analysis to highlight what matters most for each individual's holdings and strategy, answering the critical questions that keep investors up at night:

- How do today's market conditions actually affect my positions?
- What signals should I focus on, and what noise can I safely ignore?
- How should I adjust my strategy to improve my outcomes?
- This tailored interpretation means investors can finally act with confidence instead of guesswork.

Key Value Proposition

Every portfolio is unique, and so is every investor's perspective. InvantX's mission is straightforward: transform raw, complex market and portfolio data into clear, context-aware insights that help investors avoid common pitfalls and align their decisions with their personal strategy.

Competitive Advantage

Unlike generic robo-advisors or surface-level market tools, InvantX serves as your strategy coach:

- Personalized Interpretation – insights tailored to your specific portfolio and strategy, not cookie-cutter advice
- Time Savings – compresses hours of research into actionable, plain-language insights you can actually use
- Error Reduction – minimizes the bias and misinterpretation that often derail even experienced investors
- Confidence Building- equips you to learn from your portfolio and continuously refine your approach

Who We Serve

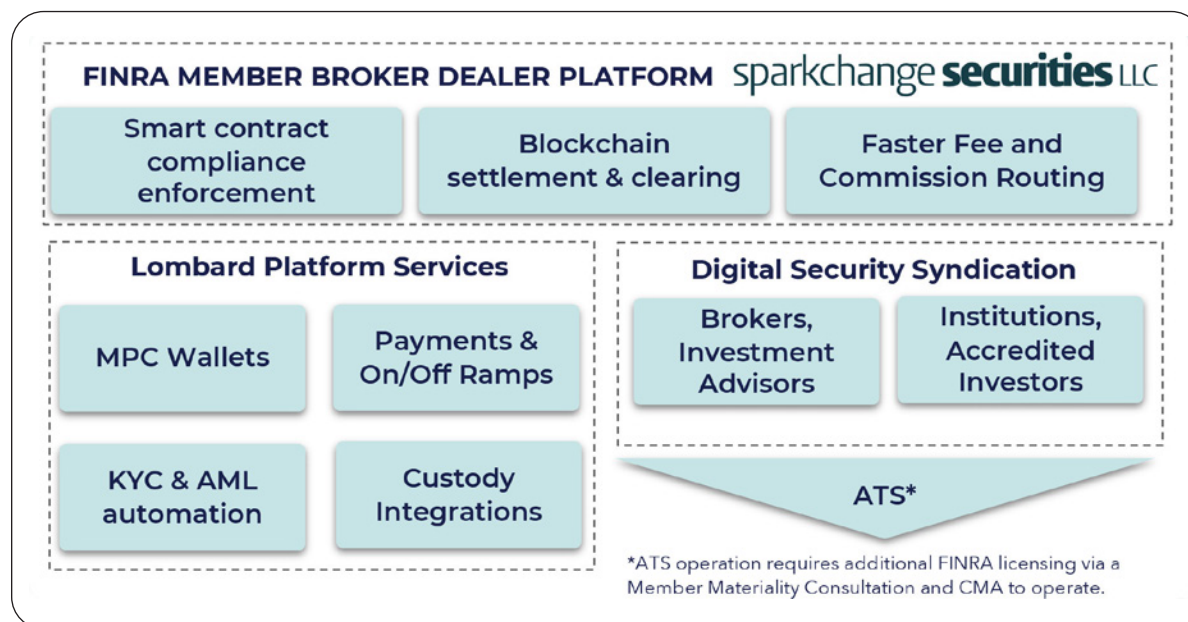
Self-directed investors who want more than just raw data—they want clarity, guidance, and confidence in their investing journey.

2025 FINACCELERATE COHORT



Lombard Works & Co.

- Founded in December 2022, Lombard Works & Co. is a U.S. holding company for a group of technology & financial issuer and services entities, headquartered in Seattle with offices in London.
- We believe that digital assets can increase efficiency, reduce cost, improve liquidity and create access to illiquid assets and hard to access asset classes for issuers and investors.
- Lombard's digital security issuance and management platform was created to allow end- to-end asset tokenization and investor management for issuers to create digital and traditional financial products for investors to access niche asset classes, starting with carbon.
- SC-Securities (below) is our SEC registered, broker dealer, one of the first new firms approved for digital asset private placements in 2023.



ABOUT THE GROUP & PRODUCTS

Our U.S. based issuer (SC-Holdings) operates a commodity pool of physical CCA allowances that investors can access via security tokens to get direct access to physically backed CCA allowances. Smart contracts and blockchain enabled transparency for investors into the registry accounts that custody those physical allowances.

Our UK based investment and specialist carbon advisor (SC- Financial) launched the world's first and largest, physically backed EUA carbon allowance ETF/ETC, listed on London Stock Exchange (CO2.L) with nearly ~\$150m AUM.

2025 FINACCELERATE COHORT



Philanthrify

Philanthrify is a next-generation donation platform designed to rebuild trust in the charity sector by making giving radically more transparent. At its core, Philanthrify enables donors to see where their money goes and what impact it achieves in real time.

Charities use the platform to pitch projects and raise funds, then manage, monitor, and report on their work using Philanthrify's integrated suite of tools powered by blockchain and AI. Through seamless integrations and smart data tracking, spending and outcomes are autonomously recorded and published to a donor-facing portal, allowing each donor to follow their unique giving journey. The result: greater trust, more engagement, and up to 50% more donations.

With trust in charities at just 48% and only half the public currently donating (CAF Giving Report), the sector faces increasing pressure from governments, foundations, and the public to become more accountable. Philanthrify provides a timely solution, helping charities transition from fragmented systems to a unified platform that reduces costs, saves time, and strengthens donor relationships.

Business Model

Philanthrify operates a multi-revenue model:

- 2–6% platform donation fee (Depending on the subscription the charity has)
- Monthly subscription fees for charities (Standard & Premium)
- Licensing fees for large institutions

Founders & Team

Co-founders Tomos Rees (CEO) and Arran Clark (CTO) bring a rare blend of deep sector empathy and technical acumen. Tom's 17 years of charity experience and a strong FinTech and blockchain background are matched by Arran's expertise in machine learning and software development. Supported by a growing team of developers, Philanthrify has reached beta testing and is preparing for full platform launch in October.

Technology & Innovation

Recognised by Innovate UK with a \$350k Smart Grant (1.5% success rate), Philanthrify's technology combines blockchain, and AI in a SaaS platform built for scale. From donation processing to automated impact tracking and personalised donor reporting, the system replaces outdated, siloed charity tools with a modern, transparent infrastructure. The platform's smart incentives, immutable impact records, and automated reporting mechanisms are not only hard to replicate—they're designed to rebuild trust across the sector.

Traction & Funding

To date, Philanthrify has secured \$550k in non-dilutive and angel funding and recently won a \$30k blockchain innovation grant (MultiversX). Beta pilots are underway, and a public launch is scheduled. Additional grant applications are in motion to further de-risk investment and accelerate revenue generation.

Vision

Philanthrify aims to become the infrastructure and distribution layer for a more transparent charity sector, unlocking billions in untapped giving potential by empowering trust.



Quadron

Quadron is the AI-native, blockchain-powered infrastructure for progress, building the substrate for RWA 2.0: digital-native, human validated, globally liquid. Quadron turns credible insight into on-chain assets—capturing provenance, validating credibility, and routing value back on reuse. Our passive, team-first experience elevates organizations while recognizing individuals. With partners like [nesa.ai](#), we are proving the model in IP and laying the rails for a new asset class where credibility becomes capital.

Company Description

Quadron is the AI-native, blockchain-powered infrastructure for progress. We are building the substrate for RWA 2.0: digital-native, human validated, globally liquid.

We turn credible insight into an asset. Quadron acts as a wallet and proof layer for ideas—capturing who did what and when, applying AI and peer validation to separate signal from noise, and minting attribution-native assets so credit and value flow back on reuse.

We are developing a passive, team-first experience that elevates organizations while recognizing individuals. Quadron runs across existing tools, quietly assembling provenance, surfacing readiness, and guiding decisions—so progress compounds without added overhead and contributors are visibly credited.

On this foundation, we are launching applications and partnerships that power the RWA 2.0 economy. Our first, with [nesa.ai](#), is an inference-driven decision engine for IP that reduces wasted filings, surfaces overlooked novelty, and strengthens portfolios.

Quadron is laying the rails for a new asset class: collaborative, digital native, composable assets that can be priced, traded, and reused. The \$QUAD token secures validation, rewards credible contribution, and settles reuse—ensuring this economy remains liquid, investible, and tied to real credibility



Retica Technologies

Retica Technologies is building global identity and access infrastructure via an API-based biometric authentication system powered by multi-modal biometrics, zero-knowledge proofs (ZKPs), and multi-party computation (MPC). By combining multi-modal biometrics with zero-knowledge proofs and creating an interconnected network of authentication events, Retica is building not only an adaptive security solution but also a transparent, accountable ecosystem where every interaction generates verifiable proof while preserving privacy.

Retica's simultaneous multi-biometric authentication system via API can eliminate passwords, keys, cards, and minimize mobile and other device reliance. Retica is further establishing the access and identity infrastructure where biometric authentication events trigger zero-knowledge proofs across interconnected systems, processes, and platforms, creating unprecedented transparency that can replace trust-based processes within systems. From bike-sharing systems and public transit for urban mobility to supply and delivery chains and intermodal freight transport, from residential and commercial building access to financial transactions, every authentication becomes a data point that drives visibility and accountability, enables root cause analysis, and creates sustainable, self-correcting systems.

2025 FINACCELERATE COHORT



SUPERSTABLE

SuperStable

Website: www.superstable.io

Overview

SuperStable is a fintech company building **stablecoin-powered remittance and B2B payment** rails to make cross-border money movement faster, cheaper, and more transparent. Incorporated in Delaware as Arbirem LLC, SuperStable combines regulated infrastructure with scalable technology to address real-world payment needs especially in emerging markets.

Problem & Opportunity

Cross-border remittances and SME trade flows are often slow, costly, and opaque. With remittances exceeding **\$300B annually across Asia**, and B2B trade corridors representing even larger flows, there is significant demand for faster settlement, better FX rates, and digital-first solutions.

Our Solution

SuperStable enables retail and institutional clients to move money globally using **stablecoins as the settlement layer**. Through its non-custodial wallet and API infrastructure, users can:

- Remit funds from **US, UK, UAE, Asia and MENA**.
- Execute B2B payments seamlessly across multiple regional trade corridors.
- Benefit from **better-than-Google FX rates**, instant settlement, and compliant payout rails.

Licensing & Compliance

- Registered **Money Services Business (MSB)** in the United States.
- Licensed **Virtual Asset Service Provider (VASP)** under India's FIU framework.
- Compliance-first approach across AML/KYC and cross-border regulatory requirements.

Traction

- Currently processing **\$1–2M/day** across multiple corridors.
- Early access launch of PLU Wallet attracted 100+ users in 24 hours, with a pipeline toward 10k+ retail users.
- Partnerships with remittance houses and retail chains to onboard cash-to-crypto users.
- Operating on **Base and Tron**, with regulated payout partnerships in India and Asia.

Team

Founded by Sid Pillai, a serial entrepreneur who previously exited a fintech startup to Klarna. The SuperStable team brings deep expertise across **fintech, compliance, and Web3 infrastructure**, with a compliance-first approach.

toffee

Toffee

Pay in the moment

Toffee is a fintech powering the entertainment economy. People buy and earn without leaving what they watch, play or interact with. We enable more of every dollar to stay with studios, creators, and brands and create stronger relationships with consumers.

We wrap those experiences with a shared wallet and simple rewards helping to drive transactions.

- Powering direct relationship with consumers for the entertainment economy
- Unlocking rewards for users for spending, via our wallet
- Enabling users to transact/buy in the moment from anywhere

Why it matters

The entertainment economy has waited for this. People can buy and earn in the moment so more value stays with the people who make it. Games, brands, creators, celebrities, sports stars and influencers can sell and reward inside their worlds not around them. This turns attention into spend with fewer fees and stronger direct relationships.

Team fit

Dmitry Vysotski co-founded Profitero and grew it to 300 plus people before a 220 million dollar sale to Publicis. Enterprise commerce and brand go to market. This drives adoption.

Kevin Cubitt ran a regulated lender for seven years with full approvals. Twenty years in finance and bank partnerships, building trust and money movement.

Progress to Date

- In app checkout live.
- Lite wallet operating two years.
- Regulated US card program live.
- gCommerce pilots running.
- Partnership with Bolt 1 Click for our game specific checkout, wallet, identity, retargeting, and attribution stack.

Who we serve

Game studios and publishers. Creators. Brands. Streaming and social apps. Utility apps and GPTs.



Twocents.ai

Twocents.ai is an AI-powered investment co-pilot designed to help everyday DIY retail investors, particularly tech-savvy Millennials and Gen Z, improve their investment outcomes by addressing common behavioral pitfalls.

The platform delivers real-time portfolio insights, & guidance using AI and human advisors to close the performance gap versus market benchmarks like the S&P 500

The solution solves for three aspects. First, "Know me" - provides a holistic dashboard of users financial wellness and surfaces insights using our proprietary 10 key elements ranging from risk, exposure, performance and biases. Next "Show Me" module helps the user understand in depth about options and patterns around their financial behaviour and portfolio. Lastly the "Help me" module provides a market place of human financial advisors who can provide on demand additional help to augment the insights.

2025 FINACCELERATE COHORT



UNYX

UNYX AI is an agentic-AI settlement network for regulated non-bank financial institutions (EMIs, PSPs, NBFIs) that enables direct, real-time, multi-currency settlement on compliant stablecoin rails at 10–30 bps—with no pre-funded collateral. The opportunity in the US is significant: American fintechs, payfacs, money transmitters, marketplaces, and digital asset platforms still absorb high correspondent-bank fees, FX spreads, slow cut-offs, and trapped capital in nostro accounts. UNYX removes that friction, freeing working capital and delivering instant T+0 settlement domestically and cross-border.

Five coordinated AI agents orchestrate intelligent routing, on/off-ramps, bank-grade KYC/KYB/KYT and sanctions screening, treasury/credit risk, and continuous audit—making deployment turnkey for US compliance and finance teams. For US institutions with global users, UNYX provides immediate reach into 60+ countries via licensed founding NBFIs, creating USD-led corridors across Europe, LatAm, Africa, and APAC. Core use cases include B2B payments, marketplace payouts, remittances, payroll, card/acquirer settlement, and broker/exchange flows—anywhere USD liquidity needs to move instantly with full transparency.

As agentic AI matures and stablecoin regulatory frameworks solidify, US companies can expand internationally without stitching together country-by-country banking stacks—while earning new settlement revenue. Bottom line: no correspondent banks, no pre-funding, and real-time, compliant, multi-currency settlement built for US fintechs scaling globally.

2025 FINACCELERATE COHORT



URCASH

URCASH-P2P Financial Platforms (16 Products) are developed by Excent RIT Service LTD, in a compliant, rate-aware credit marketplace that connects borrowers and lenders over secure Open Banking rails. We compress settlement time, pegged to central-bank base rates, and convert cross-border 'float' into yields.

Problem

Cross-border funds settle in 1–3 days. During transit, balances often earn at the lower rate (or zero), leaking basis points due to central-bank rate dispersion. This cost scales with volume and frequency.

Solution

- RepoEdge Account — short-tenor, collateral-aware treasury to monetise idle and in-transit balances.
- UR-FinAI Global — interbank/large-ticket flows across major currencies with central-bank-rate awareness.
- IRaaP (Identity, Risk & Authorisation) — compliant onboarding, payments, and auditability as modular SaaS.

Market Size & Economics (USD/GBP/EUR/INR – URCASH P2P - illustrative)

Bottom-up: 11,352 regions × 10 tx/day × 365 = 41.43M tx/yr; at 12 tx/customer/yr ≈ 3.45M customers. Equal-weighted average ticket (₹50k / \$2k / £2k / €2k) ≈ \$1,905; Revenue: \$1.21B/yr; GMV ≈ \$78.9B/yr.

Macro lens: On \$52.80T annualised flow, avoidable 'Loss of Interest' ≈ \$12.79B (0.0242%) and recoverable 'Cost of Interest' ≈ \$130.40B (0.2470%); combined ≈ \$143.19B (0.2712%), -3.25% of \$4.4T global reserves.

Business Model

Transparent take-rate of 2% (1% borrower/1% lender) on platform volumes, with optional recurring SaaS revenues from identity (IRaaP), payments, analytics, and FX-linked without distorting price discovery.

Go-to-Market (initial)

- Institutional treasuries & banks - RepoEdge to quantify recovered basis points from settlement float.
- Large corporates & MSMEs — embed IRaaP-enabled payments and cash-flow-aligned credit.
- Retail (via regulated partners) — curated access to rate-aware instruments.

Why Now & Moat

Rate dispersion + legacy settlement create structural leakage. URCASH's rate-aware rails, multi-currency design (86 currencies; 3,655 rate-referenced segments), and compliance-first stack (encryption in transit/at rest, role-based access, full audit; FCA application due for submission) form a durable edge.

Traction & Readiness

Multi-product catalogue across consumer, business, institutional and government use-cases; modules live for demo. Architecture integrates identity, payments and risk into onboarding, servicing and analytics.

Risks & Mitigations (brief)

- Regulatory timing — staged pilots with regulated partners; transparent controls and audit trails.
- Liquidity ramp — phased market entry prioritising institutional flows, then MSME/retail via partners.
- Credit & operational risk — rate-aware instruments, collateral focus, and layered monitoring/limits.

The Ask/Next Step

Invite to run a three-month pilot of RepoEdge and UR-FinAI with your treasury flows to measure recovered basis points, validate compliance fit, and align an investment roadmap tied to pilot KPIs.



Valar Solutions GmbH

Valar Solutions GmbH is revolutionizing staking on blockchains with the Valar platform – a new, simple, and secure way of generating passive income on one's digital assets, all while at the same time bringing the blockchain's core promise of decentralization into reality, further strengthening one's digital asset positions.

At its core, Valar acts as a decentralized marketplace for connecting blockchain stakeholders to node operators, enabling direct staking of their digital assets. Node operators from around the globe can advertise their node services via the platform, and the users easily conclude contracts for the service. This way, users can stake directly without having to have the technical knowledge or invest time to set up and maintain the nodes. Moreover, users get 100% of their generated staking income and pay no commission on it. Valar focuses not only on user simplicity but also on minimizing user risks. Users retain sole and full custody of their assets at all times. Furthermore, Valar's solution does not expose users' asset to smart contract risks because it leverages blockchain's native staking capabilities. Valar not only benefits users but also the supported blockchains by opening novel ways for node operators to earn more predictable revenues as they can charge for their service even in stablecoins. This results not only in a more consistent number of node operators on the networks, but also increased decentralized because any operator can easily offer their service, driving wider competition and participation.

The Valar platform currently serves 350 users who are staking an equivalent of 25M USD at 5%-6% APY. The node services on the platform are provided by 100 different operators. Valar Solutions GmbH is now expanding the Valar platform to support staking of a broad range of assets and provide new staking strategies for users, while simultaneously strengthening the decentralization of blockchain networks.

2025 FINACCELERATE COHORT



WeLeap

Overview

WeLeap is an AI-powered financial sidekick built for Gen Z and Millennials. Unlike traditional fintech apps that either push products or only solve a narrow part of the financial journey, WeLeap provides a holistic, action-oriented platform. It helps users manage cash flow, prevent overdrafts, reduce debt, and grow wealth — all while aligning incentives through a shared community fund.

The Problem

Today's financial tools fail younger generations. Most either profit off users' mistakes or leave them with fragmented solutions that don't connect the dots. As a result, Gen Z and Millennials remain stressed, paying billions in hidden fees, missed opportunities, and mismatched products. 58% report feeling overwhelmed managing money, while 43% abandon traditional PFMs due to lack of insight or action.

Our Solution

WeLeap flips the script. Our AI-driven platform acts as a true financial sidekick, not just an advisor. It proactively recommends the right actions — reallocating paychecks, moving funds, refinancing debt, or investing smarter — and lets users act on these insights directly through our marketplace. Every commission WeLeap earns is visible to users, and a portion flows into a shared Community Fund, building financial freedom together.

Why We're Different

Most fintech tools fall into two traps: 1) Product-pushers like SoFi or NerdWallet that profit by selling what benefits them, not the user, or 2) Point-solutions like YNAB, Cleo, Chime, Robinhood, or Wealthfront that only cover one slice of life. WeLeap breaks out of that grid. We are the only holistic, user-outcome-driven platform that combines cash flow management, debt reduction, and wealth building — all in one place.

Team

Our team combines deep domain expertise with personal conviction. Vinod scaled a business from \$50M to \$350M at Broadcom, led a venture-backed startup through exit, and holds 50+ patents in tech and AI. Maurizio has built financial platforms for global banks and delivered blockchain infrastructure for the pharmaceutical industry. Together, we bring proven experience in scaling, fintech, AI, and user-first design — and as parents of Gen Z daughters, we're deeply connected to the problem we're solving.

2025 FINACCELERATE COHORT LOGO GRID



Arda



Ashantix



Binaryx



Boonty



Borderless



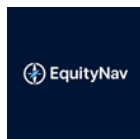
Dhahaby



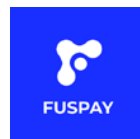
DwellFi



Ekalavya Networks



EquityNav



Fuspay



Grand



IBVM



ID-Bound



InvantX AI



Lombard Works & Co.



Philanthrify



Quadron



Retica Technologies



Superstable



Toffee



Twocents.ai



UNYX



URCASH



Valar Solutions GmbH



WeLeap



Chris Larsen

Chris Larsen is Executive Chairman, co-founder, and former CEO of Ripple, an enterprise blockchain company with more than 450 employees based in San Francisco, with eight additional offices (New York, London, Mumbai, Singapore, Washington D.C., São Paulo, Reykjavik, and Dubai).

Ripple is building next-generation cross-border payment technology using blockchain and digital assets to provide instant, extremely low-cost, reliable cross-border payments.



Professor David W. Mills

Professor David Mills has a distinguished career in law and investments. He is a Professor of Practice of Law at Stanford Law School. He is the founder and the first Director of the Stanford Law School clinical program, which provides legal services to people who cannot afford traditional representation.

Professor Mills is also the co-chair of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, America's premiere legal organization fighting for racial justice. It is a leadership position he has held for more than 10 years. Professor Mills has had a lifelong dedication to social justice issues. Three years ago, he received the Thurgood Marshall Lifetime Achievement Award. Professor Mills has also had a lengthy legal career representing a range of well-known white-collar crime defendants as well as driving the strategy for a number of well-known investment firms in various civil and regulatory matters. In addition, he has had a successful career in the business and investment realm. He is currently a partner at Fortress Investment Group and advisor to its Chairman and a partner at Divco West (a real estate investment and development firm) and other high-profile investment-related organizations.

Professor Mills graduated Rutgers Law School in 1973 magna cum laude. Following law school, he joined the law firm of Lowenstein, Sandler, where he eventually became a senior tax partner. He was also Adjunct Professor of Law at Rutgers University, Chairman of the Partnership Tax Section of the American Bar Association, and Chairman of the Tax Section of the New Jersey Bar Association. In 1986, Professor Mills moved to Los Angeles to work at Cambrent Financial Group, in association with the firm of Victor, Sandler, and Cogut. In 1988, he founded Mills & Lynn Enterprises for the purpose of undertaking personal financial transactions. He still holds that position, but the name has changed to Mills Family Enterprises. In 1991, he became the Chief Executive and sole shareholder of Harbourton General Corporation, the general partner of Harbourton Holdings, LP. He resigned from Harbourton in 2016.

Prior to law school, Professor Mills went to Rutgers University, where he graduated in 1969. Following graduation from the university, Professor Mills undertook Rabbinical Studies, first at the Jewish Theological Seminary and then at the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College in Jerusalem. He resides in the San Francisco Bay area.



Siavash Alamouti

Siavash Alamouti is the Executive Chairman of the Board at mimik. He was the EVP of R&D at Wells Fargo from March 2020 until December 2021. Prior to that, he was the President & CEO of mimik from January 2014 until January 2020. Prior to mimik he was the Group R&D Director for Vodafone in London, UK where he managed R&D, corporate venture and IPR for the entire group. Before Vodafone, he was an Intel Fellow and CTO of The Mobile Wireless Group in Santa Clara, California. Prior to Intel he was the CTO at the start-up company Vivato (the first smart antenna Wi-Fi company) and before Vivato, he worked in various capacities at Cadence Design Systems, AT&T Wireless, and MPR Teltech.

He has been awarded the prestigious 2022 Marconi Prize in recognition of his contribution to global wireless device accessibility. The outspoken innovator, who is most well known as the inventor of the Alamouti Code, adopted in almost all wireless standards globally and included in billions of wireless devices. He has dedicated his career to developing and promoting technologies that enhance people's lives. He has received more than 20,000 citations for his scientific work and has received multiple industry awards. Siavash's 1998 paper in IEEE JSAC Publication was selected by IEEE Communication Society for publication in, "The Best of the Best: Fifty Years of Communications and Networking Research."

Siavash has been the leading champion for ground-breaking and highly impactful technologies such as Hybrid Edge Cloud, OFDM/MIMO, 4G, 5G cellular communications, WiFi and WiGig. He has contributed extensively to global telecommunication and internet standards, and has participated in lobbying for spectrum reform globally. Since 2014, he has been focused on edge cloud computing, cloud decentralisation and open internet. Siavash has a reputation for passionately pushing the industry to new limits of the technology for the benefit of mankind.

Siavash received B.A.Sc and the M.A.Sc. degrees in electrical engineering from the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada, in 1989 and 1991, respectively.



Alison Davis

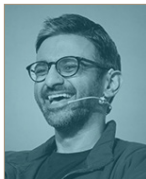
Alison Davis is Chairman and Managing Partner of Blockchain Coinvestors, the leading blockchain venture fund of funds with investments in 400+ blockchain companies and projects and approximately 50% of all blockchain unicorns. She is an experienced corporate executive, public company board director, active investor in growth companies, and bestselling author on the topics of technology and innovation. She is currently serving as a Managing Partner of Blockchain Coinvestors Acquisition Corp. 1 (SPAC).

Alison is currently a non-executive director of Silicon Valley Bank, Fiserv, Janus Henderson Group, Colibra, and Pacaso. She is the chairman of the Advisory Board for Blockchain Capital and an advisor to Bitwise.

She is a former director of RBS, City National Bank, Diamond Foods, First Data Corporation, Ooma, Unisys, Xoom, and many private companies and was the Chairman of LECG until its sale in 2011. Alison is a frequent speaker on corporate governance.

Alison was previously the Managing Partner of Belvedere Capital, a regulated bank holding company and private equity firm focused on investing in U.S. banks and financial services firms, where she worked closely with the Federal Reserve, the OCC, the FDIC, and various state banking regulators. Prior to this, Alison was the Chief Financial Officer of Barclays Global Investors (now BlackRock), the world's largest institutional investment firm, with more than \$1.5 trillion of assets under management. Earlier in her career, Alison spent 14 years as a strategy consultant and advisor to Fortune 500 CEOs, boards, and executive teams with McKinsey & Company, and as a practice leader with A.T. Kearney, where she built and led the global Financial Services Practice. She is a bestselling author (*The Intelligent Investor: Silicon Valley*, *Blockchain Competitive Advantage*, *Corporate Innovation in the Fifth Era*, and *Build your Fortune in the Fifth Era*).

Alison is active in the community, supporting nonprofits and social enterprises as a board director, fundraiser, and volunteer. She has been frequently named a "Most Influential Women in Business" by the San Francisco Business Times. She received a B.A. Honors and a master's degree in Economics from Cambridge University in England, and an MBA from the Stanford Graduate School of Business after completing the first year at Harvard. She was born in Sheffield, England, is now a dual U.S./UK citizen, and has lived for the last 25 years in the San Francisco Bay area, where she raised her family with her husband, Matthew C. Le Merle.



Avichal Garg

Avichal is a successful entrepreneur with executive experience at Google and Facebook, which acquired his previous company. As an angel investor, Avichal has invested in 15 unicorns and 5 decacorns including Airbnb, Boom Supersonic, Color Genomics, Cruise, Deel, Figma, Newfront Insurance, Notion, Nova Credit, Pulley, and others. He co-founded Electric Capital in 2018 and has grown it to one of the largest crypto venture firms globally. Electric is an investor in many of the leading web3 protocols and companies such as Bitwise, Bitnomial, dYdX, Eigenlayer, Espresso, Frax, Kraken, Magic Eden, NEAR, and Solana.



Matthew C. Le Merle

Matthew Le Merle is co-founder and Managing Partner of Fifth Era and of Keiretsu Capital, the most active early-stage venture investors backing almost 200 companies a year. Matthew is a manager of Blockchain Coinvestors, the world's leading blockchain venture fund of funds. He is also Chairman of CAH and Securitize (Europe), Vice Chairman of sFOX, and an advisor at Warburg Pincus.

Blockchain Coinvestors has a strategy of being an investor in the leading blockchain venture firms including 1Confirmation, 1kx, Blockchain.com Ventures, Blockchain Capital, Castle Island, Digital Currency Group, Fabric, Future\Perfect, IDEO, and Pantera.

Matthew is an advisor and/or investor at a number of blockchain projects, including BitBull, Bitwise, Codex, Hadron, Liquineq, and Spark.

Matthew's career has spanned being a global strategy advisor, professional services firm leader, corporate operating executive, private equity and venture capital investor, and board director. He spent 21 years as a strategy, operations, and corporate finance advisor with McKinsey & Company, and as a practice leader with A.T. Kearney and Monitor Group, where he led both firms' West Coast practices, and at Booz & Company. He was also a corporate executive at Gap Inc., where he was SVP strategy and corporate development and SVP global marketing.

Matthew is an adjunct professor at Singularity University, bestselling author (*Blockchain Competitive Advantage*, *Corporate Innovation in the Fifth Era*, *Build your Fortune in the Fifth Era*, and *Second Chance*), and keynote speaker. He received a B.A. (Double First) and master's degree from Christ Church, Oxford, and an MBA from the Stanford Graduate School of Business. He was born in London and is now a dual U.S./UK citizen and lives in San Francisco and London with his wife, Alison Davis. They have five adult children.



Stephen MacKenzie

Stephen MacKenzie is a Licensing Executive at Patent Platform Services, and former Managing Director at Koch Disruptive Technologies. Patent Platform Services is an advisory group that helps monetize patent assets on behalf of owners, where Steve formulates strategies for patent assets in the cryptography, telecommunications, and hardtech sectors. While at Koch Disruptive Technologies, Steve led the investment strategy in blockchain, crypto, and Web3 technologies and acted as IP M&A/investment counsel. Prior to joining KDT, Steve served as Acting General Counsel for several of Koch's emerging businesses in the software, robotic actuation, and industrial analytics space, and served in various capacities as intellectual property and litigation counsel for a number of Koch Industries' companies

Prior to joining Koch, Steve worked in private practice as a patent litigation attorney in Wilmington, Delaware. Before attending law school, Steve was an applications engineer at W. L. Gore & Associates in the Fuel Cell group. He received his J.D. from the University of New Hampshire School of Law in 2005 and his Bachelors of Chemical Engineering from the University of Delaware in 1999.



Christian Crowley

Christian Crowley is a partner on the a16z crypto go-to-market team. He works closely with portfolio companies on product strategy, business development, and go-to-market execution.

Christian was previously the co-founder of Sanctum.ai, a privacy-focused AI platform. Before that, he co-founded Q.xyz, a digital asset portfolio management platform, and helped lead the launch of BarnBridge v2, a DeFi protocol. He also served as CEO of Alethio, one of the earliest Ethereum analytics platforms and an early ConsenSys portfolio company. Christian also worked at Amazon Web Services, where he led partnerships with early-stage blockchain startups.

Christian holds a JD/MBA from Vanderbilt University and a BA in Political Science and Philosophy from Duke University.



Craig Schedler

Craig Schedler currently serves as the Head of Intuit Ventures, the strategic venture capital arm of Intuit, where he brings over a decade of corporate venture capital leadership to his role. In leading Intuit Ventures, Craig is responsible for setting the strategic direction and spearheading the team's early stage investing activities focused on powering prosperity for consumers and small businesses globally. Since its inception Intuit Ventures has backed transformational companies like Vestwell, Melio (acquired by Xero), Drata and ZayZoon. Prior to joining Intuit, Craig created and led Northwestern Mutual Future Ventures, the venture capital arm of Northwestern Mutual. During his time at Northwestern Mutual he led investments in over 30 notable fintech companies including Chime (IPO), Gabi (acquired by Experian), Trust & Will, Vestwell, Splash Financial and many others.

Craig began his career in healthcare investment banking focused on merger and acquisitions and capital markets transactions for healthcare providers nationwide. Craig holds an MBA in Finance and Accounting from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business and a BBA in Accounting from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.



Fay Arjomandi

Fay Arjomandi is the Founder, CEO and Board Member of the pioneering edge cloud company mimik. From 2016-2018, she was the executive chairman of H2 Wellness, a software company based in Los Angeles. Between Aug 2014 to Oct 2016, she was the CEO of digital health company NantMobile and led its Augmented reality platform (iD), several digital/genomics health initiatives, and WiGig fabless semiconductor company, Tensorcom. Prior to NantMobile, Fay was the CEO of Vodafone xone which was the innovation brand for Vodafone. She oversaw partnerships with startup companies to develop, test and prepare for commercial deployment in Vodafone's global markets. Additionally, her role included managing Vodafone Ventures, board membership of Vodafone Americas Enterprise and President & Chair position at Vodafone Americas Foundation. Prior to Vodafone, Fay was the co-founder and CEO of three technology startups that built location-based services (L3 Technology), mobile quality of service improvement platform (Mobidia), and mimik.

As a pragmatic technology innovator, Fay has authored many patents in Telecommunications, Transport Layer Protocols, Mobile traffic management, QoS, and Edge Cloud Computing. Fay has a unique talent for spotting future trends and “connecting the dots.”

In 2022 she received the Canadian Top 20 Tech Titans Award and in 2020, she was named the Edge Woman of the year by the Linux Foundation. In 2018 she was the Alumni of the Year at Concordia University in Montreal where she received her bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering. In 2014, she was named as one of the most influential woman business leaders in Silicon Valley by San Francisco Business Week, and in 2006, received the distinguished Business in Vancouver's “Top 40 Under 40” award. She is a member of the Forbes Technology Council and advises many startup companies and is a Board Advisor to American Tower the global provider of wireless communications infrastructure.

Fay is passionate about digital inclusion and equity and has spent the last decade to create disruptive technology platforms and enablers for cloud decentralization to ensure a future sustainable internet. She has advised startup companies on how to build successful businesses, as well as corporations on digital transformation and innovation with impact. In addition to exceptional leadership and vision, Fay is a highly sought-after global speaker and industry thought leader given her specialization and years of experience in digital communications, software applications and edge cloud computing. Fay holds a Bachelor of Applied Science degree in Electrical Engineering from Concordia University. She has international experience and has lived and worked in many countries in North America, Europe, and the Middle East.



Lord (JD) Waverley

Lord (JD) Waverley is an independent member of the House of Lords, entering the United Kingdom Parliament in 1993. He contributes regularly to proceedings on international issues, addressing many challenging issues of the day.

He sits as vice chair to the Fintech & Blockchain All-Party Parliamentary Groups. Key activities undertaken at these groups range from improving financial inclusion to the potential applications of transformative technologies such as blockchain and enabling a sound regulatory framework to underpin the United Kingdom to become a world leader in fintech. Lord Waverley is also the founder of SUPPLYFINDER.COM, a platform that is focused on providing a trade ecosystem platform to all emerging markets, with a range of services in both the public and key private sector space.

Lord Waverley has received state decorations from Colombia, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan, been honoured with a Yoruba Chieftaincy in Nigeria, and is the recipient of the CEO Club BURJ award as Ambassador for British Business.



Rebecca Macieira-Kaufmann

Rebecca Macieira-Kaufmann is a seasoned CEO with broad leadership experience in sales, marketing, risk management, operations, and international business. She draws on deep expertise in the Fortune 50 financial services industry and has a demonstrated track record of leading highly successful business turnarounds, scaling new businesses, and expanding operations globally. Rebecca spent more than 11 years at Citigroup serving in a range of CEO, President, and general manager roles. Before Citi, Rebecca spent 13 years at Wells Fargo as the Head of the Small Business Segment, Executive and Senior Vice President, and director roles. From operations to sales and marketing, Rebecca was able to transform these businesses—she simplified operations, digitized the customer experience, improved the financials, and grew them exponentially.

Rebecca founded RMK Group, LLC, in 2020 to advise startup businesses, CEOs, C-Suite members, and teams on how to exceed their potential and thrive, develop high-performing teams, and simultaneously deliver on growth and execution targets.

She also brings a strong background in governance through her corporate and nonprofit board experiences. Rebecca currently serves on corporate boards, including respectively as director of Blockchain Coinvestors Acquisition Corp I. and Flutterwave. She has more than 25 years of experience on nonprofit boards and currently serves on the board of governors of the San Francisco Symphony (audit and executive committees) and on the Senior Jewish Living Group Board.

Rebecca holds a BA in Semiotics from Brown University, an MBA from the Stanford Graduate School of Business, and was a post-graduate Fulbright Scholar at the University of Helsinki, Finland. She is a frequently sought-after speaker on leadership and business transformation, life and work integration, and culture change. She has been recognized for her leadership and accomplishments, including being named an Influential Woman in the Bay Area Business by the San Francisco Business Times for 12 years and a Forever Influential Woman in 2014. She was named the 2010 Financial Woman of the Year by the Financial Women's Association of San Francisco, awarded with the 2007 Women Leading Change Award by the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, and honored with the Fulbright Lifetime Achievement Award in 2018.

In 2021, Rebecca wrote *FitCEO: Be The Leader of Your Life* about achieving holistic health—at work, home, and play. With coauthor Lillian So, the book shares lessons learned over decades of leadership, fitness, transformation, and life to enable any reader ready for “immediate and imperfect action” to make small changes in habits that can manifest in lifelong change.



Antonio Beja

Antonio is a distinguished investment professional with over 25 years of global expertise, honed through key roles at McKinsey & Co, premier investment banks, and prominent family offices. For the past 18 years, he has expertly managed single-family office portfolios, overseeing investments in early- to late-stage companies across diverse sectors, including technology, healthcare, and fintech. His strategic foresight and hands-on approach have driven exceptional success in scaling high-growth startups, consistently delivering robust returns and fostering innovation.

As a Senior Strategy Advisor, Antonio has been instrumental in shaping the strategic direction of pioneering organizations. At MultiversX, he has provided critical guidance to enhance its blockchain ecosystem, driving scalability and adoption in decentralized technologies. His advisory role at Casper Labs has focused on advancing enterprise-grade blockchain solutions, leveraging his deep market insights. At ProveAI, Antonio has steered the development of AI-driven data privacy and compliance solutions, aligning the company's vision with global regulatory frameworks. Additionally, his work with CVVC (Crypto Valley Venture Capital) has strengthened its mission to fund transformative blockchain and Web3 startups, establishing him as a thought leader in emerging technologies.

Antonio is also an Equity Partner at Consensus Capital, an early-stage multi-family office investment vehicle that exclusively invests its own capital. In this role, he collaborates with high-net-worth families to identify and fund high-potential startups, focusing on innovative technologies and sustainable growth opportunities. His strategic oversight and disciplined investment approach have been pivotal in building Consensus Capital's portfolio of disruptive ventures.

As a General Partner at Inspiration Ventures, a San Francisco-based venture capital firm, Antonio leads investment strategies targeting cutting-edge technologies, with a particular emphasis on AI-driven ventures and decentralized systems. His ability to identify and nurture high-potential opportunities has solidified his reputation as a leader in the venture capital ecosystem.

Antonio's recent specialization in emerging technologies reflects his forward-thinking mindset. Leveraging his strategic insight and an extensive global network of industry leaders, investors, and innovators, he has become a catalyst for transformative ventures. His proven track record in scaling startups, combined with his unparalleled connectivity, enhances his ability to drive impactful opportunities, positioning him as a key figure in shaping the future of technology investment.

Antonio holds an MBA from INSEAD, along with advanced degrees in finance and business from other leading institutions. He is a sought-after speaker and mentor, notably with the Harvard Blockchain Association, in the global venture capital and technology ecosystems. His multidisciplinary expertise, commitment to innovation, and ability to bridge traditional finance with emerging technologies make him an invaluable asset to the organizations he advises, the ventures he funds, and the investment vehicles he leads.



Paul Pester

Paul has spent around 25 years building and leading some of the most disruptive and established consumer financial services businesses in the UK and overseas.

He is currently the Chair of Tandem Bank, the fast-growing UK digital bank; Chair of the UK wealth-tech business, Firenze; a non-executive Director and Chair of the Board Digitisation Committee at the National Bank of Bahrain (representing the Bahrain Sovereign Wealth Fund, Mumtalakat) and a non-executive Director and co-Founder at Archie, the FinTech accelerator operating across Australia, the Middle East.

He also founded, built and exited Loop, the digital money sharing and credit profile-building app popular with Millennial and Gen Z users.

Having previously been an adviser to the UK Chancellor of the Exchequer and HM Treasury on competition issues in banking, Paul is a passionate advocate for consumers' interests and is focused on using technology and innovation to improve competition and consumer outcomes in financial services.

Paul was the first Group CEO at Virgin Money, launching the business as one of the first digital financial services players in the UK and Australia, before becoming the Managing Director of Consumer Banking & Payments at Lloyds Banking Group.

Paul was the CEO of TSB Banking Group for seven years, leading the creation and launch of the business, its £1.4 billion IPO on the London Stock Exchange in 2014 and subsequent sale to Spanish banking group, Sabadell, for £1.7 billion in mid 2015.

Following a degree in physics from Manchester University and a doctorate in theoretical physics from Oxford University, Paul spent the early part of his career in management consulting, mostly at McKinsey & Company.



Kyle Williams

Kyle is Head of the EMEA Consumer and Digital Finance Legal Group. He is co-chair of the Structured Investment Products Committee, a member of the Deposit Pricing and Acquisition Subcommittee, and counsel to the Goldman Sachs International (GSI) Asset and Liability Committee and the GSI Bank Asset and Liability Committee. He is also co-chair of the Firmwide Black Network in Europe. Prior to moving to London, he worked in Treasury Legal in New York for four years. Kyle joined Goldman Sachs in 2006 as a Vice President and was named Managing Director in 2013.

Prior to joining the firm, Kyle worked in the capital markets and structured products practice groups of Davis, Polk & Wardwell, a law firm in New York City.

Kyle serves on the Board of Advisors for Washington University School of Law.

Kyle earned a BA in Finance from California State Polytechnic University Pomona in 1996 and a JD from Washington University Law School in 2001.



Ryan Nichols

Ryan Nichols is a General Partner at DYDX Capital, an early stage investor in the Data Supercycle. Ryan is a builder turned backer, who has spent his career growing products that help companies engage with their customers, including 5 startups and 4 industry leaders. Most recently, Ryan served as Chief Product Officer of Salesforce's Service Cloud, which he grew to \$9B and guided into the era of AI Agents. His background includes Zendesk, SAP, McKinsey, Williams College, and the Stanford Graduate School of Business.



Michael Barrell

Michael Barrell has founded several businesses all centered on enabling the growth of digital business, and invested and acted on advisory boards with particular focus on helping companies achieve international growth within the area of complex B2B and digital enablement.

Michael had his initial career at IBM, which culminated in growing and running a \$200 million business until he focused on software solutions within the telecom sector. This experience formed the basis for the businesses in which he has subsequently been a founder.

Businesses where Michael has a significant investment and active role include Juliet Media, MBR Partners, WeCode, and Tokeny. Juliet Media is a full-service B2B marketing company and includes Juliet Summits, which runs events focused on the leading-edge areas of fintech and telecoms. MBR Partners is one of the best-known executive search names in telecom and complex B2B solutions. WeCode, working from a base in Poland, provides high-growth tech businesses with a way to rapidly extend their agile development teams. Tokeny is the leading fintech platform for digitization of securities and assets.

Although currently resident in London, Michael was born and educated in New Zealand, where he initially studied engineering and received a business and marketing degree at Victoria University.



Jessi Brooks

Jessi Brooks is the General Counsel at Ribbit Capital, a global investment firm focused on the intersection of financial services and technology.

Prior to joining Ribbit, Jessi was a national security prosecutor at the Department of Justice, focused on illicit use of cryptotote-actors. In this role, she helped develop early prosecution strategies for blockchain technology and advised other jurisdictions on how to pursue similar cases.

With this foundation, Jessi led the investigation into the dismantling of three terror finance cyber-enabled campaigns, including the disruption of the al-Qassam Brigades' Bitcoin fundraising scheme, and al-Qaeda's scheme to rely on Telegram and fake charities to launder cryptocurrency and raise illicit funds.

She also managed the start of the Bitfinex hack investigation as well as the DOJ's successful forfeiture of cryptocurrency from North Korean hackers and their Chinese co-conspirators. At the United States Attorney's Office, Jessi spent a number of years prosecuting adult and child sexual abuse, homicide, and help develop the strategy for prosecuting "revenge porn" cases. She is a graduate of the University of Virginia and Stanford Law School.



Nick Hoffman

Nick Hoffman is Chief Counsel – M&A and Venture Capital at Koch Industries. Nick serves as the primary legal counsel supporting Koch Disruptive Technologies, Koch's early-stage venture and growth equity arm, along with the corporate venture groups of Koch's operating companies. He also leads various mergers and acquisitions, investments, joint ventures and other transactions across the Koch companies and investment groups.

Prior to joining Koch, Nick was a partner in Stinson LLP's Corporate Finance division, with practices focusing on M&A for public and private company clients, investments and public companies and securities. Before joining Stinson, he served in-house at Oracle Health (formerly Cerner), a global health technology company when it was a public company listed on the NASDAQ stock exchange and clerked at the Missouri Court of Appeals, Western District. He received his J.D. from the University of Missouri-Kansas City and his B.S. from Missouri State University.



Tony Pecore

Anthony Pecore is a senior vice president and director of digital asset management for Franklin Templeton. Mr. Pecore leads Franklin Templeton's Digital Asset Investment Strategies Group, which includes liquid token, venture capital and digital asset exchange-traded product operations.

Mr. Pecore has over 20 years of experience in the financial services industry. In addition to five years in the digital asset space, he has nearly two decades of experience in traditional fixed income portfolio management, research and trading, including securitized products, longevity-linked assets, multi-sector fixed income, global absolute return, and machine learning driven alternative credit strategies. He joined Franklin Templeton in 2002 as a research analyst.

Mr. Pecore holds a Bachelor of Science in aerospace engineering from Boston University, and a Master of Science in mechanical engineering from Stanford University.



Julian Love

Julian Love is a venture-capital investor with Franklin Templeton's Digital Asset Investment Strategies Group. He specializes in digital assets, AI, and financial infrastructure. He has led thesis development in areas such as Bitcoin productivity, Decentralized AI, and stablecoin payments, originating and leading investments in category defining startups—including Babylon Labs, Lombard, Sentient Labs, Bitlayer, and Koywe—while forging relationships with tier one VCs across the United States and Asia.

Julian started his VC career at Black Capital, working on portfolio strategy and raising SPVs for companies like Overtime Sports. He has diverse experience in corporate finance, management consulting, and strategy, beginning at General Electric and Ernst & Young's Advisory Services division.

Julian holds a bachelor's degree from North Carolina A&T State University and an MBA from Yale University, where he co-founded the Blockchain Club and the Meng Impact Investing Fund.



Ben Bergsma

Ben Bergsma is a Principal for Munich Re Ventures (MRV) where he focuses on Series Seed-B investments in the Insurtech and Healthtech verticals with check sizes ranging from \$1M-\$20M. He has led investments in Acko, At-Bay, Amplify Life, Stoik and others. Prior to MRV, Ben spent time as an investor at Samsung NEXT Ventures, Alpha Venture Partners, and as a founding member at JetBlue Ventures. Previously, he was the CEO & Founder of a mobile software startup focused on the travel sector. Ben holds degrees from Columbia Business School and Claremont McKenna College.



Hassan Parsa

Hassan Parsa is a seasoned high-tech executive with a passion for technology innovation, strategy, and investment. Hassan has held leadership positions in Corporate Development, M&A and Venture Capital over the last 20 years at leading technology companies in Silicon Valley. He has created significant strategic value with more than 30 M&A transactions in excess of \$5 billion in value and has deployed more than \$500 million in strategic venture investments in mobility, cloud computing, security, and AI market segments. Hassan is currently a Limited Partner and Executive Advisor at Candou Ventures and Catapult Ventures.

Previously, Hassan was the global head of Corporate Development at Arm, the leading provider of AI and computing IP, and was responsible for fueling Arm's strategic growth initiatives worldwide. He was the Chairman of Arm investment committee and held Board positions at Ambiq Micro (US), Arduino (Italy), DeepTech Labs (UK), Arm IoT fund (Taiwan) and Hopu Arm Innovation fund (China). Hassan has received an MBA degree with honors from Columbia University in New York City and has also earned a Master of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from University of Maryland.



Sanjay Vatsa

Sanjay is Head of Americas and a member of the Group Executive Committee of Apex Group. Prior to joining Apex, Sanjay was President International and Head of Solution at Inveniam, a dominant player in the Digital Asset, providing the infrastructure for private assets and real-world assets.

Sanjay has more than 25 years of experience in senior “C” level global leadership positions having served as Managing Director at Citi, BlackRock, State Street, Merrill Lynch, etc. He has been instrumental in the modernization of financial markets & transformation of various financial firms and has realized value of over ~\$4bn to the bottom line.

Sanjay is a global expert and has executed innovative solutions in the areas of data and analytics, end to end investment trade life cycle, operational risk, business transformation and has managed and set up Shared Services globally. Sanjay has led transformation & disruption through innovation, leveraging leading edge solutions & technology that address business issues and in evolving/creating new business models & solutions. He has focused on the design and implementation of disruptive models and technologies to enhance organizational value.

Sanjay has been associated with developing the Capital Markets infrastructure in India for the last 25 years. In early 2009/2001 he worked closely with SEBI Chairman on developing the framework for RTGS and RTPS and the strategy to implement the dematerialization. Recently, he is working with a client who is in the Regulatory sandbox at GIFT city that is tokenizing the first Real Estate Asset that is being offered to the Non-Residents.

Sanjay has been a key player in transforming the industry in USA and has been Chairman of multiple industry committees, such as Bond Market Association, Asset Management Forum, Securities Industry Association, etc. transforming financial infrastructure and reducing risk on trade date. Sanjay, as Chairman of the Advisory Board, was instrumental in building OMGEO– a transformative financial industry utility. He has played an active and leadership role in shaping the Capital Markets infrastructure in India, USA, and Singapore.

Sanjay is an active angel investor/advisor to firms and late state startups where he provides innovative and disruptive solutions in health care, in fintech, cryptocurrency and blockchain. Sanjay is currently focused on creating an eco-system for startup and early-stage revenue companies, to realize their potential by appropriately positioning them in the Marketplace for growth at scale.

He is currently:

- Member of the Executive Committee and Head of Americas for Apex Global
- Chairman of New York Chapter of ICAI
- Director and Chairman of Audit Committee – Makara Strategic Acquisition Corp – USD 250MM Energy SPAC
- Director – DeFi Devs – a universal layer 2 Blockchain that facilitates interoperability across block chains and identity
- Ex Partner and Mentor at Princeton Growth Accelerator (PGA)



Frank Walczak

Mr. Walczak is a seasoned business development leader and entrepreneur with over 25 years of experience driving substantial revenue growth and creating innovative business strategies for top financial firms worldwide. Known for his visionary approach and ability to forge strategic partnerships, Mr. Walczak has consistently identified and captured long-term revenue-producing opportunities across diverse markets.

Throughout his career, Mr. Walczak has demonstrated a keen ability to build and scale successful teams, leveraging his expertise in sales, relationship management, and business strategy. His entrepreneurial spirit and leadership have enabled him to establish new lines of business, cultivate long-term alliances with key industry players, and develop first-rate, diversified teams that consistently exceed revenue objectives.

Mr. Walczak's career took off at Cantor Fitzgerald, where he was recruited from Tokyo Forex in Japan to spearhead the creation and management of a foreign exchange team in London. In this role, he managed all aspects of the start-up operation, including budget, staffing, technology coordination, telecommunications, and P&L management. His entrepreneurial drive led to the rapid establishment of a viable business, with more than 250 active accounts across Europe and Asia within five years.

After the 9/11 tragedy that profoundly impacted Cantor Fitzgerald, Mr. Walczak played a critical role in rebuilding the firm's equities team, helping restore it to a global powerhouse. Following his successful tenure at Cantor, he was introduced to tZERO, where he led business development efforts before embarking on his next venture in 2018 as Global Director of Business Development for Inveniam.

Mr. Walczak holds a BS/BA in Economics, History, and Speech Communication from the University of Denver. He is also an active advocate for environmental causes, serving as Treasurer for the Surfers Environmental Alliance.



Todd Stevens

Todd Stevens is Chief Capital Officer of Figure, an enterprise blockchain marketplace company. He is responsible for all capital market activities, business development, markets and stable coin operations as well as Credit. Figure offers a marketplace for origination, funding, sale and trading of various on-chain loan products and tokenized assets. Figure is building the future of capital markets using blockchain-based technology.

Todd is based in New York and has 30 years' experience in the financial industry across Investment Banking, Capital Markets and Wealth Management. He is also a serial investor in early-stage ventures. He currently holds Board and Officer positions at companies in the FinTech, Packaging, Consumer Products, Water Infrastructure and Software technology sectors. Todd proudly graduated with Honors from the University of Georgia.



Pat LaVecchia

Pat LaVecchia is a renowned digital asset and fintech expert, public and private board member, thought leader, and keynote speaker with extensive senior-level investment banking experience (e.g. Credit Suisse, Bear Stearns) including corporate finance, M&A, capital markets, fintech, AI, blockchain and digital assets. Over his distinguished career and most recently as CEO and founder of Oasis Pro, Inc., prior to its successful sale to Ondo Finance, Inc., he has built innovative financial products and trading platforms (including digital asset, non-fungible token and decentralized financial products) as well as a successful track record of navigating complex regulatory landscapes both domestically and internationally.

He has served on the Board of Directors of several public and private companies. He has also served roles on several advisory boards/non-profit boards including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, Member of the NYSE Amex Listed Company Council, and the DTCC Executive Advisory Board for Private Securities (working group), among others. He is currently serving as a member of the State of Connecticut Department of Banking Digital Assets Advisory Board, the FINRA Crypto Advisory Board, the Bretton Woods Committee, and as a founding Member of the Board of Directors of the Connecticut Blockchain Association.

A recognized subject matter expert in digital assets, he has appeared in scores of television interviews and print media. Pat frequently contributes to Forbes Council, Bloomberg, CNBC, Wall Street Journal, New York Times, Financial Times, and Reuters, sharing insights on digital assets, blockchain, finance, and regulation. He is a widely sought-after speaker for his forward-thinking ideas on responsible development of financial markets at summits and events globally.

Pat promotes the idea of driving transformative change through technological advancements creating value for clients and stakeholders. As a CEO, Pat cultivated global strategic partnerships, oversees technology development, and assembles specialized teams.

His extensive expertise enables him to provide valuable guidance on corporate actions such as mergers and acquisitions, growth capital, acquisition finance, and recapitalization. Pat's ability to scale enterprises, foster innovation, and navigate complex regulatory landscapes is widely recognized, and he has successfully structured, negotiated, and executed more than \$15 billion in deals on high-yield transactions, M&A, IPOs, and private placements globally.

One of Pat's groundbreaking accomplishments was leading the expansion of Oasis Pro's broker dealer capabilities, by spearheading Oasis Pro Market's ("OPM") application with the SEC and FINRA for an alternative trading system (ATS) for digital securities. This breakthrough allowed OPM to facilitate trading of private and registered equities, structured products, and fixed income assets using advanced distributed ledger technology. Recognizing the potential of digital assets, Pat leveraged his experience in private equity and investment banking to broaden OPM's offerings. He also led the development of a platform for blockchain token offerings, including initial digital offerings, and established strategic partnerships.

Previously, Pat founded LaVecchia Capital Group LLC, a merchant bank and broker dealer, and held senior positions at Credit Suisse, Bear Stearns, Legg Mason Wood Walker, and FTN Financial/FTN Midwest where he played key roles in capital markets, public and private finance, mergers and acquisitions, and strategic advisory services.

Pat holds an MBA from The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, majoring in Finance with a concentration in Strategic Planning. He also earned a bachelor's degree, magna cum laude, from Clark University, where he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. Pat has previously served as a Wharton Ambassador.



Brandon Caruana

Brandon Caruana is Tenet's Chief Executive Officer, responsible for leading the bank's strategic vision, fostering continuous innovation, and ensuring the bank's overall success. With a robust track record in the technology and financial sectors, Brandon has been pivotal in building Tenet into a product that clients love and trust.

He has designed, launched, and implemented numerous large-scale technology transformations for several financial services institutions, including major overhauls for legacy banking, insurance, brokerage, trust, and hedge fund businesses. Brandon is also a successful entrepreneur, having built and run multiple million-dollar organizations centered around helping clients leverage technology to better safeguard and deploy their financial capital.

Originally from Canada, Brandon is a long-time resident of the Cayman Islands, where government administrations and regulators have consistently sought his expertise for guidance on the ongoing evolution of the intersection of finance and technology.



Christopher Britton

Christopher Britton joined Lazard in 2019 and co-leads their North American Venture and Growth Banking business from Austin, Texas, advising tech-led fast-growing private companies on their capital raisings.

At Lazard, Christopher has advised on a wide range of transactions across sectors including Smart Pension (fintech), Tessian (cybersecurity), Congenica (health tech), Bulb Energy (consumer/energy), Zymergen (synthetic biology), LumiraDX (health tech), and SystemC (electronic health records) and has strong relationship with investors across the venture and growth asset class.

Prior to joining Lazard, Christopher was at Liberum Capital where he co-led the investment companies team and previously the health care team. He has experience advising on a range of corporate transactions including private fundraises, IPOs, and secondary transactions, including M&A on the Main Market and AIM and across several different sectors. Selected transactions include the IPOs of Glencore, Infinis, Merian Chrysalis, Game Digital, and Shield Therapeutics; secondary fundraises for Shaftesbury and Workspace; and block trades for Elliot Advisers and GI Partners.

Christopher graduated with a first from St John's College, Oxford, and is a qualified solicitor, having worked at global law firm Jones Day.



Nick Christian

Nick Christian is the leader of Fintech and Specialty Finance nationally. He is responsible for helping SVB's clients at various stages of their lifecycle. He works closely with CEOs, CFOs and venture capitalists to help facilitate the growth of the Fintech ecosystem by providing innovative financing solutions, banking solutions, industry insight and advice.

Nick started with SVB in 2008, and before working in his current role, he provided warehouse facilities to leading originators within Fintech. Nick was also previously responsible for SVB's strategic capital group, which offered innovative financing solutions to high-growth technology companies.

Nick graduated with a Bachelor of Science in finance and management (with a minor in economics) from Northeastern University. Outside of work, Nick enjoys spending time with his wife, son and three dogs. Nick is an avid golfer and enjoys every opportunity to hit the golf course and play.



Tara Waters

Tara is a former technologist, law firm partner and Chief Digital Officer with a strong reputation and track record in emerging technology and digital transformation. Her legal practice is focused on supporting start-ups, scale-ups and VCs, primarily in the fintech, digital assets and AI sectors. Tara is considered a thought-leader and leading innovator in the legal sector. She ran the Fintech Legal Labs in London from 2020-2024.

Tara currently operates her own digital transformation consultancy TLW Consulting, supporting businesses and technology companies on strategy, governance and execution, and runs Innovation Esq., a legal innovation content brand. She also sits on multiple start-up advisory boards.



Kapil Chhibber

Kapil Chhibber is the Managing Director of Technology Partnership Development at Bank of America Corporation.

Prior to joining the bank, Kapil held roles in strategic planning and business development with Microsoft Corporation. During his tenure with Microsoft, he was a member of a team responsible for the long-term planning and strategic direction. In addition, he served as a founding member of Office Live, leading the development, planning and negotiation of partnerships across several online services.

He also held roles in venture capital/private equity with Portage Venture Partners and The Parthenon Group. He began his career as an investment banker.

Kapil was a recipient of the 40 Under 40 Award from the San Francisco Business Times in 2014. He currently serves as an executive committee member of the board of directors, and chair of the marketing committee for the Asian Art Museum in San Francisco.

Kapil holds a Master of Business Administration degree in Entrepreneurship & Innovation, Finance and Marketing from the Kellogg School of Management at Northwestern University and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration in Management Information Systems and Finance with Honors from the Eller College of Management at the University of Arizona.



John Short

John Short serves as senior vice president, Technology Partnership Development (TPD) manager in Global Technology.

John focuses on Consumer, Small Business & Wealth Management technology, including digital identity, payments and digital client experience. As part of the TPD team, he is responsible for developing enterprisewide views of the bank's strategic vendor and client relationships, and driving the firm's technology and business strategy.

Since joining Bank of America in 2009, John has held multiple roles in GT&O as well as roles in Global Transaction Services, as a digital product manager, and in Small Business Deposits, as a product manager responsible for reporting and analytics.

He began his career at Verizon Communications as a business intelligence analyst for the FiOS fiber optic network project.

John received a Master of Business Administration degree from the Kenan-Flagler Business School at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and holds a bachelor's degree in marketing and commerce from the University of Virginia.

John lives in Charlotte, North Carolina.



Andrew Siegel

Andrew Siegel is General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer of Galaxy Digital, a digital asset and blockchain firm providing institutions, startups, and qualified individuals access to the crypto economy. Galaxy Digital's suite of financial services spans multiple synergistic business lines: trading, asset management, investment banking, mining, and ventures.

Andrew has more than 20 years of experience advising financial services firms on legal, regulatory, and compliance matters. Prior to Galaxy Digital, he served in a variety of legal and compliance roles at the global asset management and corporate advisory firm Perella Weinberg Partners, including as its General Counsel, Chief Compliance Officer, and Chief Regulatory Officer. Prior to joining Perella Weinberg, Andrew was General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer of Stanfield Capital Partners LLC, an alternative asset manager based in New York. Prior to joining Stanfield, Andrew served in the law division of Morgan Stanley, initially advising its Investment Banking Department. Ultimately, he was the senior attorney responsible for advising Morgan Stanley Investment Management's alternative investment funds, including its private equity funds, venture capital funds, hedge funds, and fund of funds. Previously in his career, Andrew was a corporate attorney at Shearman & Sterling where he focused on public and private mergers and acquisitions, private equity transactions, and joint ventures.

Andrew is admitted to the Bar of the State of New York and has been designated a Certified Regulatory and Compliance Professional by FINRA. He serves on the board of the Association for Digital Asset Markets. Andrew received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, magna cum laude, from Tufts University and a JD, summa cum laude, from Washington College of Law at American University, where he was an editor of *The American University Law Review*.



Sandip Wadje

Sandip Wadje is Managing Director at BNP Paribas with focus on global oversight of Emerging Tech Risks topics covering cloud technology, artificial intelligence, digital assets and threat intelligence.



David Hornik

David is the Founding Partner of Lobby Capital. For more than 25 years, David has helped technology entrepreneurs build transformative businesses. Prior to founding Lobby Capital, he spent 20 years as a general partner at August Capital. David invests in a broad range of software companies, including enterprise application, infrastructure, and SaaS businesses (Splunk, Fastly, GitLab), financial technology companies (Bill.com, WePay, PayNearMe), and consumer services (Evite, Ebates, Popcorn).

David has spent the last two decades building technology communities – along with starting the first venture capital blog, VentureBlog, and the first venture capital podcast, VentureCast, David served as the Tech Curator for the TED Conference in Vancouver, co-created and hosted TEDxStanford, and founded and produces the Lobby Conferences. David received Deloitte's Venture Capitalist of the Year award and has been honored by Forbes Magazine as a member of its Midas List of top Venture Capitalists.

David has an eclectic educational background. He received a BA from Stanford in Computer Music, a Masters of Philosophy in Criminology from Cambridge University, and a JD from Harvard Law School. He teaches courses in entrepreneurship and venture capital at Stanford Business School and Harvard Law School, and serves as a VC Partner at the Harvard Business School.

David lives in Palo Alto and Chelsea with his wife Pamela and their dog Teddy. He has four grown children. Along with serving on the board of GLAAD, a leading LGBTQ rights organization, David is a commissioner of the Smithsonian American Art Museum and is a member of the board of the Stanford Alumni Association.



Alka Gupta

Alka Gupta is a tech entrepreneur, venture investor, and former Fortune 500 exec with experience in digital transformation, fintech, identity, and marketplaces. She has been at the beginning of some of the most significant disruptions and platforms including blockchain, payments, ecommerce, mobile, and search at both early-stage and public companies. Alka has operated and built revenue in B2B and B2C market across more 10 countries in Asia, Europe, and Latin America, building an understanding of internationalization and localization success strategies and tactics.

She is a venture partner at Fin Capital, a \$1.2 billion fintech B2B focused global fund. Previously, she was co-founder and President of GlobalID, a venture-backed identity platform leveraging the blockchain. Prior, she was Head of Marketplaces strategy at eBay/PayPal (Nasdaq: EBAY) focused on new markets during a period of revenue growth from \$9 billion to \$16 billion. Earlier, Alka was at Norwest Ventures-funded Retrevo (Acq. BN), an ecommerce business focused on the consumer electronics buying experience, where she brought in first revenue and strategic partnerships as Head of Business Development. At Lycos (Nasdaq: LCOS; Acq.: TEF,) Alka led, as General Manager, a global suite of products during which time the company grew revenue from \$50 million to \$800 million over four years. Lycos was one of the first and fastest search engines to IPO. As VP of Corporate Development and Strategy, she led strategy, acquisitions, and eventually saw the company through the \$12.5 billion acquisition by Telefonica.

Alka has a commitment to democratization of access and empowering populations via technology. She holds an MBA from The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania and a B.S. (cum laude) from Case Western Reserve University. She is a board director at MoneyGram (Nasdaq: MGI, Compliance and Ethics Committee,) National Bank Holding Corporation (NYSE: NBHC, Audit and Risk Committee, Compensation Committee), Digital Frontiers (Vice Chair), and board advisor at Berkeley SkyDeck and Women in Identity. She is also a regular speaker on digital transformation, fintech, and blockchain. She also spends time as a mentor at Stanford's StartX and expert in residence at The Wharton School's Venture Lab.



Emmanuel Vallod

Emmanuel is an accomplished investment professional with a wealth of experience in financial markets and blockchain technology.

Prior to joining Stake Capital, he led the fintech and blockchain VC practice in the US for early-stage investments at GSR Ventures.

Emmanuel's experience also extends to financial markets, where he previously co-led the systematic securitized team at Blackrock for over 5 years, a \$2B-a-year gross revenue business covering passive and active mandates for retail and institutionals. He co-originated 2 IPOs in that space which have been foundational to fixed-income smart-beta investing. He subsequently founded and ran an enterprise fintech startup prior to joining the VC side of the ecosystem.

Emmanuel teaches Blockchain and Fintech at UC Berkeley and UC San Diego and is an advisor/mentor at UC Berkeley SkyDeck, a high-tech entrepreneurship startup accelerator and incubator program at UC Berkeley.

He holds two master degrees from Ecole Lyon in engineering, and from UC Berkeley in financial engineering.



Ken Deeter

Ken is a partner on the investment team at Electric Capital, focusing on Decentralized Finance, Crypto-enabled Games and Collectibles, and new classes of applications that uniquely leverage the properties of blockchain.

Ken is an experienced software engineer and product manager with a combined 15 years of experience leading teams and building products at VMware and Facebook.

Ken has a Masters in Computer Science from the University of British Columbia, and a Bachelors of Science and Engineering in Computer Science from Princeton University.



Nisa Amoils

Nisa Amoils is Managing Partner at A100x Ventures where she, invests in early stage Blockchain/AI companies. She has been in VC for over 12 years and investing in AI/blockchain since 2016, with multiple unicorns and exits. She previously worked for Dragonfly Capital, Scout Ventures and used to practice securities and corporate law at Anderson Kill. She serves on Boards such as Wharton Entrepreneurship, Global Digital Assets and Crypto Association, GBBC, and public/private companies. She has been named top 50 women of web 3, Business Insider's Women VC's to watch, 2021 systematic leader in asset management, top 100 Women in Fintech, and top 50 global blockchain thinkers. She is an occasional host and commentator at Nasdaq and Forbes. She holds a business degree from the University of Michigan and a law degree from the University of Pennsylvania.



Lex Sokolin

Lex Sokolin is a builder and investor working on the next generation of socio-economics and financial services. He is the Managing Partner and co-Founder of Generative Ventures, an engaged venture capital fund investing in the Machine Economy powered by Fintech, accelerated by AI, and settled on Web3.

Previously, Lex held the roles of Chief Economist, Chief Marketing Officer, and Global Fintech Co-Head at Consensys, a leading Web3 blockchain software company, where he focused on protocol cryptoeconomics, digital assets, public and private blockchains, decentralized finance, and DAOs. Prior, he was the Global Director of Fintech Strategy at Autonomous Research, an equity research firm serving institutional investors, where he covered artificial intelligence, blockchain, neobanks, digital lenders, roboadvisors, payments, insurtech, and mixed reality. Before Autonomous, Lex was Chief Operating Officer at AdvisorEngine, a digital wealthtech platform, and CEO of NestEgg Wealth, a roboadvisor that partnered with financial advisors. Lex started his career in investment management and banking at Barclays, Lehman Brothers, and Deutsche Bank.

Lex has contributed thought leadership to the Wall Street Journal, the Economist, Bloomberg, FT, Reuters, Coindesk, American Banker, ThinkAdvisor, Investment News, among others. His industry newsletter, the Fintech Blueprint, reaches over 180,000 subscribers. Lex earned a JD/MBA from Columbia University and a B.A. in Economics and Law from Amherst College.



Matt Huang

Matt Huang is a venture partner at Draper Dragon. He also served as a general partner to Outliers Fund and Aranya Founders Fund, where he made investments in early-stage companies in Web3, SaaS, and mobile applications. Matt was also an entrepreneur in the cybersecurity space and was a co-founder and COO to Armorize Technologies (acquired by Proofpoint). He later served as a corporate executive at Proofpoint, where he led email security and mobile security lines of products.



George Lewin-Smith

George was previously a VP at Goldman Sachs operating in London and San Francisco. He is now CEO and Co-Founder of Testudo, a startup building new insurance markets for AI risks, enabling institutions to safely and responsibly adopt this technology.



Boris Revsin

Boris Revsin is Managing Partner at Tribe Capital, where he spearheads the firm's crypto investments, incubation, and infrastructure efforts, in addition to leading investments across primary and secondary equity opportunities. Prior to joining Tribe, Boris was the co-founder and Head of Republic Capital, a registered investment adviser with more than \$900 million under management.

Republic Capital is part of the Republic.com group, an organization focused on leveraging web3 to democratize access to capital and investments. At Republic, he led all institutional investments and infrastructure as an Executive Vice President and Head of the Republic Capital team. Republic.com is backed by cryptocurrency giants Galaxy Digital and Binance and investment group Valor Equity Partners.

Boris joined Republic.com in December of 2018 to co-found the Republic Capital subsidiary. The founding team at Republic Capital focused on fintech infrastructure and cryptocurrency investments, making investments into cap-table provider Carta (alongside Tribe Capital), Robinhood's first growth stage rounds, and layer-1 cryptocurrency "Flow" by Dapper. Boris also led growth stage investments into Avalanche, Polygon, and Near Protocol. Boris helped recruit and design the operations and infrastructure team that would eventually support more than \$900 million in assets under management by January 2022.

Prior to Republic Capital, Boris was the co-founder of Game Theory Group, a boutique research desk focusing on cryptocurrency infrastructure. From 2015 to 2017, Boris was the founding President of VentureApp, now known as HqO. From 2009 to 2015, Boris was the co-founder of Breaktime Media, a promotional media platform serving some of the biggest brands in the world, which was acquired in 2015 by advertising leader Connelly Partners. Boris studied computer science at University of Massachusetts, Amherst.



Madeleine McCarthy

Madeleine McCarthy is Head of Strategy and Business Development at Acorns. In her role, she is responsible for partnerships, mergers and acquisitions, and strategic finance initiatives. She spends most of her time talking to companies about potential acquisitions or partnerships to help Acorns achieve meaningful growth for an important mission of empowering all people to save and invest.

Madeleine spent a decade in investment banking, advising primarily technology companies on IPOs, M&A, and private placements. She started her career in investment banking at Morgan Stanley, focused on private equity and technology companies. She then helped to start a boutique investment bank, DBO Partners, led by former Morgan Stanley partners. Most recently, Madeleine was a Managing Director focused exclusively on advising technology companies, with a focus on enterprise software, although she worked on transactions across the technology sector and advised on more than \$70 billion of transactions.

Madeleine graduated from UC Berkeley with a degree in Statistics and a minor in Industrial Engineering, and she was a member of the women's rowing team, which won the national championships. She has a passion for investing and enjoys advising and mentoring people on their company's strategic goals.



Olivier Dang

Olivier is the Head of Laser Digital Ventures and Board Member of Laser Digital Holdings, the crypto arm of Nomura, that is re-defining the frontier of digital finance. As Head of Laser Digital Ventures, Olivier is investing in early-stage transformative businesses in the Web 3 space.

Olivier has been at Nomura since 2010 and held various roles in Corporate Strategy and Business Management in Hong Kong and London. Prior to this, he was a Management Consultant at McKinsey in London and he started his career as an entrepreneur building a mobile internet company in France.

He holds a MSc in Telecommunications from Chalmers University of Technology, an engineering degree from the Institut Supérieur d'Electronique de Paris and a M.B.A. from the London Business School. Olivier is based in Zurich.



Devon Kirk

Devon Kirk is Co-Head and Partner, Portage Capital Solutions at Portage and joined the firm in 2022. Devon is responsible for co-leading growth equity, structured equity and special situations investments in financial technology and financial services companies globally, as well as driving the fund's overall strategy. She is based in Toronto, Canada.

Prior to Portage, Devon spent over ten years at CPP Investments, a C\$539 billion fund as of March 31, 2022. She was most recently Managing Director & Head of Capital Solutions, overseeing financials, special situations and esoteric investments, and a member of the Global Leadership Team. Previously, Devon was a Managing Director in the Direct Private Equity team, where she focused on the financials and TMT sectors. While at CPP Investments, Devon was on the Board of Wilton Re, a Board Observer for Altice USA and served on various firm investment committees.

Prior to joining CPP Investments, Devon was in Corporate/M&A at Linklaters LLP, a London-based multinational law firm, and started her career in M&A at BMO Harris Nesbitt in Chicago.

Devon received a Bachelor of Commerce degree, with Great Distinction, from McGill University and a Juris Doctorate from Harvard Law School. She is also a CFA Charterholder and Chair of the Bishop Strachan School.



Abigail Johnson

Abigail is COO and partner at Sapphire, where she oversees all aspects of Sapphire's operations, including the organization's legal affairs, finance and reporting, corporate compliance, HR, administration, IT, and facilities. She is also passionate about ESG and corporate giving, and leads these firm initiatives. Previously, Abigail was General Counsel of Sapphire.

Prior to joining the firm in 2015, Abigail was an associate at Jones Day, where she practiced in the areas of venture capital, M&A, fund formation, and general corporate and securities matters. She also worked in-house at an early-stage fintech company in the Bay Area prior to joining Jones Day, and, before attending law school, she worked in management consulting at Charles River Associates. Abigail holds a JD from the University of Chicago Law School and a bachelor's degree from Rice University in Civil and Environmental Engineering.



Vic Arulchandran

Vic has been focused on designing and delivering fintech solutions in capital markets, notably with a successful exit from a B2B fintech providing primary capital markets SaaS platforms, and currently leading the digital arm of a traditional market infrastructure.

In addition, Vic participated in many leading accelerator and incubator programmes aimed at funding and scaling, including the Microsoft Accelerator, Accenture FinTech Innovation Lab and JP Morgan In-Residence. Vic developed experience in fundraising, technical sales, product strategy, and innovation marketing.

Prior to banking, Vic completed a PhD in Mathematics and represented the Institute of Mathematics and its Applications (IMA).



Justine Bone

Justine is the Executive Director of the Crypto ISAC. She has served as CISO at Bloomberg, LP, where she founded the information security group, as CEO of offensive security company Immunity, Inc., and as CEO of medical security research firm MedSec, where her work led directly to FDA recalls of implantable medical devices. She has served for years as a member of the Blackhat Review Board and Blackhat's CISO Summit Advisory Board, and as Head of Infrastructure and Information Security at Dow Jones, where Justine led cloud transformation and information security. She has advised several Fortune 50 companies and continues to serve on the Advisory Board of HP. Other companies Justine has advised include Redjack, Decentrweb, Emergent Security, and Drawbridge Networks. In her early career, Justine served as a security researcher at New Zealand's GCSB, trained by the NSA, and then joined the ISS X-Force as a security researcher.



Sekayi Mutambirwa

Sekayi Mutambirwa is the co-founder and CSO of Blam Retail, a Silicon Valley based technology firm creating websites, delivery services for US convenience stores and online lottery. Also making the US lottery available for players outside the US.

She has been mentoring, angel investing and advising fintech and crypto start ups through accelerator programs since 2013, including Accenture Fintech Innovation Lab, Outlier Ventures and R3 Ventures. She is a Venture Partner with Republic who invest in crypto, gaming and real estate.

Sekayi is a board member for Enterprise and Innovation for a UK county and sits on a sub-committee that allocates funding to scale ups developing commerce and creating jobs. She is on the Advisory Board for the African Business Chamber and advises many technology and Web 3 start ups.

She started her career in IT management consulting where she spent a decade in digital banking transformation projects and working in banking innovation labs with fintech founders and FAANGs at Lloyds Banking Group, Barclays and HSBC. She left banking to join decentralized exchange, Energi as their Director of Partnerships and Investments.



Jennie Levin

Jennie Levin currently serves as Head of Regulatory and Compliance at Figment Inc., a protocol staking company. Prior to joining Figment, she worked at DraftKings, where she was responsible for navigating the complex legal and regulatory issues related to sports betting and web3.

From approximately 2010-2019, Jennie served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Northern District of Illinois, where she focused on financial crimes, and has been an adjunct professor in Trial Advocacy at Northwestern Law School for the last 11 years.

Jennie earned her B.A. in Psychology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and her JD from Northwestern University School of Law.



Julian Roooes

Julian Roooes joined Picus Americas as a partner in 2020 and manages the firm's Americas operations out of the Picus office in New York. Prior to joining Picus, he worked for Credit Suisse in the Investment Banking and Capital Markets division in New York and London.

At Credit Suisse, Julian advised financial services and fintech clients on M&A as well as private and public financing transactions. Prior to that, Julian gathered practical experience in private capital, investing, and consulting and obtained an IHK Bankkaufmann degree. Julian graduated from WHU–Otto Beisheim School of Management with a bachelor's degree in Finance and General Management.



Daniel Niklas

Daniel Niklas joined Picus Americas as an investor in 2020 and covers the firm's crypto/web3 investments across the Americas. He has a passion for web3 infrastructure projects (e.g., security and trust, scalability, analytics) as well as for web3 adoption in the gaming space.

Prior to joining Picus, Daniel worked on the Investment Banking Team at Goldman Sachs in San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Frankfurt, where he advised global enterprises and financial investors on strategic transactions in the technology, retail, automotive, renewable energy, chemicals/pharma, and engineering/construction industries. Daniel holds a B.S. in Business Administration from the University of Mannheim in Germany.



Lawrence Wintermeyer

Lawrence Wintermeyer is a globally recognized digital financial advocate and has more than 25 years' experience as an advisor, executive, and board member working with companies from startups to global brands in the financial services, TMT, and energy sectors. He is the former CEO of Innovate Finance, the UK fintech members association, and a co-founder of Global Digital Finance, a not-for-profit promoting fair and transparent markets for digital and crypto assets.

He is experienced in the alternative asset management sector, with a focus on systematic investment management strategies, big data analytics, machine learning, and distributed ledger technologies. Based in London, he is the principal of Elipses, a digital advisory and investment management firm, has an MBA, and sits on several commercial, not-for-profit, and charity boards. Lawrence promotes ethical and sustainable finance policies for a transparent, secure, and quality digital future for everyone, and is a regular *Forbes* contributor.



James Bowater

Best known as a leading commentator, connector, and influencer in the UK blockchain space, James Bowater founded Crypto AM in partnership with London's *City AM* newspaper, launching on June 18, 2018, as a double-page spread. *City AM* to date is the only mainstream publisher to have a dedicated regular section covering AI, blockchain, crypto, and DLT.

The COVID-19 crisis has meant that the newspaper is not being produced and as such, the focus is digital, and CryptoAM.io was launched on March 31, 2020. Crypto AM is supplemented by a number of very active WhatsApp groups, a Telegram group, and numerous networking events. James, in association with *City AM*, organized the inaugural Crypto AM Awards, which took place on March 11, 2022, in London's Canary Wharf. At the event, 12 awards were handed out in front of a packed audience including Alderman William Russell, the Rt Hon Lord Mayor of London.

James is also the founder of the London Blockchain Forum, the leading cross-community platform (Telegram and Meetup) for the UK AI, blockchain, crypto, and DLT industries.

James also serves as an advisor to a number of projects and is equally known for connecting people and companies.



Tarun Sharma

Tarun Sharma has 16+ years of experience in technology with a focus on Web3 and CyberSecurity. He has a deep understanding of Decentralized Applications, Cloud Technology, Application Development, Cyber Security. Before joining Google, Tarun has worked with AWS and IBM in various capacities on their Web3 initiatives. He has also bootstrapped two successful startups in his career. Presently, Tarun is leading partner engineering efforts in Google Cloud focusing on growing CyberSecurity and Web3 ecosystem for Google Cloud partners.



Joshua Riezman

Joshua Riezman is Managing Director and Head of U.S. Legal and Compliance for GSR, a leading crypto market making and trading firm. Previously, Joshua was Assistant General Counsel for product and regulatory matters at Circle, a global financial technology firm that provides crypto-native payments and treasury infrastructure. In his prior traditional finance career, Joshua represented global financial institutions with respect to trading, clearing and custody in the securities, commodities and derivatives markets as in-house counsel and in private practice.

Joshua received his JD from the Fordham University School of Law and his BA in international affairs from the George Washington University.



Benoit Bosc

Benoit Bosc is Global Head of Product at GSR, a leading crypto market maker, and trading firm founded in 2013. He started investing in crypto in 2017 and made the full-time switch in 2021, since then developing a passion for the digital asset class. Prior to joining GSR, Benoit was head of global crude derivatives trading at Goldman Sachs in New York after a 15-year international career in Sales and Trading.



Jason Best

Jason is based in San Francisco, CA and is a Managing Partner of Vectr Fintech. He has invested across A.I., blockchain, and fintech in the US, Asia and MENA regions. He co-authored the crowdfund-investing framework used in the JOBS Act to legalize securities-based crowdfunding in the US, by changing 80-year-old securities laws. He provided US Congressional testimonies, and attended the White House, Rose Garden ceremony for President Obama to sign The JOBS Act into law. Over 7,000 companies, across all 50 states, have raised over US\$2B via this legislation.

Following the JOBS Act, he formed Crowdfund Capital Advisors (CCA) to advise governments, regulators, financial institutions, and entrepreneurs on fintech policy and regulation. CCA has worked in 45 countries in 7 years. Jason is an Entrepreneur in Residence at UC Berkeley's Center for Entrepreneurship and Technology.

Prior to Jason's fintech work he led strategy and growth at Kinnser Software, a 2-time Inc-500 company (one of the 500 fastest growing private companies in the US) which was acquired by Insight Partners.

FINACCELERATE INFLUENCERS



Manoj Karnani

Manoj Karnani leads Accenture's fintech portfolio and strategy in the West and has spent 20+ years working with financial services and rapid-growth tech and fintech companies. He is passionate about the fintech space and the opportunity to serve as an advisor to help drive growth and scale. View Manoj's LinkedIn [here](#).



Ben Brown

In his role as Managing Director, Ben Brown supports Accenture's work with next-gen financial technology platforms and hypergrowth financial services challengers in North America across all four services (strategy consulting, interactive, technology, and operations). Ben has experience working with large and small banks, technology companies, merchants, and private equity investors. He has also been an advisor to fintech accelerators like the CFSI's Financial Solutions Lab, SVB's Commerce.Innovated, and 500 Startups. View Ben's LinkedIn [here](#).



Steve Payne

Steve Payne is a co-founder of Architect Partners, a boutique fintech/digital assets M&A and strategic financing firm. Last year Architect advised on two of the top three crypto M&A transactions (FairX acquired by Coinbase | Diem acquired by Silvergate) and the top European crypto M&A transaction (Trustology acquired by Bitpanda). Prior to Architect, Steve has been a senior operating executive, a venture investor, and a tech dealmaker in Silicon Valley, most recently as Managing Partner of the Ignite Group, a trans-Pacific venture capital partnership with funds in Silicon Valley and Tokyo. Before that, he headed New Products at Sega and was EVP of Product Development and Marketing at SegaSoft.

Architect Partners connects young, fast-growing companies with world-class partners for business development, investment, or M&A. Steve has completed more than a hundred venture financings and acquisitions transactions.

In his spare time, Steve mentors startup CEOs and works with several accelerators to give back to tech and social innovators. He's been a CEO mentor and/or business plan judge for the One Harvard New Venture Competition, the Startup World Cup, the Global Social Ventures Competition and others. Steve holds an engineering degree from Washington University in St. Louis and an MBA from Harvard. He has been a Director of two dozen private and non-profit boards.



Elliot Chun

Elliot Chun is a Partner at Architect Partners, a crypto-dedicated M&A and strategic financing advisory team. In 2022, Architect advised on two of the top three crypto M&A transactions (FairX acquired by Coinbase | Diem acquired by Silvergate) and the top European crypto M&A transaction (Trustology acquired by Bitpanda).

With 20+ years in Capital Markets and full-time in Crypto since early 2018, Elliot brings a wide range of experience across asset classes (Digital Asset Markets, Equities, FX, Real Estate), across functions (Investment Banking, Buy-Side, Consulting, Sell-Side), and across company sizes (Bank of America, Perella Weinberg Partners, Architect Partners).

Prior to Architect Partners, Elliot founded and collaborated on a few ventures in Blockchain and other emerging technologies, built an Alternative Asset Management Platform for a leading boutique investment bank, consulted on various initiatives for major investment banks, and started in Cash Equity Sales & Trading.



Anthony Woolley

Anthony Woolley is an entrepreneurial banking and financial services technology executive with expertise in capital markets, investment banking, trade finance, and wealth management. He has a particular interest in fintech, digital securities, and the transformation of wholesale banking.

Having collaborated with a multitude of fintechs and high-growth companies in his capacity as a banking CIO, Anthony recently took the opportunity to work independently with a small number of high-potential companies that he really believes in. These business have some common characteristics: highly credible leadership teams, a strong vision, disruptive business models, and the ability to deliver.

Anthony joined Schrodgers Investment Bank in 1994, where he led their Corporate Finance Technology department. Subsequent mergers with Salomon Smith Barney and Citibank saw him progress in various front-office technology leadership roles. He managed the CitiFX ecommerce and pricing technology program in London during a period of dramatic transformation of the high-frequency trading and auto-hedging of foreign exchange products. He left Citi in 2009 to lead the FX etrading program at HSBC before joining Société Générale, where he headed the UK Fixed Income, Currencies, and Commodities Technology department. He was appointed the UK Chief Information Officer in 2013, and in 2017, he was given the opportunity to set up a new innovation function working at a group level.

Anthony is a regular presenter at industry conferences and has become a recognized thought leader on the application of blockchain technology to the regulated financial services industry.



Elliot Han

Elliot Han is an accomplished investment executive with deep expertise at the intersection of technology, finance, and digital assets. He brings global experience across both traditional and frontier markets. As Chief Investment Officer of C1 Advisors LLC and a member of the firm's Sponsor, he also serves on the Investment Committee, driving strategy and execution across key verticals.

Since September 2023, he has been a Partner at PGP Capital, a boutique investment and merchant bank focused on financial technology and digital assets. Mr. Han also serves as an Independent Director of Phunware Inc. (NASDAQ: PHUN), a leading provider of enterprise AI cloud solutions for mobile platforms.

Previously, Mr. Han was a Managing Director at Cantor Fitzgerald, where he led FinTech, Blockchain, and Digital Assets Investment Banking, and headed Technology Equity Capital Markets. Prior to that, he was Head of FinTech and Consumer Tech Capital Markets at the NYSE and held senior investment banking roles at Goldman Sachs, overseeing technology sector coverage across the UK and Emerging Markets.

He was part of the management team at the Argon Group, a pioneering blockchain technology and advisory firm. Earlier in his career, Mr. Han was a corporate lawyer at Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer and began his career at Credit Suisse/CSFB.

Since 2018, he has been a Managing Partner at Sunkist ARC Partners, an investment firm focused on high-growth technology and digital asset opportunities.

Mr. Han holds a B.A. in Biological Sciences and Classics from Columbia University, a Master's in Classics from Oxford University, and a B.A. (Honours) and M.A. in Law from Cambridge University, where he was a Cambridge Overseas Trust Scholar.



Mark Edwards

Mark Edwards is co-founder of TNG Capital Partners based in New Jersey. In this role Mark partners with founders, CEOs and boards to help them scale their companies by leveraging the team's significant experience in high growth businesses, product development, M&A, governance & fundraising. TNG Capital Partners is an active participant, often taking operational roles and equity positions.

Previously Mark was in the storage network sector: during his tenure as the number two executive at QLogic Corp, he helped to steer the company from a \$50M to a \$10B market cap along with a place on the NASDAQ-100. Following this, Mark ran a venture capital fund with exits in the US, Australia, NZ, UK and Israel and delivered a top-quartile return. Mark has driven more than \$2B in equity transactions during his career. He has lived and worked in the US, Europe and APAC. He holds a B.Sc. (Hons.) Business Studies from the Bayes Business School at City, University of London.



Steven S. McNew

Steve McNew provides strategic advice and expert services for companies in the blockchain and digital assets sector and corporations looking to innovate with these technologies. He has led more than 80 cryptocurrency investigations and has offered testimony as a digital assets expert 18 times in the United States and once in Australia.

Mr. McNew is the global lead of the Blockchain and Digital Assets practice leading engagements focused on crypto-native entities involved in bankruptcy, restructuring, M&A, due diligence, investigations, strategy and innovation. He has led large-scale blockchain technology implementation projects including smart contract development combined with AI and IoT devices and provided forensic investigations expertise into disputes involving various forms of cryptocurrencies.

In addition to Mr. McNew's crypto assets and blockchain experience, he leads large-scale engagements for clients in data governance and data privacy, has authored an enterprise search patent application and has led a myriad of engagements related to emerging technologies and digital forensics for 32 years.



Vanessa Fernandes

Vanessa Fernandes is responsible for the design and implementation of the token as a service and custody platform while directing Itaú's long-term vision to create a full-service digital assets capability for cryptocurrencies and tokenized assets.

As a former CTO at Itaú Unibanco, Vanessa developed international expertise in originating/launching and managing successful global business IT strategies. Her activities have included the launch of the emerging technologies practice; the research and development of distributed ledger (blockchain), quantum computing, and 5G technologies; and connecting big tech, fintech, and startup ecosystems in the United States with Itaú business and IT areas in Brazil.



Preston Fischer

Preston Fischer is a digital risk and innovation expert focusing on blockchain and digital assets. Mr. Fischer brings more than 20 years of experience in emerging technology, innovation and digital risk management across consultancies, technology organizations, and public affairs. His expertise helps clients address risk while driving advancement.

Mr. Fischer has extensive experience in architecting digital infrastructure, shaping go-to-market strategies, and launching solutions that transform business processes and mitigates digital risk. This includes blockchain-based solutions that improve supply chains, enable transparent information sharing and decentralized finance initiatives. He also applies his e-discovery, digital forensics, and cybersecurity background to support clients involved in cryptocurrency-related disputes and investigations.

Prior to joining FTI Consulting, Mr. Fischer was Vice President of Strategy and Finance at Connected DMV, where he supported regional cooperation to generate economic development and technology innovation. He has also held managing director and VP roles at Alnair Group, Aon, and Navigant, leading work across cybersecurity services, market strategy, risk mitigation, and data management. As a longstanding researcher in Austrian economics, banking systems, and digital currencies, Mr. Fischer's depth of expertise provides clients with insight and strategic guidance while implementing emerging technologies.



Sam Bodick

Sam is Cofounder of Veil Capital, a deep fundamental, protocol lifecycle investment firm. He previously led firmwide trading and on-chain participation at Polychain Capital.

During his tenure, Sam was one of the most active on-chain participants in the industry, deploying and securing more than \$3B in decentralized finance. Prior to Polychain, Sam worked for a quantitative spinout of Nuveen Asset Management. Sam began researching, and investing in, cryptoassets in 2013.



Nick Andrews

Nick Andrews's career has been in the financial services sector and has included being on the board of a large multidisciplinary securities broker/dealer, Head of Credit at the UK banking subsidiary of a Japanese securities house, and many years in senior credit and compliance roles.

Nick is the founder and Managing Director of MPAC Limited, one of the preeminent compliance and regulatory companies in London; CEO of EddieUK Ltd., a digital investment bank; Director of Supermoney Ltd, a blockchain tech company; co-founder of a crypto trading entity; and an independent non-executive director, chair of the Audit Committee, and chair of the Nominations Committee at the UK subsidiary of one of the largest banks in America (Wells Fargo).

He speaks at various conferences and panels and is an occasional guest lecturer on topical financial sector issues at two universities. With a keen interest in history and the City of London, Nick was the Master of The Worshipful Company of Pattenmakers in the year 2015 to 2016.



Angelo Chan

Angelo Chan is an upcoming Partner with Stake Capital.

Angelo Chan first became involved in cryptocurrencies in 2015 as a Series C investor in Coinbase (Nasdaq: COIN). He was formerly a managing director at BlockFi, a leading crypto asset lender with institutional backing from investors that include Valar Ventures, Galaxy Digital, Fidelity, SoFi and Coinbase Ventures. At BlockFi, Angelo was responsible for structuring bespoke financing transactions collateralized by cryptocurrency as well as cryptocurrency-based derivatives such as over-the-counter (OTC) swaps. He also launched new initiatives for crypto native products related to staking and decentralized finance (DeFi), led the transaction team for debt financings with traditional financial institutions, and helped formulate BlockFi's business response to regulatory challenges.

Angelo's work with cryptocurrencies builds on his background in traditional finance, in particular the structuring and execution of cross-border financing transactions with complex tax, accounting and regulatory considerations. Between 2004 and 2012, Angelo worked at Barclays Investment Bank in London and New York as a member of the Structured Capital Markets Group, and subsequently at C12 Capital, where he served as a director of the hedge fund manager spun off from Barclays in 2009. In these roles, he helped originate, structure and execute over USD 40bn of proprietary transactions with counterparties in Europe, US, Latin America and Asia over a diverse range of underlying assets such as listed equities, sovereign debt, corporate bonds and asset-backed securities.

Angelo was subsequently a director in the Structured Equity Finance Team at Bank of America Merrill Lynch, which provided clients with leverage, stock lending, hedging and other related prime brokerage services. There, he had particular responsibility for covering financial institutions and multi-national corporations in Latin America, and was closely involved in the development of new financial products and transactions.



Mohamed Yousef

Mohamed Yousef is an accomplished legal professional with over 25 years experience covering technology, corporate and commercial as well as investment and finance related transactions across diverse geographic regions. Mohamed's private practice experience includes working with leading international law firms and senior in-house and General Counsel roles working with investment companies owned by GCC Sovereign Wealth Funds including a Qatar based venture capital and private equity investment company investing in emerging technologies around the globe and other sovereign companies investing in food security assets and technologies.

FINACCELERATE INFLUENCERS



Santiago Velez

Santiago Velez is a practitioner in the digital asset and distributed ledger/blockchain space, co-founding and advising several companies.

Santiago is the co-founder and division lead of Research & Development at Block Digital Corporation, which focuses on deploying decentralized edge computing. He's also Vice President of R&D at Sindric Solutions, a web3 enterprise software development company that has built and advised on products for Fortune 50 companies like Nike, and organizations like the NCAA, using web2 cloud in conjunction with DLT technologies.

Santiago has a degree in Nuclear Engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute and more recently completed the UPenn Wharton School of Business's Economics of Blockchain and Digital Assets certification program. When not spending time with his three daughters, Santiago contributes to the Real Vision platform to perform deep-dive long-form interviews with up-and-coming leaders in the web3 space. Lastly, he's a vigorous Twitter poster on all things crypto and a mouthpiece for anyone with interesting ideas.



Geoff Clauss

Geoff Clauss is Blockdaemon's Chief Revenue Officer and has 20+ years of fintech sales leadership experience. Geoff has an extensive background in trading networks, legacy financial infrastructure services, and managing successful teams. He is passionate about developing teams that rise to the top of a competitive marketplace and knows the importance of happy and successful customers. Geoff is keen to help even more institutions access and unlock quality blockchain data with Blockdaemon.



Rajeev Bamra

Rajeev Bamra is the head of DeFi & Digital Assets strategy and operations at Moody's, he leads a dedicated digital finance team equipped with extensive expertise in the dynamic digital ecosystem and a profound understanding of traditional finance infrastructure. His team's primary focus lies in meticulously exploring the intersection of these two domains, specifically in identifying and analyzing emerging risks stemming from their integration. Through comprehensive research and evaluation, he aims to develop a resilient strategy that effectively addresses the distinctive challenges and opportunities arising from this convergence.



Adam Sand

Adam Sand leads the legal team for Blockdaemon Inc., one of the leading blockchain infrastructure and staking technology providers. Previously, Adam served as General Counsel for Ciitizen Corporation, a startup providing health records technology for rare diseases that was sold to Invitae Corporation, and before that as General Counsel and VP of Business Development for Shopkick, which was sold to Retail Trax Inc. Prior to joining Shopkick, Adam was GC of SK Planet, Inc., the U.S. arm of one of South Korea's largest companies; was lead counsel for Ancestry, where he helped launch the AncestryDNA testing service worldwide; and worked for international law firms such as Pillsbury Winthrop and Jones Day, where he represented companies such as Apple, AT&T, and Chevron.

When he isn't facilitating deals for Blockdaemon, you will find Adam playing with his kids, teaching web3 legal issues to future lawyers, or learning to create Ethereum smart contracts.



Matt Enriquez

Matt Enriquez currently serves as Senior Corporate Counsel at DraftKings, Inc., where he is responsible for legal and regulatory advice concerning the company's web3 ventures. He is interested in exploring the ways in which web3/crypto intersects with highly regulated spaces such as gambling/sports betting and banking.



Frederic Dalibard

Fred Dalibard is Global Head of Blockchain at Groupe BPCE. Since 2015, Fred has occupied several roles related to innovation, blockchain, and ebusiness within Natixis's Corporate & Investment Banking division, part of Groupe BPCE. Fred represents Groupe BPCE/Natixis on the board of directors of R3 (since 2017) and was the chairman of the board of R3 between 2018 and 2021.

Fred was also a board director of Komgo from its creation in 2018 until mid-2022. After one year at Dexia Credit Local, Fred joined Natixis in 2002. Fred then occupied several positions, mostly in front office and quantitative roles, dealing with structured credit assets and also financing assets. Fred began his career in 1998 as a consultant with Arthur Andersen Management in Paris.



Jamie Finn

Jamie Finn is the co-founder and President of Securitize, Inc., the leading platform for issuing digital securities. Jamie has a background as both an operating entrepreneur and corporate executive, with more than 20 years' experience. Prior to Securitize, Jamie worked at Telefonica, o2, Ericsson, and more recently AT&T in Big Data Product Innovation, as well as startups including Kontera, A.Ki, Thumbplay, Zingy, and others in a variety of senior roles. He has participated in more than \$700 million worth of transactions on the buy and sell side in tech M&A over the course of his career. Jamie earned a bachelor's degree in Business Management from Babson College.



Anthony Bassili

Anthony Bassili, CAIA, is Head of Asset Allocators for Coinbase Institutional Americas. In this role, he is responsible for advising North America's largest financial institutions on investment solutions related to digital assets, web3, and crypto strategies. His clients include government and corporate pension plans, consultants, multi-manager platforms, outsourced Chief Investment Officer platforms, foundation/endowments, and family offices.

Prior to joining Coinbase, Anthony served as Head of Pension for iShares. There he led BlackRock iShares' efforts in expanding the investor toolkit for allocators to include ETFs across public and private asset classes, including ESG and niche or thematic exposures. Prior to leading the iShares business, he spent more than a decade leading business development and investment strategy for the Global Trading and Transition Management platform at BlackRock.

From 2015 to 2020, Anthony also served as Chapter Head for the Chartered Alternative Investment Analyst ("CAIA") San Francisco Bay Area chapter, leading more than 400 CAIA members in connecting and pursuing financial literacy across alternative investment strategies. Over this period, he served, on behalf of BlackRock, on the board of directors for the Bay Area Council and the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce. He focused on local policy and tax issues across the State of California. He holds NASD series 3, series 7, series 63, and series 24 licenses.



Ehsan Haque

Ehsan Haque currently acts as Head of UK Legal & Compliance and global Legal & Compliance lead for Trading at Laser Digital, a Nomura Group company. He has over twenty years experience working as in-house counsel for a variety of institutions including top-tier investment banks, broker-dealers, and fintech startups. He has spent the last 10 years in leadership and senior leadership roles. After a career in advertising, Ehsan trained at Slaughter and May in London before working as a global markets/equities sales and trading lawyer for Deutsche Bank, RBS Global Banking and Markets, and Nomura, where he was part of the senior management team of the EMEA legal department and led the Equities legal product coverage in EMEA supporting Nomura's equities sales and trading businesses. More recently, Ehsan was the first General Counsel at Lendingblock, an institutional cryptocurrency borrowing and lending platform and General Counsel at Alphaswap, an alpha capture and investment management platform. He is ex-Global General Counsel at Hamilton Capital Holding Limited and ex-EMEA General Counsel at Amber Group. Ehsan also acts as an advisor to various fintech companies and accelerator programs. He is also active in mentoring junior BAME professionals in the legal and finance sectors.



Aniket Bhardwaj

Aniket Bhardwaj is the Global Crisis Management Lead and Vice President of Global Crisis Management & Cybersecurity Services at Charles River Associates, a leading global consulting firm that provides economic, financial, and strategic expertise to major law firms, corporations, accounting firms, and governments. Based in Toronto, Bhardwaj oversees Charles River Associates' Global Cybersecurity and Incident Response Investigations, Forensics Services practice, where he provides cyber intrusion investigations, crisis management, board advisory, large-scale digital transformation, and post-incident recovery services to clients worldwide in the financial services, private equity, and manufacturing sectors, to name a few.

With over 20 years of experience, Bhardwaj has a deep specialization in crisis management and response, helping organizations rapidly contain and recover from cyber incidents. He also advises on risk and resilience, ensuring that businesses not only recover but also fortify their defenses to withstand future threats. His expertise extends to cybersecurity and digital transformation, where he leads post-crisis engagements to help organizations rebuild and enhance their security posture by aligning technology, people, and processes to prevent recurrence, in addition to working with Private Equity clients within Mergers & Acquisitions Cyber Due Diligence.

In addition to his work in operational crisis management, Bhardwaj serves as a trusted Board-level advisor, helping leadership teams improve their cybersecurity preparedness and navigate increasingly complex regulatory environments. His experience spans threat intelligence, attack surface identification, security hygiene, and compromise discovery, positioning him as a recognized leader in cybersecurity.



Brian Trunzo

As head of BD, North America at Polygon Labs, Brian is responsible for onboarding IP holders, large enterprises, developers and brands into the Polygon blockchain's ecosystem. Having started his professional career as a financial regulatory attorney at Cadwalader, he pivoted, becoming a leading voice in men's fashion which resulted in two successful exits within the luxury space. Upon those exits, Brian went on to lead WGSN, the authority in trend forecasting, in growing their North American consulting business. In leading up to his tenure at Polygon Labs, Brian built a metaverse consultancy to advise legacy brands on how to leverage their IP in the metaverse while heading up America's largest men's fashion trade show at Informa Markets.



Rory Clark

Based in Silicon Valley, Rory Clark is a Senior Vice President in Citi's Venture Banking group, which sits within Citi Commercial Bank. Between the United Kingdom and the United States, with roles spanning Corporate and Commercial Banking, Credit Risk, and Cash Management, Rory has been with Citi for more than 10 years.

As a Global Relationship Manager in the Venture Banking group, Rory is responsible for identifying, onboarding, managing, and enabling the growth of key tech disrupters, with a focus on fintech and SaaS. Rory identifies the current and future needs of his clients and works in tandem with product specialists from across the bank to design global solutions for his clients—spanning debt, FX, cash management, investment banking, capital markets, and wealth management.

In between his two stints with Citi, Rory also held a senior sales role at UK-based Ebury, a fast-growth fintech focused on cross-border payments and FX.



Christopher Grieco

Chris Grieco is the General Counsel of Rain, a fintech startup dedicated to helping Web3 teams use their digital assets in the real world. Previously, Grieco served as General Counsel at Fei Labs, a decentralized stablecoin project.

Before his work in DeFi, Grieco held several high-level positions within the Federal Government. His most recent public service culminated with a senior position at the Department of Justice, where he served as Associate Deputy Attorney General, advising the Deputy Attorney General and the Department on various technological issues. His work at the Department included helping draft the 2020 Google Antitrust complaint and leading the Department's review of Section 230, among other tech issues. He also served as Associate White House Counsel in the White House Counsel's Office where he led the confirmation of multiple federal judges including Justice Neil Gorsuch, and as a federal prosecutor in the Eastern District of Virginia. Prior to his time in the executive branch, he served on Capitol Hill where he led multiple high-profile investigations as Counsel for the Judiciary Committee. Grieco clerked for Judge Edith Clement on the Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit and graduated from Stanford Law School.



Maximillian Jungreis

Maximillian Jungreis is the Head of Crypto and Digital Assets at Plug and Play Tech Center, the world's largest early-stage investor, accelerator, and corporate innovation platform. Maximillian works with more than 560 global corporate partners from financial services, brand and retail, and supply chain to accelerate their web3 adoption journeys by leveraging Plug and Play's innovation ecosystem of over 50,000 startups across 46 cities.

Maximillian Jungreis has more than seven years of experience in crypto as an operator, researcher, and investor. Prior to leading Plug and Play Crypto, Max spent two years at Stanford University as a founding member of the Future of Digital Currency Initiative, a multidisciplinary research effort focused on CBDCs (central bank digital currencies). Before that, he served as Head of Partnerships for Blockchain Labs (fka YosemiteX), one of Korea's largest blockchain companies, which today services more than 25 million users through their front-facing application, Coov.



Ben Hoxie

Ben Hoxie serves as a venture analyst on the Vectr Fintech Partners team. As an analyst, Ben works on deal sourcing, investment due diligence, market research, and financial analysis. Prior to joining Vectr, Ben served as a product management intern at Fidelity Labs in Boston, where he worked on multiple startup teams to help them design and develop innovative fintech products. Ben graduated from Dartmouth College with a Master of Engineering Management and a Bachelor of Engineering. Ben also graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Physics and a minor in Economics from Bowdoin College.



Leann Pinto

Leann Pinto is a global leader in IP strategy, dealmaking, corporate development and the application of AI and distributed ledger technology to intangible assets. Her experience spans pharma to tech, and start-ups to large corporations. Leann successfully litigated blockbuster drug patent cases, and most recently acted as the top three decision-maker in IBM's IP business group and launched an AI-driven blockchain-based platform for financial management of IP assets as the CEO of IPwe. She is a visionary yet pragmatic leader, hands-on collaborator and strategic business advisor. Leann has been consistently recognized as a top IP strategist worldwide, having spoken at WIPO and the USPTO on intangible asset finance and IP tokenization. Leann is currently focused on developments of data and AI as new classes of IP assets for monetization, as well as the expanding use of trade secrets in IP portfolio strategy.

Leann's undergraduate degree is from the University of Toledo College of Pharmacy and holds a Juris Doctor from Seton Hall Law School, both magna cum laude.



Ali Rod Khadem

Ali Rod advises web3/blockchain startups and funds on strategy, partnerships, fundraising, deal-sourcing, and legal/compliance. He works across sectors, including defi, gaming, municipal and industrial metaverse, and tokenization of real-world assets. Outside of his advisory roles, he is a professor and published author, and has 20+ years of experience as a lawyer and investment banker. He's held senior roles at Macquarie Capital and Westport Innovations, and began his career at Idealab, DLA Piper, and Linklaters. He holds a PhD from Harvard University and a JD from UC Berkeley. He's lived in 8 countries and 4 continents, and has working knowledge of Mandarin Chinese, Arabic, Farsi, and French. He's been responsible for project portfolios in multiple sectors across North America, the Middle East, Asia, Africa, and Australia. Much of his experience has involved international strategy and contract negotiations, especially in scenarios involving cultural or political sensitivities.



Olaf Ammermann

Olaf Ammermann started his finance career at Goldman Sachs working in a variety of equity volatility trading and multi-asset structuring roles in London and Hong Kong. He then moved to Toronto where he implemented a trading risk framework at Bank of Montreal and later joined TD Bank as a senior structured products and equity volatility trader.

After 15 years working in traditional finance roles, Olaf transitioned to the digital asset space initially as a business analyst and quant trader at Nomisma where he designed and implemented crypto derivatives trading platforms. In parallel Olaf setup a Crypto option trading venture, running electronic market making strategies on centralised crypto derivatives platforms.

Nomisma became part of Amber Group in 2021 and Olaf took on the role of Managing Director for the UK & Europe. Olaf is now the Managing Director of Islington Consultants and helps and advises Start-Up and established companies in the FinTech, Capital Markets and Digit Asset space on strategy, developing new businesses and how to navigate the trading and regulatory world of Digital Assets.

Olaf has developed a deep knowledge of financial markets, derivatives trading, trading platforms & exchanges, business development and the associated regulation, risk and compliance aspects. He holds a Masters Degree from Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Joint Program in Electrical Engineering & Business Administration.



Michael Bijesse

Michael Bijesse has been at the forefront of crypto and digital assets. While at Lukka, Michael led several pioneering projects in the crypto SaaS and DaaS space. He played a key role in building the sales team that increased revenue by 550%, which contributed to a Series E investment round of \$110 million, valuing the company at more than \$1.3 billion. At Amazon, he managed cross-departmental sales projects. Driving revenue has been a consistent focus throughout his 10+ year career. As U.S. Director for Crystal Blockchain, he led the go-to-market strategy for their AML tool and worked closely with U.S. government agencies to address pig butchering scams. Most recently, as head of West Coast digital assets for Houlihan Capital, he focused on valuations and SPACs. Michael started his career in financial media at Euromoney Institutional Investor. He is currently pursuing his MBA at the Haas School of Business at Berkeley.



Stephen Moskowitz

Stephen Moskowitz is the Founder & CEO of Pyxis Search Partners, a domain specialist recruiting agency that focuses on both technical and non technical search for high growth emerging technology companies. Prior to founding Pyxis Search, Mr. Moskowitz was the Co-Founder and Chief Operating Officer of Pyxis Capital Management, a cryptoasset venture hybrid fund backed by prominent investors, including ParaFi Capital. Prior to co-founding Pyxis Capital, Mr. Moskowitz was a Managing Director at a \$100 million AUM+ single family office that was an early investor in the crypto space. Mr. Moskowitz has also served as an Advisor for ParaFi Capital and is currently an Advisor to Blockchain Founders Fund. Mr. Moskowitz received a BA and JD from Emory University (Boisfeuillet Jones Scholar), and an MBA in finance from The New York University Leonard N. Stern School of Business.



ABRADAT KAMALPOUR

Partner

- Financial Markets
- Venture Capital & Emerging Companies

San Francisco

+1.415.875.5860

akamalpour@jonesday.com

Abradat Kamalpour has extensive experience in fintech, blockchain structured finance, and debt capital markets. He has been at the forefront of using blockchain-based technologies and cryptocurrencies on various transactions, including building out blockchain-based exchanges, tokenization platforms, and digital asset issuances, as well as the creation and legal build-out of cryptocurrencies, crypto-based payment systems, and related app offerings, which includes acting for a multibillion-dollar-backed private equity group on an international crypto exchange and cryptocurrency offering that will be made available across various international markets. Abradat is the Architect of the Jones Day FinAccelerate program (<https://www.finaccelerate.com/>), which was named by the *The National Law Journal* in its 2023 list of Legal Technology Trailblazers.

Abradat has acted on and structured numerous complex structured financing transactions and market leading financings for global financial institutions, including Merrill Lynch, J.P. Morgan, Fortress, Deutsche Bank, Credit Suisse, Nomura, and Goldman Sachs.

Abradat has written extensively on fintech-related legal matters, including articles on cryptocurrencies and digital assets for the Talking Legal section of *CityAM* (a leading London financial newspaper). Abradat was also the founder and architect of a fintech accelerator program for another international law firm in London.

HONORS & DISTINCTIONS

Who's Who Legal Thought Leaders: Fintech & Blockchain (2021-2024)

Winner of Best FinTech lawyer and law firm: London FinTech & Sukuk Summit

Best Lawyers: recognized for banking and finance law (2017-2024)

EDUCATION

University of Cambridge (Executive Education Program in Corporate Governance 2013); Monash University (LL.B. Hons. 1997); RMIT University (B.A.S. in Construction Management Hons. 1994)

LANGUAGES

Farsi

BAR ADMISSIONS

California and Solicitor of the Senior Courts of England and Wales



JAYANT W. TAMBE

Partner

- Financial Markets
- Securities Litigation & SEC Enforcement
- Global Disputes
- Technology
- ESG (Environmental, Social & Governance)

New York

+1.212.326.3604

jtambe@jonesday.com

Jay Tambe is leader of Jones Day's Financial Markets Practice and has more than 30 years of experience advising financial institutions on litigation matters involving the most complex products, transactions, and issues. Many of his cases involve cross-border disputes, and he is well-versed in navigating international discovery and judgment enforcement.

With a deep understanding of the banking and financial markets, Jay advises on a broad range of cross-border financial transactions, regulatory matters, investigations, and litigation. Clients routinely seek his advice on matters involving sensitive and emerging issues. Jay has litigated significant structured products and derivatives matters for Citigroup, Wells Fargo, JPMorgan Chase, and for other Global Systemically Important Banks (GSIBs), including precedent-setting litigations. He led the team that prevailed in the very first appeal before the International Swaps and Derivatives Association's (ISDA) external review panel for credit derivatives. He has represented U.S. and European GSIBs in multiple antitrust class actions across financial products. Given his extensive experience, Jay routinely provides prelitigation advice on documentation and risk mitigation and is a frequent speaker at the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association (SIFMA) and other industry groups.

Jay has earned numerous awards and recognitions for his legal achievements. *Chambers* has described Jay as "really great at strategic thinking and brings a big-picture perspective that others lose in the weeds." In addition, Jay is a member of the Firm's Advisory and Partnership Committees. He is also active in the community, including serving on the board of the American India Foundation.

HONORS & DISTINCTIONS

New York Law Journal — 2020

Distinguished Leader Award

Chambers USA (2013-2024), where clients say that Jay is "a brilliant problem solver with a unique ability to quickly organize dedicated teams and transform complex issues into succinct solutions" and "able to solve the most complex problems with ease and expediency"

Legal 500 (2019-2024)

P.R.I.M.E. Finance — "Complex Financial Products Expert"

EDUCATION

University of Notre Dame

(J.D. cum laude 1992);

University of Toronto (B.A. in Economics with honors 1989)

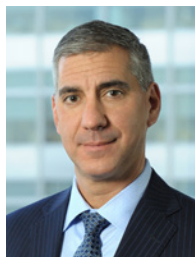
LANGUAGES

Hindi

BAR ADMISSIONS

Illinois and New York





BRETT P. BARRAGATE

Partner

- Financial Markets
- Business Restructuring & Reorganization
- M&A
- ESG (Environmental, Social & Governance)
- Private Credit

New York

+1.212.326.3446

bpbarragate@jonesday.com

Brett Barragate is chair of the Americas region of Jones Day's Financial Markets Practice. He has represented financial institutions, direct lenders, corporations, private equity firms, and hedge funds as principal outside counsel for more than 20 years in all aspects of transactional and commercial financing-related matters. His domestic and cross-border experience for lenders and borrowers includes the negotiation and issuance of senior and subordinated debt facilities, the purchase and sale of financial assets, as well as restructuring and bankruptcy matters related to financial assets. Brett's industry experience includes automotive, energy, environmental, fintech, industrials, medical devices, oil and gas, telecommunications, and the internet.

Brett is a frequent speaker in the area of banking and finance; his most recent presentations are related to such topics as cross-border financings, DIP financings, intercreditor agreements, and other financing matters.

HONORS & DISTINCTIONS

Chambers USA — recommended for banking & finance nationwide (2010-2019)

Chambers Global (2012-2019) — banking & finance

The Legal 500 US (2016-2019) — finance: bank lending and commercial lending

Best Lawyers in America (2006-2019)

Ohio Super Lawyers (2009-2020)

New York City's Best Lawyers (2016-2018) — banking and finance law

EDUCATION

Cleveland State University (J.D. magna cum laude 1996; Law Review);
University of Hartford (B.A. in Politics and Government cum laude 1992)

BAR ADMISSIONS

New York, Ohio, and U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Ohio



DAVID C. KIERNAN

Partner

- Business & Tort Litigation
- Antitrust & Competition Law
- Technology
- ESG (Environmental, Social & Governance)

San Francisco/Silicon Valley
+1.415.875.5745 / +1.650.739.3917
dkiernan@jonesday.com

David Kiernan is an accomplished trial lawyer who has litigated antitrust and unfair business practice cases, class actions, public nuisance, climate change, joint venture disputes, and bankruptcy matters throughout the United States. He has represented clients in the tech, energy, health care, consumer brand manufacturing, digital advertising, and railroad industries and routinely counsels clients on antitrust and competition law issues related to licensing, interoperability, refusal to deal, discounting, bundling, and pricing.

David recently led the defense of Sutter Health, a hospital system in Northern California, in an antitrust class action alleging that Sutter restrained competition by allegedly forcing insurers to include certain hospitals in their provider networks and forbidding them from steering patients to other hospitals. After a month-long trial, the jury returned a unanimous defense verdict and rejected plaintiffs' claims for \$1.2 billion in post-trebled damages. In addition, David led the defense of Marathon Petroleum in obtaining summary judgment in an antitrust class action in which plaintiffs alleged that Marathon and other major refiners conspired to reduce supply and thus inflate the price of gasoline and sought \$72 billion in treble damages.

His other recent matters include representing the American Bankers Association in an antitrust class action challenging standard setting for financial identifiers; a tech company in a class action challenging licensing restrictions and lack of interoperability; a consumer brand manufacturer in a public nuisance action seeking to hold manufacturers liable for marine plastic pollution; and a fossil fuel company in climate change litigation. David also has a wealth of experience in antitrust class actions alleging "no-poach" agreements between competing employers.

David is also head of litigation for the San Francisco Office.

HONORS & DISTINCTIONS

BTI Consulting Group Client Service All-Star (2025)

Forbes: America's Top 200 Lawyers (2024)

Named as a Thomson Reuters Stand-out Lawyer (2024-2025)

Chambers USA: Antitrust, California

Lawdragon: honored as one of the "500 Leading Litigators in America" (2022-2026), and one of the "500 Leading Global Antitrust & Competition Lawyers" (2025)

Daily Journal: "Top Leading Commercial Litigators" (2025), "Top Antitrust Lawyers in California" (2020, 2022, 2024), and "Top 100 Lawyers in California" (2022, 2025)

Law360 MVP: Competition (2022)

EDUCATION

University of California, Hastings College of the Law (J.D. magna cum laude 2001; Order of the Coif); Yale University (B.A. 1994)

BAR ADMISSIONS

California

CLERKSHIPS

Law Clerk to the Honorable Norman H. Stahl, United States Court of Appeals, First Circuit (2002-2003)

JONES DAY TEAM



KAREN P. HEWITT

Partner

- Business & Tort Litigation
- Investigations & White Collar Defense
- Cybersecurity, Privacy & Data Protection

San Diego

+1.858.314.1119

kphewitt@jonesday.com

Karen Hewitt is a former United States Attorney and an experienced trial lawyer who has successfully litigated hundreds of cases in federal court for more than three decades. She is nationally recognized as a leading practitioner conducting internal investigations involving criminal and civil issues. Karen has represented major public and private companies in internal investigations on highly sensitive topics, crisis management, compliance, contested proceedings before regulatory agencies, and “bet-the-company” litigation. In the matters Karen leads, she routinely reports to senior management, the board of directors, the audit committee, or a special committee and develops the comprehensive strategy for the company to protect and defend itself from a range of legal and regulatory risks. Major technology, retail, medical device, and pharmaceutical companies have turned to Karen to lead their most important investigations involving cutting-edge issues.

In her litigation practice, Karen also leads the defense of companies in some of their most important complex business litigation. Karen’s litigation practice focuses on possible violations of federal law, including the Anti-Kickback Statute, the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, the Controlled Substances Act, and the False Claims Act.

Karen is Partner-in-Charge of Jones Day’s California Region, and she is a co-chair of Jones Day’s Task Force on Generative AI.

Before joining Jones Day, Karen served as the United States Attorney for the Southern District of California, where she focused on national security, border security, cyber and intellectual property crime, white collar and financial crime, civil fraud, violent crime, and narcotics enforcement.

Karen is a former president of the National Association of Former U.S. Attorneys and a member of the Board of Visitors of the University of San Diego School of Law.

HONORS & DISTINCTIONS

Chambers USA (Band 1: Litigation: white-collar crime & government investigations in California, 2023)

Global Investigations Review: “Top FCPA Practitioners” (2022) and “Leading California Commercial Litigator” (2023)

Daily Journal: “Top 100 Lawyers in California” (2012-2021) and “Top 100 Women Lawyers in California” (2013-2022)

Best Lawyers in America (2015-2023)

The Legal 500 United States (2018-2023)

Lawdragon “500 Leading Litigators in America” (White Collar, Investigations, Business Litigation, 2024)

National Law Journal: “Regulatory and Compliance Trailblazer” (2015)

National Diversity Council: “Top 50 Women Lawyers in the United States” (2016)

Recipient of honors for exceptional legal work from the U.S. Departments of Justice, Homeland Security, State, and Health and Human Services

EDUCATION

University of San Diego (J.D. 1989); University of California, Berkeley (B.A. in Rhetoric 1986)

BAR ADMISSIONS

California, U.S. Supreme Court, U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Ninth and Federal Circuits, and U.S. District Courts for the Southern, Central, and Northern Districts of California

GOVERNMENT SERVICE

Service with the United States Department of Justice (1992-2010), including Trial Attorney with the Civil Division, Constitutional and Specialized Torts Section in Washington, D.C. (1992-2000); Assistant U.S. Attorney (2000-2006); Executive Assistant U.S. Attorney (third-in-command in U.S. Attorney’s Office, 2006-2007); Interim United States Attorney (2007); and United States Attorney (2007-2010)



AARON L. AGENBROAD

Partner

Labor & Employment

San Francisco

+1.415.875.5808

alagenbroad@jonesday.com

Aaron Agenbroad serves as Partner-in-Charge of the San Francisco Office and has represented companies in labor and employment disputes for more than 25 years. His practice includes all aspects of labor and employment law, with a focus on representing corporate clients in complex labor and employment disputes.

In the employment arena, his practice includes litigation of California wage and hour class actions and collective actions, California discrimination cases under FEHA and CFRA, and federal discrimination cases, including ADEA, FMLA, ADA, and Title VII claims. Aaron has experience with all phases of litigation and has tried multiple cases to verdict in bench and jury trials.

In his traditional labor work, Aaron's experience includes representation of management in NLRB representation and unfair labor practice proceedings, leading collective bargaining negotiations, and defending labor arbitrations on behalf of companies in the technology, media, health care, and manufacturing industries. He has bargained dozens of initial and successor collective bargaining agreements. His NLRB election experience includes successful results in certification and decertification elections involving technology companies, retail facilities, newspapers, casinos, and health care institutions.

Recent successes include full defense verdicts as lead counsel in trials on behalf of R.J. Reynolds and the Port of Oakland; the resolution of statewide wage and hour class actions on behalf of global retail, technology, and refining companies; and leading successful collective bargaining negotiations in the health care and media industries. Representative clients include Google, IBM, Neiman Marcus, Chevron, R.J. Reynolds, and Stanford.

HONORS & DISTINCTIONS

The Best Lawyers in America
(2019-2025) — employment law:
management

California Super Lawyers (2020-2021,
2024-2025)

Daily Journal, "Top Labor & Employment
Lawyers" in California (2020-2024)

Lawdragon — Leading Corporate
Employment Lawyers of America
(2021-2025)

Legal 500 United States (2012-2017,
2020-2022) — recommended attorney:
labor & employment litigation, labor-
management relations, and labor &
employment disputes (including collec-
tive actions)

BTI Client Service All-Star (2018)

Fellow, College of Labor & Employment

EDUCATION

Georgetown University (J.D. 1997);
University of Washington (B.A. 1992)

BAR ADMISSIONS

California and U.S. District Courts for the
Central, Eastern, Northern, and Southern
Districts of California

JONES DAY TEAM



BRIAN G. SELDEN

Partner

- Business & Tort Litigation
- Technology

Silicon Valley

+1.650.687.4142

bgselden@jonesday.com

Brian Selden's practice focuses on disputes or commercial transactions where technology, information, knowledge, or other intangible assets are a significant factor. For more than 20 years clients have turned to Brian for his ability to find business solutions to complex problems involving software, health care delivery, supply chain disruptions, audits, antitrust, and competition. Brian maintains an active docket in California state and federal courts and before arbitral panels, including disputes between competitors or related to existing business models and the litigation of the partnership and alliance rights of sophisticated technology, industrial, and health care concerns, as well as emerging companies. He serves as Partner-in-Charge of Jones Day's Silicon Valley Office.

Brian's representations typically sit at the forefront of the evolving technology and commercial marketplaces. He guided SAP on commercial and intellectual property risks associated with three of the five largest hosted-services transactions in history, Concur (\$8.3 billion), Ariba (\$4.3 billion), and SuccessFactors (\$3.4 billion), and he has been heavily involved in the consolidation of the semiconductor industry, including the \$14.8 billion sale of Linear Technology to Analog Devices. Brian has advised dozens of clients on software license audits and compliance. He also negotiates and drafts agreements involving the transfer, use, and sharing of intellectual property; offers guidance on research and development (R&D), licensing, strategic alliance, joint venture, and privacy risks; and helps clients manage open source software portfolios.

Brian is a regular speaker on subjects including information security, legal ethics, and electronic discovery.

EDUCATION

University of Michigan (J.D. magna cum laude 1995; Order of the Coif); Princeton University (B.A. cum laude 1992)

BAR ADMISSIONS

California and Ohio

CLERKSHIPS

Law Clerk to the Honorable Joseph P. Kinneary, United States District Court, Southern District of Ohio (1995-1997)

**DEAN C. BACHUS**

Partner

- Employee Benefits & Executive Compensation
- Tax

Chicago

+1.312.269.4220

dbachus@jonesday.com

For nearly 20 years, Dean Bachus has focused his practice on executive compensation, benefits, and Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) transactional matters. His experience covers tax planning and structuring compensation and benefit arrangements in domestic and international business acquisitions and dispositions. He also advises clients in connection with all compensation and employee benefit-related aspects of corporate transactions, reorganizations, financing arrangements, and public offerings, including negotiating, reviewing, and drafting transactional documents, supervising due diligence, and identifying issues arising under, and assisting in complying with, the Internal Revenue Code, ERISA, applicable labor laws, federal securities laws, and applicable exchange regulations.

Dean's practice includes designing, negotiating, and drafting equity-based compensation plans (including stock option, restricted stock, and phantom equity arrangements); cash bonus plans; employment, consulting, termination, severance, and change-in-control contracts; and restrictive covenant agreements, including noncompetition, non-solicitation, and confidentiality arrangements.

Dean also advises clients on the structure, implementation, and administration of nonqualified employee compensation plans, programs, and arrangements, including the associated ERISA, federal tax, and securities implications. He also provides counsel to management teams and boards of directors on executive compensation and change-in-control arrangements in connection with corporate transactions and reorganizations and consults with shareholders, senior executives, and boards of directors on transactional strategies.

Dean has represented major private equity funds and publicly traded companies in hundreds of acquisitions and dispositions, focusing on benefit and compensation issues that arise in such transactions, as well as the design and maintenance of incentive programs and facilitating management turnover.

HONORS & DISTINCTIONS

"Rising Star," *Illinois Super Lawyers*
(2013 and 2014)

EDUCATION

The University of Chicago (J.D. 2004);
Western Illinois University (M.A. in Cello
Performance & Pedagogy 1997); University
of Iowa (B.A. in Mathematics 1995; B.M. in
Cello Performance with high distinction
and honors in Music 1995)

BAR ADMISSIONS

Illinois

JONES DAY TEAM



JENNIFER D. BENNETT

Partner

Intellectual Property

San Francisco

+1.415.626.3939

jenniferbennett@jonesday.com

Jennifer Bennett advises global technology companies in high-stakes, fast-paced complex litigation involving patents, trademarks, trade secrets, and copyrights. She has a significant track record in jury trials and as the managing lawyer in infringement cases in U.S. District Courts in California, Delaware, and Texas as well as in cases before the United States International Trade Commission (USITC). Jennifer's practice focuses on biopharmaceuticals, medical devices, machine learning, electronics, telecommunications, LED technology, plants, and software applications.

Prior to joining Jones Day in 2022, Jennifer obtained successful outcomes for clients in many cases, including a six-patent case pertaining to optical networking involving wavelength selective switches (WSS) and reconfigurable optical add-drop multiplexer (ROADM) line cards; a multinational consumer electronics company in a patent infringement case involving sophisticated controllers used in video game consoles and equipment for managing motion detection and control systems; patent infringement litigation involving a plant patent on a table grape variety; trade secret litigation involving insurance claim adjudication; patent infringement litigation between competitor medical device companies involving minimally invasive biopsy products; and patent infringement litigation involving information encryption technology.

Jennifer has written and spoken extensively on patent infringement-related topics.

EDUCATION

Santa Clara University (J.D. 2004);
University of Southern California (B.S. in
Biological Sciences 2000)

LANGUAGES

Spanish

BAR ADMISSIONS

California, U.S. District Court for the
Northern District of California, and regis-
tered to practice before the U.S. Patent
and Trademark Office

**AMIE COLWELL BRESLOW**

Of Counsel

Tax

Washington

+1.202.879.3727

abreslow@jonesday.com

Amie Colwell Breslow practices across a broad range of U.S. federal tax matters, including cross-border mergers, acquisitions, spin-offs, and other divisive strategies and restructurings, and certain specialized tax issues, such as excise taxes and blockchain and digital assets including conducting digital currency transactions and conversions, token offerings, and different investment and entity structures. She has extensive experience working with large multinational companies on managing and executing complex, multi-step reorganizations and divestitures, developing workable policies at an industry-wide level in response to global economic policy initiatives, and changes in foreign tax and corporate law. As a former in-house tax counsel and government attorney, Amie blends substantive tax knowledge with an understanding of corporate objectives and first-hand insights on the guidance and publications process.

Prior to joining Jones Day, Amie was a Senior Tax Counsel at General Electric. Prior to joining GE, she served in the Office Associate Chief Counsel (Corporate), where she worked on published guidance, controversy matters, private letter rulings, and tax policy matters concerning corporate and international tax transactions and issues.

Amie is an American College of Tax Counsel Fellow and a member of the Tax Coalition, ABA Section of Tax (Corporate [officer] and Foreign Activities of U.S. Taxpayers [FAUST] [chair 2021-2023, vice chair 2019-2021] Committees), and International Fiscal Association (IFA). She is a frequent speaker at the ABA, IBA, IFA, GW/IRS Conference, DC Bar, Federal Bar, International Tax Institute, and TEI on a multitude of transaction topics including cross-border 304 transactions, tax-free and taxable M&A transactions, and digital currency.

HONORS & DISTINCTIONS

International Fiscal Association (IFA),
Women in IFA Network (WIN)

ABA Tax Section — Foreign Activities of
U.S. Taxpayers: Chair (2021 to 2023) and
Vice Chair (2019 to 2021)

PepsiCo Chairman's Award — 2005

Fellow, American College of Tax Counsel

EDUCATION

American University (Certificate of Legal
Studies in Anti-Corruption Law 2018);
Brooklyn Law School (J.D. 1998); Syracuse
University (B.S. in Accounting 1995)

BAR ADMISSIONS

District of Columbia and New York

GOVERNMENT SERVICE

Attorney-Advisor, Office of Associate Chief
Counsel (Corporate), Internal Revenue
Service (2009-2015)

**NATHAN S. BROWNBACK**

Of Counsel

Financial Markets

Washington

+1.202.879.3476

nbrownback@jonesday.com

Nathan Brownback's practice focuses on the regulation of domestic and foreign banks, with particular emphasis on regulations under the Dodd-Frank Act, including the Volcker Rule. He also advises on bank holding company regulations, bank affiliate transactions, merchant banking rules, state commercial lending and money transmitter licensing issues, and other legal issues relating to fintech and cryptocurrency firms.

Nathan has extensive experience advising on bank regulatory and investment activities involving the Bank Holding Company Act, Federal Deposit Insurance Act, and Federal Reserve Act and their implementing regulations as well as other federal and state banking and financial services laws, including those relating to brokered deposits and issues relating to digital assets firms. He also has advised clients on bank CD (certificate of deposit) and credit union share certificate programs, federal funding received under COVID relief programs administered by the Treasury Department such as the CARES Act and the American Rescue Plan Act, as well as laws and compliance pertaining to the Commodity Exchange Act, Bank Secrecy Act, and the Investment Advisers Act.

Prior to receiving his law degree, Nathan was an economic research analyst, first in the private sector and subsequently for a regional Federal Reserve Bank.

Nathan has spoken on the Volcker Rule, international banks in the United States, and brokered deposits issues. He has written frequently on these topics and on issues relating to fintech, blockchain, and cryptoassets.

EDUCATION

Columbia University (J.D. 2012; Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar); American University (B.S. in Economics magna cum laude 2003; Phi Beta Kappa)

BAR ADMISSIONS

District of Columbia and New York

CLERKSHIPS

Law Clerk to Judge Richard T. Morrison, U.S. Tax Court (2012-2014)

GOVERNMENT SERVICE

Research Analyst, Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia (2006-2009)



TIMOTHY CURRY

Partner

- Financial Markets
- M&A
- Technology
- Private Equity
- Venture Capital & Emerging Companies

Silicon Valley/San Francisco
+1.650.739.3987 / +1.415.875.5721
tcurry@jonesday.com

Tim Curry has represented start-up, emerging growth, and public technology companies in public offerings, venture capital (VC) and growth equity financings, and mergers and acquisitions for more than 30 years. He also represents leading VC firms in growth equity financings, as well as investment banks in public equity offerings. He regularly advises boards of directors and executive teams in complex corporate governance and public reporting matters.

Tim represents a broad range of technology companies at all growth stages, including Five9 (Nasdaq), a leading provider of cloud-based contact center solutions; Monolithic Power Systems (Nasdaq), a leading provider of power management solutions; Medallion Arts, a blockchain platform connecting music artists and their fans; Minted, a crowd-sourced design company; OneStream, a leading provider of corporate performance management software and KKR portfolio company; Pattern, a leading e-commerce accelerator; Electric Era, a provider of electric vehicle charging systems; Hims&Hers (Nasdaq), a leading health and wellness company; and Forum Mobility, a provider of electric trucking solutions. He also represents VC funds, growth equity funds, strategic investors, and investment banks, including GreatPoint Ventures, Raine Group, KKR, and Koch Disruptive Technologies.

Tim has served on the board of directors of Special Olympics, Northern California for more than 10 years and was chair of the board from 2020 through 2023. He has spoken at business and legal conferences on initial public offerings (IPOs), venture capital, and corporate governance and has been quoted in *The Wall Street Journal* and other publications regarding IPOs and Silicon Valley.

HONORS & DISTINCTIONS

The Best Lawyers in America (2016-2026)

Northern California Super Lawyers
(2012-2013)

Named a leading partner in the field by
The Legal 500 (2025)

Director and Member of Executive
Committee, Special Olympics Northern
California

EDUCATION

University of California, Los Angeles
(J.D. 1990); University of California,
Berkeley (B.A. in Political Economy with
honors 1987)

BAR ADMISSIONS

California

GOVERNMENT SERVICE

Securities and Exchange Commission,
one of only two UCLA law students
chosen for SEC externship program
(Spring 1989)

**MICHAEL DAWSON**

Partner

Financial Markets

Washington

+1.202.879.3723

mdawson@jonesday.com

Michael Dawson advises banks, payments firms, and fintech firms in areas of high-risk where the regulatory environment is volatile and complex. Michael has many years of experience at the U.S. Treasury and in business, and he offers practical, legal guidance on a range of financial regulatory topics, such as sanctions, anti-money laundering, consumer protection, crisis management, cryptocurrency, and the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in financial services. He has worked with firms and regulators in the Americas, Europe, Asia, and the Middle East and also has an extensive background in designing compliance and remediation programs.

Early in his career, Michael served for more than 16 years as a senior leader of one of the world's premier financial regulatory consulting firms, where he helped grow the firm from 8 employees to more than 800 employees. He served in various leadership roles at the company, including founding its office in the United Kingdom, its software arm, and its managed services business, and he oversaw the integration of the company's offices in Beijing, Hong Kong, Singapore, Sydney, and Tokyo when the company was sold to IBM.

Michael is coauthor of "Regulatory Approach to AI in Financial Services — What to Expect in 2025," which was published by the Financial Markets Association in *Market Solutions* (Volume 34, Number 2, June 2025).

HONORS & DISTINCTIONS

Recognized multiple years in *The Best Lawyers in America* and the *IFLR1000* for financial technology law

EDUCATION

Yale University (J.D. 1993); Cambridge University (M.Phil. in Economics 1990); Williams College (B.A. in Economics 1988)

BAR ADMISSIONS

District of Columbia

CLERKSHIPS

Law Clerk to Judge James L. Oakes, U.S. Court of Appeals, Second Circuit (1993-1994)

GOVERNMENT SERVICE

Served with the U.S. Department of the Treasury (2001-2004) in the following positions: Deputy Assistant Secretary for Critical Financial Infrastructure Protection and Compliance Policy Department and Senior Advisor to the Deputy Secretary

JONES DAY TEAM



LORI HELLKAMP

Partner

Tax

Washington

+1.202.879.3787

lhellkamp@jonesday.com

Lori Hellkamp provides creative solutions to complex tax issues by taking a practical approach to problem solving. Her practice spans a broad range of areas, including corporate and international tax, M&A, and tax controversy. Lori's practice has a particular emphasis on international tax planning, counseling, and compliance as well as tax-efficient structuring for cross-border transactions and investments. Lori has extensive experience helping clients address issues arising from foreign (inbound) investments into the United States and in the fintech sector. She also regularly advises clients on tax and structuring issues related to cryptocurrencies and other digital assets.

Lori has counseled public and private companies facing a wide variety of multijurisdictional tax issues, both internally and before the Internal Revenue Service. She has helped clients obtain favorable private letter rulings and advance pricing agreements, resolve disputes at Appeals and in Competent Authority proceedings, and navigate complex tax treaty, transfer pricing, withholding, FIRPTA (Foreign Investment in Real Property Tax Act), anti-boycott, and other international tax issues.

Lori is a board member of the George Washington University-IRS International Annual Tax Institute, an adjunct professor of international taxation at American University, and the former chair of the ABA Tax Section's Committee on U.S. Activities of Foreigners & Tax Treaties (USAFTT). She frequently speaks and publishes articles on various international and corporate tax topics. Lori also is a member of the ABA's task force on cryptocurrency, a coauthor of the book *Blockchain for Business Lawyers*, and the hiring partner for the Washington Office of Jones Day.

EDUCATION

Georgetown University (LL.M. in Taxation 2011); Duke University (J.D. 2008); University of Oxford (M.Phil. 2005); Rice University (B.A. magna cum laude 2002)

BAR ADMISSIONS

District of Columbia, New York, and U.S. Tax Court

GOVERNMENT SERVICE

Legal Externship, Overseas Private Investment Corporation (2008)

**KELSEY A. ISRAEL-TRUMMEL**

Partner

Labor & Employment

San Francisco

+1.415.875.5831

kitrummel@jonesday.com

Kelsey Israel-Trummel has more than a decade of experience representing employers in labor and employment matters, including wage and hour, discrimination, and wrongful termination cases. She has developed particular experience in complex wage and hour class actions and representative lawsuits filed under California's Private Attorneys General Act (PAGA) statute. She regularly practices in state and federal courts at both the trial court and appellate levels. She also represents clients in agency proceedings, including before the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) and Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC). In addition, Kelsey counsels corporate employers on a variety of employment issues, including wage and hour policies, employee handbooks, investigations, and best uses of workplace technologies.

Kelsey's experience includes successful dispositive motions at the pleading and summary judgment phases, a track record of avoiding or significantly limiting the scope of class claims, and appellate wins. She was a key team member in one of the first PAGA cases to go trial in California. Recent engagements include: winning a published decision from the California Court of Appeal on novel regular rate issues; obtaining dismissal of a statewide PAGA claim alleging work-from-home expenses related to COVID; securing judgment in an alleged joint-employer's favor in a wage and hour class and PAGA action; securing and enforcing an arbitration award forcing a union to withdraw a statewide ballot initiative limiting hospital executive compensation; and representing several hospitals in challenges to union-backed municipal initiatives seeking to cap the compensation health care providers may receive from insurers.

HONORS & DISTINCTIONS

Named as a *Legal 500* "Rising Star" in 2019 and 2020

Named a *Law360* "Rising Star" in 2023

EDUCATION

Harvard University (J.D. cum laude 2011); Rice University (B.A. magna cum laude 2007)

BAR ADMISSIONS

California

CLERKSHIPS

Law Clerk to: Judge Michael Chagares, U.S. Court of Appeals, Third Circuit (2012-2013) and Judge William B. Shubb, U.S. District Court, Eastern District of California (2011-2012)

JONES DAY TEAM



PETER A. JULIAN

Partner

- Antitrust & Competition Law
- Technology

San Francisco

+1.415.875.5864

pjulian@jonesday.com

Peter Julian represents clients across a range of industries in complex antitrust law matters. His global practice includes representing companies in M&A transactions, civil and criminal government investigations, and in private antitrust litigation. Peter represents clients before antitrust authorities in the United States, the European Union, and across the world.

He has extensive experience advising clients on a broad range of antitrust issues, including merger clearance, competitor collaborations, pricing strategies, and how to manage antitrust risk in daily business activities. He also has deep experience counseling clients on antitrust compliance.

Peter also defends clients in complex antitrust class action litigation, including briefing and motion practice, pretrial discovery, and trial preparation in federal and state forums.

Peter has extensive experience across a range of industries and has developed particular experience working with technology companies. He has worked with clients in the digital economy, semiconductors, social media, life sciences, health care, manufacturing, chemicals, energy, and other industries.

Peter also maintains an active pro bono practice, with particular focus on immigration issues.

EDUCATION

Northwestern University (J.D. with honors 2010; Order of the Coif; Managing Editor, Northwestern University Law Review; Searle Center Fellow, Northwestern Law Scholars Program); University of New Mexico (B.S. in Pure Mathematics with honors 2001; Kappa Mu Epsilon)

BAR ADMISSIONS

California

CLERKSHIPS

Law Clerk to Judge James O. Browning, U.S. District Court, District of New Mexico (2010-2011) and legal extern to Magistrate Judge Sidney Schenkier, U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois (Spring 2009)



CARL A. KUKKONEN III

Partner

- Intellectual Property
- Technology

San Diego/Silicon Valley
+1.858.314.1178 / +1.650.687.4178
ckukkonen@jonesday.com

Carl Kukkonen is a respected leader in the legal field who has been acknowledged four times as one of the *IAM Strategy 300: World's Leading IP Strategists*. With more than 25 years of experience, he has been pivotal in assisting clients in developing strong, litigation-ready patent portfolios, effectively reduce risks through invalidity and freedom-to-operate analyses, and adeptly plan and execute litigation strategies, including petitions for *inter partes* reviews (IPRs). Moreover, Carl conducts due diligence for financing and M&A transactions, offers valuable support in IP partnering agreements, and provides guidance on copyright and brand protection matters especially with regard to artificial intelligence (AI) technologies.

As a member of the Firm's AI team, Carl's proficiency spans high-technology, life sciences, and energy sectors. His high-tech experience encompasses AI technologies such as machine learning, natural language processing (NLP) with large language models, and computer vision. Carl has further assisted clients with computer architectures, cybersecurity, robotics, enterprise software, cloud computing, blockchains, telecommunications, IoT (Internet of Things), semiconductors, nanotechnology, optical devices, virtual/augmented reality, and signal/image processing.

In life sciences, Carl has handled cases related to *in silico* drug discovery, computational biology, digital health, wireless health care, medication delivery, patient monitoring, respiratory equipment, incubators, infusion pumps, physiological sensors, ophthalmic technologies, and orthopedic devices.

Carl's experience in energy technology includes battery and other energy storage technologies, electrical control systems, fuel cells, utility-scale energy distribution, energy efficiency technologies, water and wind turbines, process and atmospheric sensors, solar panels and control systems, and water purification systems.

HONORS & DISTINCTIONS

IAM Strategy 300: World's Leading IP Strategists (2022-2025)

IAM Strategy 300 Global Leaders (2024-2025)

The Best Lawyers in America: patent law, copyright law, and intellectual property litigation (2018-2026)

Southern California Super Lawyers (2015-2021), including named among the Top 50 Attorneys in San Diego four times

Twice named among Top 25 Portfolio Managers/Patent Prosecutors in California, *Daily Journal*

Named Top Attorney eight times by the *San Diego Daily Transcript*

EDUCATION

The George Washington University (J.D. with honors 1998); Harvey Mudd College (B.S. in Engineering 1995)

BAR ADMISSIONS

California and registered to practice before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

CLERKSHIPS

Legal extern to Judge Randall R. Rader, U.S. Court of Appeals, Federal Circuit (Fall 1997)

GOVERNMENT SERVICE

Legal extern to Senator Joseph R. Biden Jr., U.S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary (Fall 1996)



KA-ON LI

Partner

- Intellectual Property
- Technology
- Health Care & Life Sciences
- Venture Capital & Emerging Companies

Silicon Valley

+1.650.739.3916

koli@jonesday.com

Ka-on Li is the co-leader of Jones Day's IP Transactions team. She works closely with clients to successfully structure and execute IP, technology, and commercial transactions to achieve high-stakes business objectives. She is an experienced IP and technology lawyer whose practice focuses on transactions for clients active in the technology, life sciences, data, food and beverage, retail, financial, apparel, consumer, telecommunications, media, and entertainment fields. Ka-on drafts and negotiates contracts involving R&D (research and development), collaborations, outsourcing, licensing and commercialization, manufacturing and distribution transactions, software and cloud-related matters, and infrastructure projects. She also advises clients on IP compliance issues, including those arising from the use of open source, AI (artificial intelligence), and big data.

Ka-on has solid experience in assisting emerging and established businesses in U.S. and overseas markets. She has represented software and life science companies at all stages, from formation to exit. She has drafted and negotiated some of the most significant collaborations and strategic agreements and alliances between industry entrepreneurs, service providers, acquirers, and investors. Much of her experience involves working on deals involving the commercialization of products driven by the convergence of multiple technologies, such as digital health, fintech, and AI-driven platforms.

She has acted for clients on a full range of M&A, private equity, and financing transactions involving domestic and foreign IP and technology assets on the buy-side and the sell-side.

Ka-on's deep and diverse experience, including her secondment at Australia's largest telecommunications provider, enables her to bring a pragmatic, business-oriented and collaborative approach to her work and negotiations.

HONORS & DISTINCTIONS

Named "Leading Partner," Patents: Licensing, *Legal 500* (2024 and 2025)

Named "Top Intellectual Property Lawyer in California," *Daily Journal* (2024)

Named in "Top Women Lawyers in California" list, *Daily Journal* (2020)

"Top 40 under 40" honoree, *Daily Journal* (2020)

Named in "Women of Influence" list, *Silicon Valley Business Journal* (2020)

"Rising Star" in technology, *Law360* (2019)

"40 under 40" honoree, *Silicon Valley Business Journal* (2019)

EDUCATION

University of Sydney (LL.B. Hons. 2006; B.A. in Modern History and Sociology 2004); University of California, Los Angeles (Exchange program/study abroad, 2003-2004; Dean's Honors List)

LANGUAGES

English (native) and fluent in spoken Cantonese

BAR ADMISSIONS

California

CLERKSHIPS

Law Clerk to the Honorable Justice George Alfred Palmer, Equity Division, Supreme Court of New South Wales (2006-2008)



JONES DAY TEAM



JERRY C. LING

Partner

- Cybersecurity, Privacy & Data Protection
- Business & Tort Litigation
- Investigations & White Collar Defense

San Francisco

+1.415.875.5890

jling@jonesday.com

Jerry Ling has earned multiple distinctions for his work representing multinationals in complex disputes and leading internal investigations involving the most significant forms of corporate liability and misconduct. Jerry frequently directs forensic investigations into international data breach and ransomware events and advises management and boards of public companies on strategies for data breach incident response, notice, and disclosure. He also has assisted multiple public companies in obtaining declinations from government authorities after self-disclosing alleged violations involving the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA), the False Claims Act (FCA), and inadequate cybersecurity resilience.

Jerry was previously based in China and has more than 20 years of experience counseling multinationals in China on internal investigations, cross-border litigation, and enforcement actions by PRC (the People's Republic of China) authorities, including on PRC anti-bribery, unfair competition, and cybersecurity laws.

Jerry also leads risk assessments and counsels clients with respect to compliance with U.S. and international laws on corruption and internal controls, AI (artificial intelligence) and GenAI (generative AI) technologies, cybersecurity resilience, and data privacy, including the California Consumer Privacy Act (CCPA) and PRC cross-border data transfer, state secrets, and personal information protection laws.

Jerry provides pro bono services to asylum applicants escaping violence in Central America and to domestic abuse victims in the Bay Area.

HONORS & DISTINCTIONS

The Legal 500 Asia Pacific — top-tier recommendation: China: dispute resolution

Chambers Asia-Pacific — recognized in the area of corporate investigation, where he attracts plaudits from numerous sources, with one revealing that “he’s thorough, he’s practical, he’s a very good investigator, and he’s client-centric,” while another simply says, “I think he’s fantastic”

EDUCATION

Harvard University (J.D. magna cum laude 2003); Dartmouth College (A.B. in Biology magna cum laude 2000)

LANGUAGES

Mandarin

BAR ADMISSIONS

California; Hawaii; U.S. District Courts for the Central, Eastern, Northern, and Southern Districts of California and District of Hawaii; and U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit

CLERKSHIPS

Law Clerk to the Honorable Richard R. Clifton, United States Court of Appeals, Ninth Circuit (2003-2004)



BRIAN D. MCDONALD

Partner

- Insurance Recovery
- Business & Tort Litigation

San Francisco

+1.415.875.5762

bdmcdonald@jonesday.com

Brian McDonald has represented policyholders in major coverage disputes for more than 20 years and has helped clients secure hundreds of millions of dollars in insurance recoveries for extraordinary losses. He represents policyholders in litigation and negotiations of insurance claims with a focus on cyber liability and directors and officers (D&O) liability.

Brian has counseled policyholders on a wide variety of cyber insurance matters, including defense of privacy breach claims and class action litigation for disclosure of personally identifiable information and confidential business information; internal data breach investigations; notification and mitigation costs resulting from data breaches; defense of regulatory proceedings related to data breaches and system interruptions; costs to remediate and restore lost data and damaged computer systems; ransomware and extortion demands; and lost business profits and extra expense resulting from cyber incidents.

Brian has also advised policyholder clients regarding insurance for D&O liability, including claims for defense of state and federal securities class actions; shareholder derivative demand investigations; state and federal derivative actions; internal company investigations; interviews by state and federal government regulatory agencies; and governmental investigations and litigation proceedings.

Brian also advises clients on the design, negotiation, and purchase of corporate insurance programs.

HONORS & DISTINCTIONS

Recognized by *Chambers USA* as a leading insurance coverage lawyer for policyholders

Recognized in *The Best Lawyers in America* for insurance law

EDUCATION

University of California Berkeley, Boalt Hall School of Law (J.D. 2002; Managing Editor, *California Law Review*; Articles Editor, *Berkeley Technology Law Review*); Georgetown University (B.S. in Foreign Service, summa cum laude, 1999)

BAR ADMISSIONS

California; U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit; U.S. District Courts for the Northern, Eastern, Central, and Southern Districts of California; and U.S. Court of Federal Claims

CLERKSHIPS

Law Clerk to the Honorable Margaret Morrow, U.S. District Court, Central District of California (2002-2003)

JONES DAY TEAM



JOSEPH MELNIK

Partner

- Intellectual Property
- Technology

Silicon Valley

+1.650.687.4151

jmelnik@jonesday.com

Joe Melnik's practice is focused on intellectual property (IP) and technology commercialization and the drafting and negotiation of strategic commercial contracts. Joe counsels clients that range from multinational enterprises to cutting-edge start-ups in industries including cloud computing, semiconductors, artificial intelligence and machine learning, fintech, energy, education, security, and autonomous vehicles. He also has extensive experience counseling clients on data commercialization strategies and drafting and negotiating data-related agreements in the education, health care, and financial services industries.

Joe regularly assists clients in structuring and negotiating license agreements, joint ventures, joint development agreements, strategic alliances, services, supply, and various other agreements for domestic and global projects. He also counsels on significant IP and commercial issues in M&A transactions, carve-outs, spin-offs, and other strategic transactions.

EDUCATION

Case Western Reserve University (J.D. 1994); The Ohio State University (B.S. in Mathematics summa cum laude 1991)

BAR ADMISSIONS

Ohio, Pennsylvania, California, and registered to practice before the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office



MARY ALEXANDER MYERS

Partner

- Cybersecurity, Privacy & Data Protection
- Intellectual Property
- Technology

Atlanta

+1.404.581.8671

mamyers@jonesday.com

Mary Alexander Myers works closely with clients on a range of strategic technology transactions and cybersecurity and data privacy matters focused on protecting key intellectual property and data assets. Mary Alexander frequently advises clients on strategic data privacy compliance and related operational measures, including compliance with GLBA and the evolving area of U.S. state privacy laws. Mary Alexander has in-depth experience in data sharing, licensing, and commercialization and helps clients navigate significant technological and data-driven challenges, including issues related to data governance, machine learning, data privacy, and cybersecurity. Mary Alexander counsels clients on the design of data privacy programs and focuses on addressing unique privacy issues pertaining to AdTech and other evolving business models and technologies. She has particular experience in the area of financial services, frequently assisting financial institutions and financial services companies with data privacy compliance and contracting.

Mary Alexander also represents buyers and sellers in domestic and cross-border corporate transactions such as mergers and acquisitions, counseling on cybersecurity, privacy, and intellectual property matters, including due diligence and transitional arrangements.

Mary Alexander serves as vice chair of the technology division on the Executive Committee of the State Bar of Georgia Privacy and Technology Section. She frequently speaks on technology and privacy-related issues and is a Certified Information Privacy Professional (CIPP/US) by the International Association of Privacy Professionals (IAPP).

Mary Alexander maintains an active pro bono practice and involvement in the Atlanta community. She serves as a member of the board of directors of the Truancy Intervention Project, a nonprofit aimed at legal and educational advocacy for children in public schools. She received a Glenda Hatchett Volunteer of the Year Award from the Truancy Intervention Project in 2014 and 2017 in Atlanta, Georgia for her representation of children in Juvenile Court truancy proceedings.

HONORS & DISTINCTIONS

Member, International Association of Privacy Professionals

Certified International Privacy Professional/US (CIPP/US)

EDUCATION

Vanderbilt University (J.D. 2012; Notes Editor, Vanderbilt Law Review); Emory University (B.A. in History magna cum laude 2009; Goodrich C. White Scholar)

BAR ADMISSIONS

Georgia, Supreme Court of Georgia, and U.S. District Courts for the Northern District of Georgia and Eastern District of Wisconsin

CLERKSHIPS

Judicial Extern to the Honorable Aleta A. Trauger, U.S. District Court, Middle District of Tennessee (Summer 2010)

JONES DAY TEAM



LAURA S. PRUITT

Partner

Financial Markets

Washington

+1.202.879.3625

lp Pruitt@jonesday.com

Laura Pruitt's breadth of experience, including more than six years of service with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), gives her an in-depth perspective into financial regulatory law. She counsels on securities law and market regulation issues, with particular emphasis on broker-dealer registration and compliance, alternative trading systems (ATSs) and equity trading, derivatives, investment adviser regulation, and transfer agents, data privacy, and anti-money laundering rules.

Laura regularly helps clients determine if they should be registered as broker-dealers and assists in registering broker-dealers with the SEC, self-regulatory organizations (SROs), and the Financial Institution Regulatory Authority (FINRA) and with obtaining approvals for changes of control and changes to business operations. She advises on compliance with Regulations NMS, SHO, and S-P, as well as SRO trading rules; advises on M&A transactions involving regulated entities; represents ATSs with required filings and issues arising under Regulation ATS; and counsels investment advisers and transfer agents on regulatory issues. She also represents clients in connection with regulatory examinations and enforcement actions.

During her tenure at the SEC, Laura worked on numerous rulemaking initiatives and interpretations, including those concerning electronic delivery of required disclosure documents, ATSs, the penny stock rules, options disclosure documents, Exchange Act Rule 14a-8, OTC derivatives dealers, rules implementing the provisions of the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act, soft dollars under Exchange Act Section 28(e), and finders-related issues.

At the start of her career as a litigator in New York, Laura represented financial firms in securities class actions and hostile takeovers and represented clients in antitrust matters, among others.

HONORS & DISTINCTIONS

Recognized as a top practitioner in *Chambers USA* since 2010 for financial services regulation: broker dealer (compliance) — nationwide category

The Best Lawyers in America — securities/capital markets law (2018)

EDUCATION

Columbia University (J.D. 1987); Harvard University (A.B. 1984)

BAR ADMISSIONS

District of Columbia and New York

GOVERNMENT SERVICE

Served with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission in the following positions: Special Counsel, Office of Chief Counsel, Division of Market Regulation (now the Division of Trading & Markets) (1998-2001) and Senior Counsel, Office of General Counsel (1994-1997)



JEFF RABKIN

Partner

- State Attorney General Enforcement, Investigations & Litigation
- Cybersecurity, Privacy & Data Protection
- Business & Tort Litigation
- Investigations & White Collar Defense
- Technology

San Francisco/Silicon Valley
+1.415.875.5850 / +1.650.739.3954
jrabkin@jonesday.com

Jeff Rabkin assists businesses around the world with government and internal investigations, regulatory proceedings, and private disputes. He also advises in-house counsel, corporate executives, and independent directors on issues relating to the intersection of law and technology, including generative AI (artificial intelligence), cybersecurity resilience and response, as well as digital commerce.

Jeff joined Jones Day in 2015 from the Office of the California Attorney General, where he was a member of Kamala D. Harris' leadership team. In that role, he was responsible for oversight of the California DOJ's cybercrime and privacy enforcement units and the development of new technology for law enforcement throughout California. Before joining the California DOJ, Jeff was a vice president at a cybersecurity consulting firm. He also served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for eight years in New York and San Francisco, where he represented the United States in hundreds of federal criminal matters, led numerous high-profile, sensitive investigations and prosecutions involving corporate fraud, public corruption, and other types of white collar crime. He also was a Deputy City Attorney for San Francisco. Jeff has tried more than 25 cases to verdict in federal and state courts.

Jeff is a founding member of Jones Day's Jewish Cultural Affinity Group. He also co-manages the Firm's DVRO (domestic violence restraining order) Trial Program, which represents on a pro bono basis survivors of domestic violence who seek long-term restraining orders against their abusers.

HONORS & DISTINCTIONS

Chair, Cybersecurity Committee, Cybersecurity and Privacy Section, Bar Association of San Francisco (BASF) (2015-2019)

Appointed by Judge Shira Scheindlin in 2004 as Special Master in class action lawsuits relating to technology IPOs

Santa Clara University *High Technology Law Journal* Award for Excellence in Public Policy

Member, International Association of Privacy Professionals (IAPP)

EDUCATION

Columbia University (J.D. 1996); Harvard University (B.A. cum laude 1991)

BAR ADMISSIONS

California, U.S. District Courts for the Northern District of California and District of Arizona, United States Supreme Court, and U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Second and Ninth Circuits

CLERKSHIPS

Law Clerk to Judge Shira A. Scheindlin, U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York (1996-1997)

GOVERNMENT SERVICE

Special Assistant Attorney General for Law and Technology, Office of the Attorney General, California Department of Justice (2013-2015); Assistant United States Attorney, Brooklyn, New York and San Francisco, California (2004-2011); Deputy City Attorney, San Francisco City Attorney's Office (2000-2004)



MARK W. RASMUSSEN

Partner

- Financial Markets
- Business & Tort Litigation
- Securities Litigation & SEC Enforcement
- Technology
- ESG (Environmental, Social & Governance)

Dallas

+1.214.220.3939

mrasmussen@jonesday.com

Mark Rasmussen is a trial lawyer and regulatory counselor with nearly 20 years of experience representing clients in complex litigation and regulatory matters.

Mark advises clients on governance and shareholder issues, bankruptcy litigation, securities and consumer class actions, derivative investigations, fiduciary duty claims, merger disputes, trade secrets litigation, and contract disputes. Mark also has substantial experience with internal investigations and regulatory investigations involving the SEC (Securities and Exchange Commission), CFTC (Commodity Futures Trading Commission), DOJ (Department of Justice), and state securities regulators (including the Texas State Securities Board).

Since 2016, Mark has advised clients on digital assets, blockchain technology, and fintech matters, including token issuances, securities regulations, money transmitter and virtual currency regulations, and disputes. In 2018, he was appointed by Chief Judge Barbara Lynn, of the Northern District of Texas, to be the first-ever receiver in a Securities and Exchange Commission enforcement action involving an ICO (initial coin offering) promoter. In addition, Mark is coeditor and coauthor of the book *Blockchain for Business Lawyers* and is a frequent speaker on legal issues related to blockchain technology.

Mark is committed to pro bono service. Some of his matters include obtaining asylum for a monk and green cards for abused women under the Violence Against Women Act. He also assists victims of human trafficking to expunge their criminal records. And he has represented an Hasidic Jewish inmate and members of a Native American church in religious liberty lawsuits against government entities under the First Amendment.

HONORS & DISTINCTIONS

Recognized by *The National Law Journal* as a Trailblazer in the Cryptocurrency, Blockchain, and FinTech field (2018; 2022)

Named a “Rising Star” (2016) by the editors of *Texas Super Lawyers Magazine*

EDUCATION

Columbia University (J.D. 2005; Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar; Articles Editor, *Journal of Transnational Law*); Brigham Young University (B.A. magna cum laude 2001)

BAR ADMISSIONS

Texas; New York; U.S. District Courts for the Eastern, Northern, Western, and Southern Districts of Texas and Eastern and Southern Districts of New York; and U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third, Fifth, and Eleventh Circuits

**CAMERON A. REESE**

Partner

- Private Equity
- Technology
- Venture Capital & Emerging Companies

San Diego

+1.858.314.1192

creese@jonesday.com

Cameron Reese is an experienced corporate lawyer with a practice focused on mergers and acquisitions and venture capital transactions. Cameron regularly represents private equity funds, emerging companies, venture capital firms, institutional investors, and corporate acquirors in structuring and negotiating a wide range of domestic and cross-border transactions.

Cameron also represents private equity funds in connection with acquisitions and divestitures and provides counsel for many of their portfolio companies. He has experience with leveraged buyout transactions, minority investments and spin-out transactions, and has led transactions on behalf of private equity funds in a number of industry sectors, including health care, life sciences, and technology. The private equity funds with which Cameron has worked include The Riverside Company, Resilience Capital Partners, and Morgenthaler Partners.

Additionally, Cameron has an active emerging companies practice representing both technology and life science companies throughout their entire life cycle, including providing counsel and advise with respect to corporate formation, preferred stock and convertible note financing transactions, corporate governance, strategic relationships, equity incentive arrangements, and mergers and acquisitions. He also advises a number of venture capital and strategic corporate investors in connection with preferred stock financing and joint venture transactions.

EDUCATION

Brigham Young University (J.D. cum laude 2004; Note and Comment Editor, Law Review; B.A. in Economics 2001)

BAR ADMISSIONS

California

JONES DAY TEAM



JEFF SCHENK

Partner

Investigations & White Collar Defense

Silicon Valley

+1.650.687.4130

jbschenk@jonesday.com

Jeff Schenk is a distinguished trial lawyer who successfully litigated some of the most high-profile cases in recent years. A Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, Jeff has led more than a dozen jury trials in federal court, including in areas such as securities fraud, public corruption, health care fraud, tax fraud, environmental crimes, and regulatory matters such as violations of the Pipeline Safety Act.

Jeff's practice includes corporate investigations and complex commercial litigation. He has conducted internal investigations involving criminal and civil issues, particularly within the technology, artificial intelligence, and life sciences space. Jeff also leads the defense of companies through complex business litigation and alleged violations of federal law.

For almost 20 years, Jeff served in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Northern District of California and for the Southern District of California. Jeff led the separate jury trials of the CEO and COO of Theranos, Inc., a health care technology company, in prosecutions arising out of multimillion dollar schemes to defraud investors and patients in connection with blood testing services in which the juries found each defendant guilty of multiple counts of conspiracy and wire fraud.

Jeff is active as a Fellow of the American College of Trial Lawyers, serving on the California State Committee. He also serves on the Federal Bar Association's national White Collar Committee and local NDCA Chapter, the Santa Clara County Bar Association's Judiciary Committee, and speaks regularly on issues related to white collar crime and investigations.

HONORS & DISTINCTIONS

Fellow, American College of Trial Lawyers

EDUCATION

Boston University (J.D. 2004); University of Michigan (B.A. in Political Science 2001)

BAR ADMISSIONS

California, District of Columbia, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, and U.S. District Courts for the Northern and Southern Districts of California

GOVERNMENT SERVICE

Served with the United States Attorney's Office for the Northern District of California (2007-2023), including as Chief, San Jose Branch Office (2019-2023), Deputy Chief, San Jose Branch Office (2018-2019), and Senior Litigation Counsel (2016-2019) and as a Special Assistant United States Attorney, United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of California (2005-2006)



SCHUYLER J. SCHOUTEN

Partner

- Government Regulation
- Technology
- Venture Capital & Emerging Companies

San Diego/Washington
+1.858.314.1160 / +1.202.879.3844
sschouten@jonesday.com

Schuyler Schouten advises clients on high-stakes regulatory matters, with a focus on international trade, national security, and emerging and strategic technologies. He has helped some of the world's largest institutions navigate government inquiries, international crises, and regulatory reviews and, where warranted, push back against government overreach. A former White House sanctions lawyer, "indispensable and indefatigable" top aide to Henry Kissinger, and contributor to best-selling books on China and artificial intelligence (AI), Schuyler is a trusted guide for clients navigating today's turbulent and complex legal and geopolitical landscape.

Schuyler has extensive experience with the laws, regulations, and "emergency" authorities affecting international transactions and supply chains. As Senior Associate Counsel to the President and Deputy Legal Advisor to the National Security Council (NSC), he provided Presidential- and Cabinet-level advice on sanctions, foreign investment, trade and tariffs, the Defense Production Act, and energy regulation. He was the White House's legal coordinator with the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS) and Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) during transformative growth in their authorities and policy roles.

At Jones Day, Schuyler helped obtain key regulatory approvals for some of the first and most prominent exits of Western companies from Russia; successfully represented critical infrastructure providers in emergency negotiations over COVID orders; and helped resolve, without penalty, inquiries and disclosures involving Congressional committees, OFAC, the Commerce Department, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. He supports clients in the software, semiconductor, biotech, pharmaceutical, food, real estate, energy, aerospace, private equity, venture capital, banking, and fintech industries.

HONORS & DISTINCTIONS

Life Member, Council on Foreign Relations

The Legal 500 United States, recommended lawyer in media, technology, and telecoms: regulatory (2023)

Participant (by invitation), UC San Diego Forum on U.S.-China Relations

Contributor with Henry Kissinger, Eric Schmidt, and Daniel Huttenlocher to *The Age of AI: And Our Human Future*; collaborated with Kissinger on *On China* and *World Order*

EDUCATION

Harvard University (J.D. 2007; Finalist and "Best Brief," Ames Moot Court Competition); Yale University (B.A. in History magna cum laude 2003; Phi Beta Kappa); Middlebury College Language School (Mandarin Chinese immersion program, Summer 2001)

LANGUAGES

Chinese

BAR ADMISSIONS

California, District of Columbia, and New York

GOVERNMENT SERVICE

Deputy Legal Advisor, National Security Council (2018-2019) and Special Assistant to the President and Senior Associate Counsel to the President, White House Counsel's Office (2017-2019)

JONES DAY TEAM



BRET J. STANCIL

Partner

- M&A
- Private Equity

Silicon Valley
+1.650.739.3939
bstancil@jonesday.com

Bret Stancil delivers pragmatic and solution-oriented advice that allows clients to quickly execute on significant transactions and achieve their business objectives effectively and efficiently. He advises leading corporate and private equity clients on significant M&A transactions and related corporate matters.

Bret represents private and public companies and private equity firms across a wide range of industries, including technology and software, life sciences, internet and digital media, and retail and consumer products. He advises clients on a full spectrum of general corporate matters and strategic transactions, including public and private mergers, acquisitions, dispositions, carve-outs, growth equity investments, and leveraged buyouts.

Prior to rejoining Jones Day in 2025, Bret's advised: a financial software company in several multibillion dollar acquisitions involving consumer and cloud-based technology companies; a ridesharing company in its acquisitions of a bike-share operator and of a developer of augmented reality software for self-driving cars; a technology company in the acquisition of a provider of semiconductor solutions for wired and wireless communications; the acquisition of a leading U.S. insurance brokerage; and a pharmaceutical company in a merger with a bioequivalent pharmaceutical products company.

EDUCATION

University of Pennsylvania (J.D. magna cum laude 2013; Oscar Bregman Prize for Excellence in Business Law; Senior Editor, University of Pennsylvania Journal of Business Law); University of Nevada, Reno (B.S. in Biology 2010)

BAR ADMISSIONS

California and New York



TAYLOR L. STEVENS

Partner

- M&A
- Private Equity
- Technology
- Health Care & Life Sciences
- Venture Capital & Emerging Companies

San Diego/Silicon Valley
+1.858.314.1151 / +1.650.739.3939

tstevens@jonesday.com

As a practitioner with an M.B.A., and an active participant in the San Diego and Silicon Valley communities, Taylor Stevens has a strong understanding of the legal issues facing high-growth companies and their acquirors. Taylor has advised clients for more than 25 years in the areas of venture capital transactions, M&A, and capital markets transactions. His practice is focused on the representation of emerging growth and established technology and life sciences companies. He has extensive experience in the full life cycle of the company, from formation through financing and exit transactions.

Taylor has represented clients in a significant number of public and private company mergers and acquisitions. His experience includes auction sales, divestitures, carve-outs, roll-ups, and cross-border transactions. Taylor also regularly counsels emerging growth companies on a broad range of venture capital and debt financing transactions and has been recommended as a leading lawyer by *Best Lawyers in America* and *The Legal 500 United States* for his corporate and venture capital practice. He additionally represents venture capital firms and strategic corporate investors in connection with their investments in early stage and emerging growth companies.

Taylor frequently presents on venture capital and corporate law topics on podcasts and at events, including Plug and Play, Goldman Sachs Legal Conference, FinAccelerate, Digital Assets Week, Jones Day Talks®, and Koch Disruptive Technology Venture Capital Investment Seminar. Taylor is also a member of the Springboard Committee and has previously served on the Executive Committee and the board of directors of CONNECT, a globally recognized trade organization fostering the creation of innovative technology and life sciences products in the San Diego region.

HONORS & DISTINCTIONS

Recognized by *Best Lawyers in America* for corporate law (2020-2026) and for venture capital law (2021-2026)

Recommended as a leading lawyer by *The Legal 500 United States* for venture capital and emerging companies practice (2019-2025)

Named by *Super Lawyers* as one of the top attorneys in business and corporate law in San Diego (2018-2020)

EDUCATION

Santa Clara University (J.D. 1998; M.B.A. 1998); University of California, Berkeley (B.A. with honors 1993)

BAR ADMISSIONS

California

JONES DAY GLOBAL TEAM

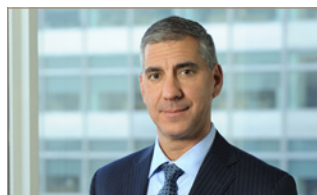
United States



Abradat Kamalpour
Partner, Financial Markets
San Francisco



Jayant W. Tambe
Partner, Practice Leader
Financial Markets
New York



Brett P. Barragate
Partner, Chair of Americas
Region Financial Markets
Practice
New York



David C. Kiernan
Partner-in-Charge
Northern California
San Francisco/Silicon Valley



Karen P. Hewitt
Partner-in-Charge
California Region
San Diego



Aaron L. Agenbroad
Partner-in-Charge
San Francisco



Brian G. Selden
Partner-in-Charge
Silicon Valley



Dean C. Bachus
Partner
Chicago



Jonn Beeson
Partner
Irvine



Amie Colwell Breslow
Of Counsel
Washington



Jennifer Bennett
Partner
San Francisco



Nathan S. Brownback
Of Counsel
Washington



Timothy Curry
Partner
Silicon Valley/San Francisco



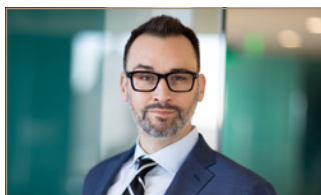
Michael Dawson
Partner
Washington



Lori Hellkamp
Partner
Washington



Kelsey A. Israel-Trummel
Partner
San Francisco



Peter A. Julian
Partner
San Francisco



Carl A. Kukkonen III
Partner
San Diego



Ka-on Li
Partner
Silicon Valley



Jerry C. Ling
Partner
San Francisco

JONES DAY GLOBAL TEAM

United States



Brian D. McDonald
Partner
San Francisco



Joseph Melnik
Partner
Silicon Valley



Mary Alexander Myers
Partner
Atlanta



Nicholas J. Podsiadly
Partner
Washington



Laura S. Pruitt
Partner
Washington



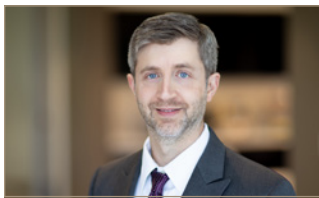
Jeff Rabkin
Partner
San Francisco/Silicon Valley



Mark W. Rasmussen
Partner
Dallas



Cameron A. Reese
Partner
San Diego



Jeff Schenk
Partner
Silicon Valley



Schuyler J. Schouten
Partner
San Diego/Washington



Bret J. Stancil
Partner
Silicon Valley



Taylor Stevens
Partner
San Diego/Silicon Valley



John Tang
Partner
San Francisco



Craig A. Waldman
Partner, Practice Leader
Antitrust & Competition Law
Washington



Samuel L. Walling
Partner
Minneapolis



Alexandre Wibaux
Partner
New York



Rita J. Yoon
Partner
San Francisco



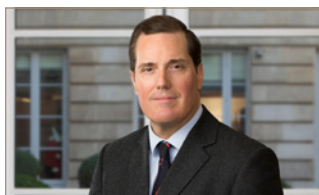
Collin L. Waring
Partner
Dallas

JONES DAY GLOBAL TEAM

EMEA



Renaud Bonnet
Partner, Practice Leader
Private Equity
Paris



Alban Caillemer du Ferrage
Partner, APAC and EMEA
Chair Financial Markets
Paris



Giles P. Elliott
Global Chair ESG
London



Leon Ferera
Partner
London



Dr. Michael R. Fischer
Partner
Frankfurt



Marco Frattini
Partner
Milan



Philippe Goutay
Partner
Paris



Jean-Gabriel Griboul
Partner
Paris



Olivier Haas
Partner
Paris



Iván Martín-Babón
Partner
Madrid



Edward J. Nalbantian
Of Counsel
London / Paris



Floris Pierik
Partner
Amsterdam



Natalia Sauszyn
Partner
Paris



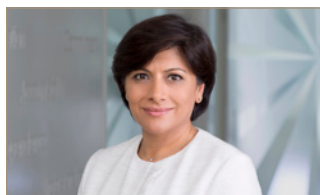
Dr. Nick Wittek
Partner
Frankfurt

JONES DAY GLOBAL TEAM

Asia / Pacific



Lewis Grimm
Partner
Melbourne



Sushma Jobanputra
Partner-in-Charge Singapore
Singapore



Hemang Shah
Partner
Sydney

Latin America



Luis Riesgo
Partner-in-Charge
Spain/Latin America Region
and Partner-in-Charge
São Paulo Office
São Paulo



Artur Badra
Of Counsel
São Paulo/Madrid



Fernando Pastore
Of Counsel
São Paulo

Legal Notice: Jones Day is not the source of the information about the cohort companies and products in this document. Jones Day is not responsible for the content of third party sources. Jones Day does not endorse any company or product and does not advise on investing in any company or product.

© Jones Day 2025.



web: www.finaccelerate.com • email: finaccelerate@jonesday.com