
CHAMBERS FINTECH 2024

The Leading FinTech advisers worldwide

USA



How lawyers are ranked

Every year we carry out thousands of in-depth interviews with clients in order to assess the reputations and expertise of business lawyers worldwide. The qualities we look for (and which determine rankings) include technical legal ability, professional conduct, client service, commercial awareness/astuteness, diligence, commitment, and other qualities most valued by the client.

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FinTech Legal

The editorial is in alphabetical order by firm name.

Allen & Overy LLP

What the team is known for Allen & Overy has a strong blockchain practice in its New York and Silicon Valley offices. Its team regularly advises on major cryptocurrency projects, commercial transactions, lending platforms and regulatory compliance matters. Its lawyers also act for big tech companies on cryptocurrency integrations and other payments law matters.

Strengths

"Allen & Overy is stellar for handling complex and sophisticated matters. They have a wealth of knowledge and experience in FinTech and blockchain/crypto, and they have a global reach and perspective that enables them to navigate cross-border and multi-jurisdictional issues with ease and efficiency." "Allen & Overy is a leading law firm, with a deep understanding of the regulatory, commercial and technological challenges and opportunities facing innovative tech and FinTech service providers. They have always been proactive, accessible and flexible, delivering high-quality and practical advice within tight deadlines. They are not only excellent lawyers, but also trusted advisers and strategic thinkers, who add value and insight to every aspect of our journey."

"The A&O attorneys are commercially minded. They understand business goals as well as the technology and the fields in which they operate. They are proactive in not just pointing out legal and potential business risks, but they also ask all the right questions to be able to successfully frame the commercial benefits of deals to all parties."

Work highlights Allen & Overy advised Meta and its affiliates Instagram and WhatsApp on FinTech and digital asset matters, including the launch of WhatsApp's payment service for small businesses in Brazil.

Notable practitioners

Adam Chernichaw (see p.253) is a partner in the firm's technology transactions practice and specialises in blockchain and cryptocurrency, payments and outsourcing. His clients include

financial institutions, big tech companies and cryptocurrency projects. **Strengths:** "Adam is a pleasure to work with. He is smart, responsive and commercial." "He has incredible knowledge." "Adam Chernichaw has been instrumental in our blockchain/NFT efforts and I see him as an extension of our team." **Todd Beauchamp** (see p.253) is a payments and FinTech partner and provides regulatory counsel to clients in product launches as well as licensing matters. **Strengths:** "Todd is a go-to lawyer for FinTech regulatory matters in the US. He has extensive regulatory expertise and experience engaging directly with regulators. He also has a solid background in commercial matters and insight into how businesses can bridge the gap between regulatory ambiguity and business objectives." "Todd is a fantastic lawyer. He is incredibly smart and knowledgeable, and always thinks about issues from the client's perspective." "Todd is an excellent attorney with very deep experience." **Dario de Martino** (see p.253) often advises on blockchain M&A and strategic investments in crypto. His clients include investment funds, as well as token projects, NFT creators and platforms, developers of DeFi protocols and digital asset custodians. **Strengths:** "Dario is an experienced attorney on legal and regulatory matters in the FinTech and blockchain space. More importantly, Dario is also generous with his time." "He is an outstanding attorney and he knows this field very well. He is a tremendous resource."

Alston & Bird LLP

What the team is known for Alston & Bird has a well-respected FinTech practice with particular strength in payments processing and financial services regulatory matters. The firm works with credit card companies, banks and lending platforms on transactional and regulatory matters.

Strengths

"Alston has a deep bench of attorneys capable of handling many complex and sophisticated matters related to financial services and FinTech. Alston has developed a strong understanding of our company, which enables Alston to provide very practical guidance."

"In addition to subject matter expertise, Alston & Bird has significant bench depth."

"I love working with the team. I know that I will receive straightforward answers from them and that we can count on their responsiveness."

Work highlights Alston & Bird represented FLEETCOR Technologies, a business payments company, in its acquisition of Accrualify, an accounts payable automation software company.

Notable practitioners

Duncan Douglass provides counsel to banks and FinTech clients on product development and regulatory compliance issues, as well as negotiating partnership agreements. **Strengths:** "Duncan is widely regarded as an expert in the industry. We highly value his trusted advice."

Arnold & Porter

What the team is known for Arnold & Porter advises clients on bank regulatory matters, securities law and corporate transactional work. The firm has particular expertise in M&A matters and advising on strategic partnerships between banks and technology platforms.

Work highlights Arnold & Porter advised the Inter-American Development Bank on its issuance of a two-year USD10 million blockchain-based bond.

Notable practitioners

David Freeman is a key contact.

BakerHostetler LLP

What the team is known for BakerHostetler is heavily involved in data protection, blockchain and cryptocurrency FinTech matters. The firm defends clients in regulatory enforcements and provides counsel on innovative product and platform launches. The team frequently draws praise from clients for its technical knowledge and client service.

Strengths

"The team at BakerHostetler are extremely knowledgeable, approachable, succinct and thorough with their research. They are also exceedingly responsive, strategic, and always willing to think outside the box."

FinTech Legal
Leading Firms
Band 1
Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP
Latham & Watkins LLP
Paul Hastings LLP
Sidley Austin LLP
Band 2
Allen & Overy LLP
DLA Piper LLP (US)
Goodwin
Mayer Brown LLP
Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP
Perkins Coie LLP
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP
Band 3
Alston & Bird LLP
Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP
Clifford Chance US LLP
Cooley LLP
Debevoise & Plimpton LLP
Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP
Morrison Foerster
Sullivan & Cromwell LLP
White & Case LLP
WilmerHale
Band 4
BakerHostetler LLP
Ballard Spahr LLP
Covington & Burling LLP
Davis Wright Tremaine LLP
Dentons
Eversheds Sutherland (US) LLP
Fenwick
Hogan Lovells
Jones Day
K&L Gates
Manatt Phelps & Phillips LLP
McGlinchey Stafford
McGuireWoods LLP
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP
O'Melveny & Myers LLP
Schulte Roth & Zabel LLP
Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP
Band 5
Arnold & Porter
Dechert LLP
DLx Law
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP
Greenberg Traurig, PA
McDermott Will & Emery LLP
Norton Rose Fulbright
Pillsbury
Ropes & Gray LLP
Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP
Stephoe & Johnson LLP
Sullivan & Worcester
Troutman Pepper
Venable LLP
Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati
* Indicates individual with profile.
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

"The firm has fast turnaround, is cohesive and has a full-service offering. They also have deep knowledge and expertise."

"They navigated many complex issues and were always responsive and timely. The quality of work is

FinTech Legal Blockchain & Cryptocurrencies
Leading Firms
Band 1
Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP
Goodwin
Latham & Watkins LLP
Perkins Coie LLP
Sidley Austin LLP
Band 2
DLA Piper LLP (US)
DLx Law
Greenberg Traurig, PA
Morrison Foerster
Paul Hastings LLP
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP
White & Case LLP
Band 3
Allen & Overy LLP
BakerHostetler LLP
Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP
Debevoise & Plimpton LLP
Hogan Lovells
Jones Day
Katten
Morrison Cohen LLP
O'Melveny & Myers LLP
Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP
Stephoe & Johnson LLP
Sullivan & Worcester
Sullivan & Cromwell LLP
Waymaker LLP
WilmerHale
Band 4
Cooley LLP
Fenwick
Holland & Knight LLP
K&L Gates
Manatt Phelps & Phillips LLP
Pryor Cashman LLP
Ropes & Gray LLP
Schulte Roth & Zabel LLP

also always very good and thorough."

Work highlights BakerHostetler represented Hermès International and Hermès of Paris in an NFT litigation which raised novel questions about the ownership of intellectual property rights in virtual worlds.

Notable practitioners

Teresa Goody Guillén is co-leader of the firm's blockchain team and has a broad securities, litigation and investigations practice. She regularly represents businesses and individuals in securities enforcement and other government investigations, including SEC, CFTC and IRS investigations.

Strengths: "Her expertise, commitment to sharing knowledge, and engaging approach have been instrumental." "Teresa is one of the most reliable lawyers who I would turn to first with any legal-related issue, especially those related to securities law. She goes above and beyond."

Veronica Reynolds is an impressive associate at BakerHostetler and focuses her practice on emerging issues related to Web3 and blockchain. Reynolds has earned significant praises from market sources for her knowledge in crypto law. **Strengths:** "Veronica always made herself available to our inquiries. She consistently delivered best-in-class

FinTech Legal Blockchain & Cryptocurrencies
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Chernichaw Adam Allen & Overy LLP *
Cohen Lewis DLx Law
Giancarlo Christopher Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP
Hansen Dax Perkins Coie LLP
Klein Brian Waymaker LLP
Levi Stuart D Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP *
Tessler Lilya Sidley Austin LLP
Band 2
Angelovska-Wilson Angela DLx Law
Cohn Alan Steptoe & Johnson LLP
Cutler Joe Perkins Coie LLP
de Martino Dario Allen & Overy LLP *
DeWaal Gary Katten *
Klayman Joshua Ashley Linklaters (ORL) ◇
Levin Richard B Nelson Mullins Riley (ORL) ◇ *
Ness Lowell D Perkins Coie LLP
Telpner Joel Sullivan & Worcester
Ubell Karen Goodwin *
Valdez Yvette Latham & Watkins LLP
Vallabhaneni Pratin White & Case LLP
Wink Stephen Latham & Watkins LLP
Band 3
Daniel Chris Paul Hastings LLP
Fondo Grant P Goodwin *
Goody Guillén Teresa BakerHostetler LLP
Gottlieb Jason Morrison Cohen LLP
Lloyd Colin Sullivan & Cromwell LLP
Loomis Rimón Laurel Jenner & Block LLP (ORL) ◇
Perkins Joseph Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP
Tank Margo DLA Piper LLP (US)
Teitelbaum David E Sidley Austin LLP
Band 4
Alberts Jeffrey Pryor Cashman LLP
Drylewski Alexander Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher *
Enzer Samson Cahill Gordon & Reindel LLP (ORL) ◇
Hall Joseph A Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP
Hammer Brandon M Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton *
Jones Barbara Greenberg Traurig, LLP
Korn Brian Manatt Phelps & Phillips LLP
Pao William K O'Melveny & Myers LLP
Rasmussen Mark Jones Day
Sibbitt Eric C Paul Hastings LLP
Smith Tiffany WilmerHale
Zweihorn Zachary Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP
Associates to watch
Reynolds Veronica BakerHostetler LLP

research, guidance, and support." "Veronica is fantastic and is one of the most knowledgeable crypto attorneys that I have had the pleasure of working with. She is a rising star and will soon be a leader in crypto law across the US." "Veronica is excellent. She is thorough and responsive and a subject matter expert in a number of areas."

Ballard Spahr LLP

What the team is known for Ballard Spahr has a strong FinTech practice covering payment products, licensing, lending, cybersecurity, blockchain and artificial intelligence. The firm regularly represents FinTech investors and financial institutions in consumer lending. Its lawyers are also capable of advising on the corporate and employment aspects of the matters.

Strengths

FinTech Legal: Payments & Lending
Leading Firms
Band 1
Latham & Watkins LLP
Mayer Brown LLP
Paul Hastings LLP
Sidley Austin LLP
Band 2
Alston & Bird LLP
Cooley LLP
Covington & Burling LLP
Davis Wright Tremaine LLP
Morrison Foerster
Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP
Band 3
Ballard Spahr LLP
DLA Piper LLP (US)
Eversheds Sutherland (US) LLP
Goodwin
Manatt Phelps & Phillips LLP
McGlinchey Stafford
McGuireWoods LLP
Perkins Coie LLP
Schulte Roth & Zabel LLP
Troutman Pepper
Venable LLP
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Beam David <i>Mayer Brown LLP</i>
Daniel Chris <i>Paul Hastings LLP</i>
Feinberg Joel <i>Sidley Austin LLP</i>
Mosher Donald <i>Schulte Roth & Zabel LLP</i>
Savoie Robert <i>McGlinchey Stafford</i>
Teitelbaum David E <i>Sidley Austin LLP</i>
Band 2
Beauchamp Todd W <i>Allen & Overy LLP *</i>
Brennan Catherine <i>Hudson Cook LLP (ORL) ◇</i>
Douglass Duncan <i>Alston & Bird LLP</i>
Kim James <i>Troutman Pepper</i>
Lorentz Andrew <i>Davis Wright Tremaine LLP</i>
VanBrackle Barrie <i>Latham & Watkins LLP</i>
Band 3
Berge Ellen T. <i>Venable LLP</i>
Eckstut Burr <i>White & Case LLP *</i>
Fleisher Adam <i>Cooley LLP</i>
Kaldjob Crystal N. <i>Morrison Foerster</i>
Nonaka Michael <i>Covington & Burling LLP</i>
Pearson Scott <i>Manatt Phelps & Phillips LLP</i>
Poindexter Obrea <i>Cooley LLP</i>
Rinearson Judith <i>K&L Gates</i>
Ruff Sean <i>Cooley LLP</i>
Silberman Jeffrey D. <i>Morrison Foerster</i>
Simmons Rebecca J <i>Sullivan & Cromwell LLP</i>
Tank Margo <i>DLA Piper LLP (US)</i>
Witeck Chris <i>Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP</i>
Up-and-coming individuals
Mok Judy <i>Covington & Burling LLP</i>
<small>* Indicates individual with profile.</small>
<small>◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.</small>
<small>Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.</small>

"Ballard Spahr has a strong regulatory practice."

Work highlights Ballard Spahr advised Avant, an online lending company, on state licensing matters.

Notable practitioners

Ronald Vaske is a key contact.

FinTech Legal Data Protection & Cyber Security
Leading Firms
Band 1
BakerHostetler LLP
Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP
Morrison Foerster
Band 2
Paul Hastings LLP
ZwillGen PLLC
Band 3
Debevoise & Plimpton LLP
DLA Piper LLP (US)
Mayer Brown LLP
Troutman Pepper
Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Sotto Lisa J <i>Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP</i>
Band 2
Dayanim Behnam <i>Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP</i>
Jehl Laura E <i>Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP</i>
Band 3
Lisa Gregory <i>Hogan Lovells US LLP</i>
Phan Kim <i>Troutman Pepper</i>
Taylor Nathan D. <i>Morrison Foerster</i>
Zwillinger Marc J <i>ZwillGen PLLC</i>

Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP

What the team is known for Cleary Gottlieb's FinTech lawyers provide regulatory advice concerning digital assets, handle regulatory enforcement matters and advise on high-value M&A deals. Its clients include digital asset startups, global institutions and investment banks.

Strengths

"Undoubtedly their service levels and responsiveness are very strong. From a communications perspective, the Cleary Gottlieb team is prompt in responding to e-mails and proactive in scheduling meetings, and shows up well prepared."

"They are deeply knowledgeable attorneys who get to know their clients well and are able to give very pragmatic advice and guidance."

"Cleary is uniquely able to handle complex and sophisticated matters. Their lawyers have a depth of expertise on a wide range of regulatory and legal issues and are able to apply that knowledge to product design and business implementation to help navigate complex issues."

Work highlights Clearly Gottlieb represented Brad Garlinghouse, the CEO of Ripple, in connection with an SEC investigation of the company and in an enforcement action brought by the SEC in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York.

Notable practitioners

Brandon Hammer (see p.254) is a regulatory expert in the derivatives market, and is particularly well regarded for bankruptcy matters. Hammer has additional capabilities in blockchain and cryptocurrency, with a specific focus on digital assets.

Strengths: *"Brandon is efficient, super sharp and quick to understand the underlying technology and business considerations. He is also always responsive."* *"Brandon is an excellent lawyer and adviser. He has a comprehensive understanding of financial regulation, commercial law, and bankruptcy issues,*

FinTech Legal Corporate, Securities & Financing
Leading Firms
Band 1
Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP
Latham & Watkins LLP
Mayer Brown LLP
Band 2
Paul Hastings LLP
Sidley Austin LLP
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP
White & Case LLP
Band 3
Clifford Chance US LLP
Fenwick
Goodwin
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP
Morrison Foerster
Ropes & Gray LLP
Troutman Pepper
Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Rooney Byron <i>Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP</i>
Wink Stephen <i>Latham & Watkins LLP</i>
Band 2
Brill Jeffrey A <i>Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom *</i>
Landy Douglas J <i>White & Case LLP</i>
Band 3
Bender Melissa <i>Ropes & Gray LLP</i>
Chang Mitzi <i>Goodwin *</i>
Mickisch Sven <i>Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher *</i>
Pinedo Anna <i>Mayer Brown LLP</i>

and also has a keen sense of how these issues can affect businesses in practice. Brandon provides expert guidance on technical questions of law as well as higher-level strategic decisions." *"Brandon is extremely responsive, thoughtful and insightful. He provides clear practical answers and I trust Brandon's judgement immensely."*

Clifford Chance US LLP

What the team is known for Clifford Chance advises crypto exchanges, investment funds and banks on FinTech regulatory issues and corporate transactional matters. The firm assists clients across multiple jurisdictions on new products and market entries. Clients pinpoint the firm's keen industry awareness as a distinct strength of the practice.

Strengths

"They have a diverse knowledge base and expertise, allowing all questions and issues to be expertly addressed."

"The team at Clifford Chance is always quick to respond and works diligently to turn comments or advice around quickly, while still taking the appropriate time and effort to understand the issue and research the same."

"The lawyers at Clifford Chance are dedicated, knowledgeable and commercial. They are always willing and able to tackle complicated questions. They are true partners that are responsive and sensitive to operational constraints and market and business dynamics."

Work highlights Clifford Chance advised BlackRock on iShares Bitcoin Trust's SEC filings as well as the formation and operation of the trust

and its contractual arrangements with the service providers.

Notable practitioners

Steven Gatti is a key contact.

Coolley LLP

What the team is known for Coolley has an excellent practice in digital payments and lending, especially in matters involving money transmission regulatory issues. The firm has expertise in technology and securities law, as well as blockchain and cryptocurrency regulation.

Strengths

"The firm is well equipped to handle complex matters. There is a deep bench of expertise."

"Coolley has provided us with strong, quick, actionable guidance."

"Coolley's expertise and recommendations on complex and sophisticated matters have been off the charts."

Notable practitioners

Adam Fleisher is experienced in payments and is a money transmitter expert. His clients include peer-to-peer (P2P) providers, electronic wallet platform providers, and payroll and payment processors. **Strengths:** *"Adam is a highly experienced payment counsel who has both breadth and depth across the FinTech industry. He consistently provides top-notch, practical legal advice."* **Adam** has been a very strong, responsive, and consistent adviser for our payments-related needs. *"Adam is fantastic and responsive. We really enjoy working with him and his straightforward problem-solving skills."* **Obrea Poindexter** is an expert in payments regulatory matters. She has the ability to advise large payment institutions as well as emerging payment leaders. **Strengths:** *"Obrea has been doing this a long time and her practice spans the realm. She is very strong."* **Sean Ruff** was formerly an in-house counsel at Square, where he was the lead payments and regulatory counsel. He specialises in handling licensing and compliance issues on behalf of money transmitter businesses. **Strengths:** *"Sean is the whole package."*

Covington & Burling LLP

What the team is known for The FinTech team at Covington & Burling has particular strength in advising international payments companies on product structuring and facilitating partnerships between banks and technology platforms. The firm also advises on digital asset regulation and transactional matters.

Strengths

"Covington has a fantastic team of intelligent, hard-working, and talented attorneys who have experience handling even the toughest and most idiosyncratic legal issues."

"Covington offers a wide range of very accomplished attorneys across numerous legal practices. They are our go-to law firm for complex or sophisticated legal issues."

"Covington sets the bar for service and responsiveness. We have always been very satisfied with their level of service and the quality of their work product."

Work highlights Covington & Burling advised Coinbase, a digital currency exchange, on financial services and securities regulation matters.

Notable practitioners

Michael Nonaka is a financial services expert who assists banks, lending companies and payments firms with compliance, transactional and legislative issues. He is particularly sought after for state regulatory licensing and product counselling advice. **Strengths:** *"He is spectacular in this area."* **Judy Mok** is a payments expert with a focus on strategic partnership agreements. She has negotiated complex payments transactions for retailers, financial institutions and businesses. **Strengths:** *"Judy draws from years of experience as a financial services and payments subject matter expert and brings a high level of sophistication and commercial awareness to the advice she provides."* *"Judy Mok is very reliable and up and coming in this space."*

Davis Wright Tremaine LLP

What the team is known for Davis Wright Tremaine provides trusted counsel on payments, lending, consumer regulatory advice, technology transactions, M&A and data protection matters. The firm wins praise from sources for its legal and regulatory advice on significant payments matters in the US.

Strengths

"Davis Wright is hands-down one of the most responsive firms I've ever worked with, and they always make us feel like a valued client."

"The Davis Wright team, which includes former senior federal banking officials and others immersed in the details of some highly intricate and complex corners of banking law, were very reliable and credible in their ability to handle sophisticated matters."

"They have a deep regulatory knowledge and know a lot of the players in the space. The team are also responsive and is always available with the right support, keyed on, and proactive."

"The Davis Wright team is really skilled at working through complex types of analysis and making those interpretations on how to get it right, so you can ensure you're meeting all the requirements."

Notable practitioners

Andrew Lorentz has a strong practice in payments and lending regulation. He advises prominent market players on civil litigation and investigations, compliance due diligence and state licensing issues. **Strengths:** *"His expertise stands out. Andrew gives common-sense advice rather than getting lost in the weeds. He focuses on the big legal issues."* *"Andrew is a very commercially minded person and will always make himself available."* *"Andy is a really trusted partner to us. He is very capable on payments regulations on a whole."* *"Lorentz is fantastic, he has been in the FinTech space and he is a leading expert. He's very responsive as well, and is very good at giving quick responses and understanding if your question is more 'yes/no, can we do this?' or if it is a project. He is good at that guidance."*

Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP

What the team is known for Davis Polk & Wardwell has a broad FinTech practice and acts for financial institutions, cryptocurrency businesses and tech companies. It has particular expertise in blockchain, capital markets transactions and Fin-

Tech litigation matters.

Strengths

"Davis Polk has phenomenal lawyers who are supportive of this industry and continue to shine. I have been very happy with them."

"One of Davis Polk's greatest strengths is their ability to bring to bear a deep team of subject matter specialists from a variety of practice groups for complex situations."

"Davis Polk has a breadth of expertise with an eye towards innovating legal concepts. We can always count on their deep bench of attorneys who are incredibly responsive and client-oriented."

"Davis Polk is an exceptional firm where you get exceptional service. They are obviously in an elite class of firms where you know you're getting excellent counsel."

Work highlights Davis Polk advised SkyBridge Capital on the structuring, launch and related ongoing matters for SkyBridge Bitcoin Fund L.P., an institutional-grade private fund designed to provide investors with exposure to Bitcoin.

Notable practitioners

Byron Rooney is a distinguished expert in capital markets transactions and provides corporate, securities law and governance advice to clients. He also advises on significant partnerships between banks and crypto exchanges. **Strengths:** *"Byron is THE rock star of advising large FinTech companies around the world. He is simply the best in his field."* *"Byron Rooney is an amazing partner, he's very savvy and attuned to client needs and industry developments."* *"Byron really knows the law and governance aspects backwards and forwards. I think he really stands out in terms of giving direct, thoughtful advice that you can take action on. He's very aware of commercial realities of a business, and provides exceptional client service."*

Joseph Hall is a member of Davis Polk's capital markets team and advises on the securities law aspects of blockchains. He also regularly interacts with the SEC on digital asset matters.

Strengths: *"Joe is legit. If you want to know if you can offer a product or if it is a security, that is what he is known for."* *"Joe an extremely thoughtful and creative lawyer, with excellent judgement and an ability to cut through complexity."* **Zachary Zweihorn** is a partner in Davis Polk's Financial Institutions Group. He regularly advises clients on SEC rules and regulatory matters in connection with corporate transactions. **Strengths:** *"Zach has precision and can find flaws and errors with novel arguments."* *"Zach has strong knowledge of crypto and FinTech businesses and commercial considerations."* *"Zach is very sophisticated in his thinking and problem-solving."*

Debevoise & Plimpton LLP

What the team is known for Debevoise & Plimpton has a respected practice that acts for established names in FinTech on mandates ranging from strategic transactions and cryptocurrency regulation, to the formation and structuring of blockchain platforms. The Debevoise team is particularly well regarded for handling high-profile crypto asset disputes and SEC investigations, and has additional capabilities in data protection and cybersecurity.

Strengths

"Debevoise are able to bring experienced attorneys to matters quickly, when needed, to cover various areas."

"The lawyers at the firm have incredible market knowledge and experience with most every issue we present them with."

"Everyone I've interacted with at Debevoise is exceptionally well read and aware of market trends."

Work highlights Debevoise defended Paysafe Payment Processing Solutions, a publicly traded online payments company, against a putative nationwide class action complaint filed in the Northern District of California alleging violations of the California Consumer Privacy Act and California's Unfair Competition Law, as well as related claims of negligence and invasion of privacy.

Notable practitioners

Gregory Lyons is a key contact.

Dechert LLP

What the team is known for Dechert advises investment platform providers, asset managers, crypto businesses and traditional financial institutions on M&A deals, capital markets work and regulatory compliance.

Strengths

"The team at Dechert have the ability to make complex and sophisticated topics easily understandable."

"Dechert is a global firm with strong national support on a broad array of specialties that the FinTech team utilises with skill on complex matters."

"The Dechert team is always available, flexible, and responsive."

Work highlights Dechert advised Franklin Templeton on a new mutual fund. The fund is the first to use distributed ledger technology to store data on transactions and share ownership.

Notable practitioners

Mark Perlow is a key contact.

Dentons

What the team is known for Dentons advises crypto exchanges, payments service providers and financial institutions. Clients acknowledge the firm's expertise in structured finance transactions and litigation matters.

Strengths

"Dentons' size and scale means you can get anything done. The vast amount of resources they can pull on both internally and through relationships they have means that the services they provide and the network they provide are outstanding."

"The Dentons team are quick to respond and comprehensive in their responses."

"They remain calm in the face of pressure. At Dentons, complex and sophisticated matters are handled very well with strong communication and impressive turnaround times."

Work highlights Dentons advised Ripple, a large blockchain company, on commodity and securities issues and customary practices for carbon offset investment funds, as well as advising on potential partnerships to provide blockchain-based carbon credits.

Notable practitioners

Matthew Yoon and John Holahan are key contacts.

DLA Piper LLP (US)

What the team is known for The FinTech practice at DLA Piper encompasses transactional, regulatory, litigation and enforcement mandates. Its clients include challenger banks, global brands and financial institutions. The firm is also able to provide advice in relation to payments and lending matters and data protection and cybersecurity issues.

Strengths

"DLA Piper cover the FinTech landscape with seasoned attorneys who, in many instances, have existing marketplace relationships built over multiple engagements over time that ease negotiations."

"The firm responded to all inquiries very quickly and thoroughly, commensurate with a premier law firm. They are probably among the top ten most responsive firms with which I have worked."

"At DLA they have team members with business use case experience and with regulatory technical experience. Together, they bring a balanced approach to providing guidance."

Work highlights DLA Piper advised Twitch, a well-known video streaming platform and a subsidiary of Amazon, on evolving regulatory issues, such as virtual currency, prepaid products, lending, and money movement matters.

Notable practitioners

Margo Tank is the US co-chair of the firm's financial services group. Her expertise includes guiding clients on banking regulatory matters, as well as advising on crypto-related lending issues and payments platforms. **Strengths:** *"Margo is extremely knowledgeable in the digital banking and FinTech space."* *"Margo is truly among a small group of people in the FinTech legal community who get the big picture and have the ability to operationalise complex and sophisticated solutions with ease."* *"Margo responded to all issues very quickly, demonstrated solid understanding of complex issues, and provided advice informed by industry awareness and practical considerations."*

DLx Law

What the team is known for Boutique law firm DLx Law has a strong practice dedicated to the blockchain and cryptocurrency industry. The firm often advises startups and established blockchain businesses on corporate transactions and financial regulatory compliance.

Strengths

"DLx has a wealth of knowledge and diversity of experience not found in the other FinTech boutique firms focused on the digital asset space. They cover a variety of areas and have a deep bench with experience breaking ground in prior financial services-related areas."

"The team at DLx are very knowledgeable about the latest trends, thinking and challenges in the virtual asset space."

"Lawyers at the firm are always ready to jump on a call to help analyse and resolve exigency issues."

Work highlights DLx drafted and filed amicus briefs on behalf of Paradigm Operations in relation to two high-profile SEC lawsuits, SEC v Ripple Labs and SEC v Ishan Wahi, et al.

Notable practitioners

Lewis Cohen has a stellar reputation in block-

chain and cryptocurrencies and is known as one of the thought leaders in the industry. Cohen often acts for crypto companies on their initial public offerings and advises on complex securitisation deals. **Strengths:** *"Lewis is one of, if not the, preeminent securities law attorneys in the digital asset ecosystem. Whether delivering thought leadership to the industry as a whole or advice to a client in particular, he is astute at communicating clearly the state of law, the risks of activities and the lay of the land in the market."* *"He is a leading lawyer when it comes to crypto. Lewis is incredibly technical both on the law and tech side. He has very unique insights."* *"Lewis is an excellent lawyer with a strong sense of the marketplace and regulation."* *"Lewis Cohen is a thought leader in this space and he is phenomenal. Cohen has been around in this space as long as anyone I know and he is very comprehensive with his knowledge and knows all the latest regulatory proposals in different jurisdictions, keeps track of the legislative process and is very thoughtful when it comes to the best way to appropriate assets. He has written some of the most influential thought pieces on these issues as well."* **Angela Angelovska-Wilson** is recognised by peers as an expert in blockchain technology and assists clients on a wide variety of FinTech issues including smart contracts, cryptocurrency and payments matters. **Strengths:** *"Angela really has an intellectual grasp of regulatory issues in the crypto space."* *"She is candid, detail-oriented, and has expert knowledge."* *"Angela is very very good. She is one of those people who know all the answers to all your questions. I am a really big fan of her."*

Eversheds Sutherland (US) LLP

What the team is known for Eversheds Sutherland has a strong FinTech-oriented payments and transactional practice. The firm works with some of the largest companies in the world on acquisitions and joint ventures, facilitating agreements between financial institutions and global technology platforms as they enter new markets.

Strengths

"The Eversheds team has a deep understanding of FinTech and payments matters and they consistently deliver prompt and practical advice on complex matters."

Notable practitioners

Robert Pile, co-head of global corporate, is a key contact.

Fenwick

What the team is known for Fenwick has a strong reputation in representing blockchain and cryptocurrency firms in SEC investigations and M&A. The firm has a strong cryptocurrency practice, advising on complex product structuring and securities matters.

Strengths

"Fenwick has a great team with deep understanding of complex issues."

"Fenwick is very good, I had a very positive experience working with them."

"I think Fenwick is very strong. They are strongest in transactional services. I think where they are different from others is if you are going to do a fintech startup they can help you get off the ground."

Work highlights Fenwick represented Mythical Games, a next-generation gaming technology studio, in its acquisition of DMarket, a marketplace for trading, gaming and esports digital assets.

Notable practitioners

Andrew Albertson, co-head of Blockchain & Cryptocurrency, is a key contact.

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP

What the team is known for The FinTech practice at Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher advises traditional and emerging companies on regulatory, enforcement, transactional and litigation matters, with a focus on blockchain, payments and digital assets related issues.

Strengths

"The Gibson Dunn team has the necessary experience and expertise to cover a number of practice areas. They are able to react quickly and adjust tactics and strategy based on developing legal and factual situation. The team exercises outstanding judgement and skill."

"I have absolute confidence in Gibson Dunn lawyers to tackle cutting-edge matters including the intersection of tech and financial services risks."

Work highlights Gibson Dunn represented Coinbase, the large cryptocurrency exchange, in multiple litigations and bankruptcy receivership proceedings.

Notable practitioners

Ashlie Beringer is a key contact.

Goodwin

What the team is known for Goodwin is a notable market presence in digital assets law, and advises large investment funds, digital payments clients and crypto exchanges. Its lawyers handle transactional matters and capital markets matters, including fundraising rounds and IPOs. The team also assists with product structuring and regulatory compliance advice.

Strengths

"The team at Goodwin provides excellent service. They have done a great job and made us feel like a first-class client."

"The lawyers at Goodwin are sophisticated and great at handling deals at various levels of complexity."

"Goodwin are very good and a go-to firm for me. Their lawyers are very competent, responsive and practical."

Work highlights Goodwin represented SoFi, an online bank, in a USD2.4 billion business combination with Social Capital Hedosophia Holdings Corp. V (NYSE: IPOE).

Notable practitioners

Karen Ubell (see p.255) is a blockchain and cryptocurrency expert. She regularly assists clients with corporate governance, transactional matters and regulatory due diligence. **Strengths:** *"She is an O.G. crypto lawyer who has a broad understanding of the space." "She has deep expertise in crypto." "Karen Ubell has incredible depth of experience in novel issues. She is a huge asset."*

Mitzi Chang (see p.253) is a partner in Goodwin's technology group. She focuses her practice on representing FinTech companies throughout their corporate lifecycle, as well as assisting private

equity and venture capital firms. **Strengths:** *"Mitzi knows the market practice. She is very practical and is relationship-oriented." Grant Fondo* (see p.254) is a prominent figure in FinTech litigation and continues to represent clients in SEC investigations and class action lawsuits. **Strengths:** *"Grant is a strong lawyer." "Grant is a practical lawyer that knows the field well."*

Greenberg Traurig, PA

What the team is known for Greenberg Traurig has a well-respected FinTech practice. The firm provides expert advice on issues related to SEC and OFAC compliance, NFT platform launches and blockchain-based SPAC work. It also has expertise in intellectual property matters and lending agreements.

Strengths

"The firm is very good. They are able to break down complex matters well."

"The lawyers at Greenberg are very thoughtful and thorough with their work."

"They are willing to think through the first principles of a problem and not jump to dogmatic conclusions."

Work highlights Greenberg Traurig advised a global wine auction firm on structuring virtual currency payments and NFTs for wine auctions globally.

Notable practitioners

Barbara Jones advises clients on corporate securities matters as well as structuring of digital assets, international securities regulatory matters and token offering structures.

Hogan Lovells

What the team is known for Hogan Lovells advises both domestic and international clients on FinTech and blockchain matters. The firm is particularly adept at handling regulatory compliance and money transmitter issues for significant market players.

Strengths

"The team at Hogan Lovells has a strong background and good working knowledge that is practical."

Notable practitioners

Gregory Lisa is respected by sources for his knowledge of financial services and FinTech regulation. He is particularly adept at anti-money laundering and consumer protection issues, having previously served at FinCEN and the CFPB.

Holland & Knight LLP

What the team is known for Holland & Knight advises clients on digital asset transactional and corporate work, crypto asset-backed loans, tokenising assets, NFT projects, and M&A involving blockchain businesses. The H&K team also advises on commercial matters.

Strengths

"Holland & Knight has experts from across different verticals and has always been able to address our needs."

"Holland & Knight is able to provide business focused advice on complex matters. They do an exceptional job helping us understand risks and weigh risk-based solutions and strategies."

"They were extremely professional from start to

finish."

Work highlights Holland & Knight assisted the Rolling Loud Festival, a large music festival, with the creation of its NFT project called LoudPunx, an NFT collection of 2,435 NFTs that are lifetime VIP passes to all future Rolling Loud festivals.

Notable practitioners

Josias Dewey and Jose Casal are key contacts.

Hunton Andrews Kurth LLP

What the team is known for Hunton Andrews Kurth leads the market on data protection and cybersecurity matters. Its experts are often called upon to provide guidance on regulatory compliance, as well as develop governance programmes. Its clients include global technology platforms, financial institutions and FinTechs.

Strengths

"Hunton Andrews Kurth is top-notch and has depth at different experience levels to staff complex matters."

"Hunton provides very thorough guidance with respect to complex matters. The firm's attorneys generally have a breadth of experience resolving nuanced issues, especially where the regulatory guidance is not proscriptive. They are adept at helping clients assess risk and make informed decisions."

"The team is large with a good mix of experience levels. They have lawyers from different practice groups who work seamlessly."

Work highlights Hunton Andrews Kurth represented Quontic Bank, a US-based digital bank, in capital raising and planning, regulatory issues, corporate matters and privacy and cybersecurity matters.

Notable practitioners

Lisa Sotto heads the firm's privacy and cybersecurity practice. Sotto offers significant expertise in data breach response and consumer data issues to US as well as international clients. **Strengths:** *"In the data security and privacy realm, Sotto is top of the class." "Lisa is one of the top attorneys in cybersecurity and privacy in the country." "She is one of the very founding individuals in this space. Whether in FinTech or privacy matters, it is hard to take away from the fact that she is outstanding."*

Jones Day

What the team is known for Jones Day has a prominent market presence on blockchain and cryptocurrency matters. The firm carries out regulatory analysis, responds to investigations and handles licensing matters related to digital assets, often helping clients navigate novel areas.

Strengths

"The Jones Day team provided outstanding and sophisticated work product on a very tight timetable."

"The lawyers at Jones Day have varied expertise and are all willing to chip in."

"I've used numerous attorneys at Jones Day and have been impressed with all."

Work highlights Jones Day represented DraftKings, a sports betting company, on the launch of its sports and entertainment NFT marketplace in the United States and internationally.

Notable practitioners

Mark Rasmussen is an experienced regulatory

and litigation counsel who focuses his practice on blockchain, NFTs, crypto exchanges, and other Web3 technologies, with a particular emphasis on securities regulation and money transmission issues. **Strengths:** “Mark is very responsive and hard-working. He leads the team to deliver quality work. I trust him a lot.” “Mark is an incredible, extremely valuable lawyer. He is always available and knows the area of blockchain and cryptocurrency very well and is always helping to solve the problem.” “Mark’s superpower is that he understands how various legal analyses fit together and then further understands how the resulting advice will practically impact a product. He also has a keen understanding of what we are trying to accomplish with particular product developments/enhancements and so is able to offer suitable alternative solutions when a primary plan presents material risks.”

Katten

What the team is known for Katten has a strong blockchain and cryptocurrency practice, acting for market-leading crypto companies, traditional financial institutions investing in the industry, and major brands launching NFT projects.

Strengths

“The team is quite deep in understanding the regulatory hurdles and posing strategic and next-level questions that are critical to navigating this environment. I’m always better prepared and informed by their solid counsel.”

“Whenever I’ve had a question pertaining to a specific niche area of the law, Katten has quickly put me in contact with an experienced attorney who was able to provide practical advice in an efficient manner.”

“For a large firm, they are extremely easy to get a hold of. They respond immediately and the service level is akin to what you’d find at a smaller shop. Katten provide very personalised, efficient, practical and commercial advice.”

Work highlights Katten represented ErisX, a digital asset exchange, in connection with its sale to Cboe Global Markets.

Notable practitioners

Gary DeWaal (see p.253) is a blockchain and cryptocurrency specialist. He has expertise in traditional financial services and digital assets, and assists clients with CFTC regulatory issues as well as significant licensing matters. **Strengths:** “Gary is a gifted counsel.” “Gary’s experience stands out. He has been in this space for so long so his experience gives a unique perspective and his contact within the industry gives good insight. He is great and lives and breathes regulatory legal issues. He loves the law and has an enthusiasm which is great to see.” “He is practical and responsive and that is always important with time-sensitive matters.” “Gary is great. He lives and breathes regulatory legal issues. He loves the law and has an enthusiasm which is great to see.”

K&L Gates

What the team is known for K&L Gates assists with FinTech M&A, private equity and venture capital deals. The team acts for startups and investors on complex FinTech transactions. The firm also handles financial services regulation, data

privacy and intellectual property matters.

Strengths

“At K&L Gates, they have the ability to understand the issues we are facing and break down the issues to help us approach matters more constructively. In providing their advice, the lawyers educate us as well and we are never left feeling like we missed any pertinent information.”

“The team are very personable and on top of it when it comes to sharing information that is relevant.”

“The team is well staffed with different areas of expertise and skill sets, e.g., payments, banking, contract drafting, state and federal regulatory relationships. The team is highly responsive and delivers work product in a timely manner on timelines previously agreed and communicated.”

Work highlights K&L Gates advised Caleb & Brown on the launch of its cryptocurrency brokerage business in the US, including advice on product structuring, corporate formation and advice, obtaining state money transmitter licensing, formation of a private crypto fund, adapting regulatory compliance policies and procedures for the US, advice on various chartering options, and securities compliance.

Notable practitioners

Judith Rinearson is adept at handling matters in connection with prepaid cards and emerging payment systems. She provides regulatory advice to clients and helps payment service providers design innovative models that enable them to operate across multiple jurisdictions. **Strengths:** “Judie has always been highly responsive, professional and knowledgeable. We could not do what we do without her.” “She is personable and lovely to work with. Judie is very well informed and she knows how to give advice that is practical.” “Judie is a really strong FinTech practitioner.”

Latham & Watkins LLP

What the team is known for Latham & Watkins is one of the premier firms in FinTech with significant strength in capital markets, FinTech M&A, financial services regulation, payments law and cryptocurrency matters. The firm advises financial institutions, crypto exchanges and lending platforms on regulatory, structuring and transactional matters.

Strengths

“I’ve been deeply impressed with the depth and breadth of every attorney I have worked with, in addition to their access to other subject matter experts.”

“Their team is able to partner knowledgeably and thoughtfully to apply the law to the facts, and work together to achieve the goals of the business in an effective and compliant manner.”

“Latham has a very deep bench of expertise across practice areas. I have always found an expert at Latham even on esoteric legal issues, and they get an A+ for responding quickly with deep expertise as well as practical advice.”

Work highlights Latham & Watkins advised Binance.US in its proposed USD1.3 billion purchase of the assets of Voyager Digital. This involved assisting on all data privacy and consumer data transfer aspects.

Notable practitioners

Yvette Valdez is a partner in the firm’s New York

office and co-chairs its global digital assets and Web3 practice. Valdez acts for leading crypto clients on regulatory compliance and structuring matters, and has particular expertise in crypto derivatives matters. **Strengths:** “Yvette is very knowledgeable and responsive and considers things from different angles.” “Yvette is an amazing attorney and adviser.” “She is very experienced in a very wide range of regulatory matters.” **Barrie VanBrackle** joined Latham & Watkins in February 2022. She advises payments platforms and cryptocurrency companies on FinTech transactions and regulatory matters. **Strengths:** “Barrie is great. She is a very insightful lawyer.” **Stephen Wink** is co-chair of the firm’s digital assets and Web3 practice. He has considerable knowledge in cryptocurrency matters and financial regulatory work. Wink also advises on regulatory and intellectual property matters concerning NFT platforms. **Strengths:** “Steve is a practical lawyer who knows his craft, stays up to speed on the current state of the law and regulation and is a pleasure to work with.” “Stephen knows his stuff and responds quickly with practical and knowledgeable advice.”

Manatt Phelps & Phillips LLP

What the team is known for Manatt Phelps & Phillips is noted for its understanding of financial services regulations. The firm is particularly active in payments law, and also handles blockchain work, assisting clients with NFT product launches and licensing applications.

Strengths

“Manatt has a team of experts in all areas under one roof. More importantly, they have a strong network outside of the firm and are able to solve complex problems.”

“The attorneys are very responsive, provide thorough information, and understand when time is of the essence.”

“The lawyers at Manatt have the knowledge and skill set to analyse and tackle complex matters.”

Work highlights Manatt Phelps & Phillips advised Centrifuge, an open, decentralised platform to connect the global financial supply chain, in the launch of its Tinline protocol, a fully decentralised financing protocol that interoperates with different blockchains and allows users access to a variety of funding sources.

Notable practitioners

Scott Pearson has an impressive practice in payments and lending. He advises clients on class actions, regulatory investigations and general regulatory compliance. **Strengths:** “Scott has a robust knowledge of multiple areas of state and federal law which helps to navigate the FinTech space. He is responsive, aware of trends and case law, understands the regulatory environment, and has excellent customer service skills.” “Scott is responsive, engaging, and super proactive in helping our team stay abreast of the latest developments in the external environment. He is also very helpful in connecting us with other subject matter experts at Manatt to ensure that we receive broad, timely support.” “Scott is incredibly knowledgeable and is a thought leader in the banking and FinTech space. He is very good about proactively reaching out to us with important industry developments and thinks about our needs as a client without our

prompting. When we reach out to Scott for counsel, he is quick to acknowledge our requests and provides the requested counsel promptly. Scott applies his in-depth industry knowledge and experience by providing us concise, practical advice. He is an extremely valuable counsellor to our business."

Brian Korn heads Manatt's blockchain and cryptocurrency practice and is a go-to adviser for companies seeking to engage in FinTech lending and related investment structuring and compliance.

Strengths: "Brian is great to work with." "He has been extremely valuable to our company." "Brian is my favourite lawyer."

Mayer Brown LLP

What the team is known for Mayer Brown is prominent in all FinTech verticals. The firm is a go-to for financial institutions on FinTech M&A and investment deals. It also has a highly regarded financial services regulatory practice and regularly advises on market-first payments law matters.

Strengths

"The firm has extensive experience and creative problem-solving skills in handling complex and sophisticated matters."

"Mayer Brown is responsive and the attorneys within the firm are knowledgeable in their practice areas. Mayer Brown is able to take the complex and sophisticated matters and explain them in a way that makes sense."

"All Mayer Brown attorneys have been very responsive, both with communications and with substantive answers to our requests."

Work highlights Mayer Brown represented two of the senior FTX executives, Ryan Salame and Sam Trabucco, in ongoing investigations surrounding the collapse of FTX.

Notable practitioners

David Beam is a member of the firm's financial services regulatory and enforcement group. Beam works with payments providers and financial institutions on product development matters, partnership agreements and consumer financial regulatory issues. **Strengths:** "David has an encyclopedic knowledge of applicable laws and regulations. He also has the ability to come up with creative solutions that satisfy commercial considerations." "David is a great lawyer who is very thoughtful and a pleasure to work with." "He is a very capable payments lawyer who is responsive and has a wealth of knowledge on the intricacy of things. All in all, David is a trustworthy adviser." **Anna Pinedo** is a partner in Mayer Brown's New York office and a leading expert on capital markets. Pinedo leverages her capital markets expertise to advise FinTech clients on M&A, capital raising, structured finance, portfolio investments and fund formations. **Strengths:** "Anna is exceptional to work with and knowledgeable in her practice area." "She is an excellent lawyer with unparalleled industry and regulatory knowledge and exposure." "I was impressed by her knowledge and her practical approach to legal issues. Anna gives no-nonsense, straight advice on the intricacies of securities laws."

McDermott Will & Emery LLP

What the team is known for McDermott Will & Emery provides regulatory and product structuring advice to clients in digital assets. MWE

partners are often sought out to assist with novel NFT-related projects.

Strengths

"Time and again McDermott Will & Emery have demonstrated a high level of comfort with complex topics."

"The team makes clients feel cared for and regularly reaches out with issues that may be relevant."

"The whole team consists of individuals that have very complementary skill sets and excellent depth. At no point were we missing anything, thanks to the guidance of the McDermott team."

Work highlights McDermott Will & Emery led a large global team in a novel NFT project for Meta. The team advised on regulatory and structuring aspects of the global NFT project.

Notable practitioners

Alexandra Scheibe, head of the FinTech and blockchain practice group, is a key contact.

McGlinchey Stafford

What the team is known for McGlinchey Stafford's regulatory compliance specialist group is held in high regard for its expertise in lending and money transmitter licensing work. Its clients consist of startups, leading FinTech players and global financial institutions.

Strengths

"The lawyers at McGlinchey offer practical advice and have an encyclopedic knowledge. They are also reliable and responsive."

"The team is very responsive and flexible. The service levels are very strong too and work is delivered in accordance with agreed deadlines and good quality of advice."

"McGlinchey lawyers can discuss multi-state issues intelligently and efficiently, at a very high level."

Notable practitioners

Robert Savoie heads McGlinchey Stafford's FinTech group and is a leading regulatory expert in payment and lending. Savoie provides state and federal payments regulatory counsel to a range of clients, including financial institutions, lending platforms and consumer credit platforms. **Strengths:** "His expertise in this area is second to none and his rates are extremely reasonable. He's very knowledgeable in his subject matter, which creates a lot of efficiency. When he gives advice, it's actionable. He's very good at applying the law or his interpretation to our business, and telling us the various options and attendant risks." "Robert is very knowledgeable about all things consumer finance. He is my go-to for crafting arguments to regulators to defend the business."

McGuireWoods LLP

What the team is known for McGuireWoods advises on product counselling, data privacy and regulatory investigation response matters. The firm assists established payments platforms with licensing issues.

Strengths

"McGuireWoods continues to be a top financial services firm that has broad expertise across the sector. They have a number of true experts in their field, and we rely on them for a variety of product-related advice."

"McGuireWoods has a strong team and good clients."

Notable practitioners

Rakesh Gopalan and Molly White are key contacts.

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP

What the team is known for Morgan, Lewis & Bockius regularly advises clients on FinTech investments and licensing matters. The firm's clients range from startups to premier financial institutions, and its lawyers advise on M&A matters concerning digital assets and payments businesses.

Strengths

"The partners at Morgan Lewis are experts, professional and always available."

"The partners are insightful and advise us with actionable next steps."

Work highlights Morgan Lewis represented BMO Financial Group in its USD105 million Series C financing of R-Zero Systems, a biosafety technology startup.

Notable practitioners

Alec Dawson is a key contact.

Morrison Cohen LLP

What the team is known for Morrison Cohen's digital assets group represents a range of crypto companies, NFT issuers and DAOs. The firm takes on regulatory enforcement matters and litigation, which often spans multiple jurisdictions.

Strengths

"Morrison Cohen punches above its weight with a team that includes several people who have focused on the crypto space for years."

"Morrison Cohen has a solid team that is very responsive."

"Morrison Cohen is particularly strong at putting on the operator hat and understanding our issues, risks and incentives. They are fantastic, super responsive and know their stuff."

Work highlights Morrison Cohen represented the developers of the bZeroX decentralised lending protocol in a punitive class action regarding who, if anyone, can be held responsible for the hack of a decentralised protocol.

Notable practitioners

Jason Gottlieb is head of the firm's digital assets practice and is an expert in litigation, enforcement and advisory matters in blockchain. **Strengths:** "Jason has a rare combination of deep expertise in both the technology and the law." "Jason is fantastic. I trust his judgement and he's terrific to work with." "He's thoughtful, responsive, and highly engaged in the industry outside of his professional obligations. He's one of the best attorneys I have had the opportunity to work with in any practice area and at any firm."

Morrison Foerster

What the team is known for Morrison Foerster handles blockchain, payments, corporate and data security FinTech matters. Its lawyers have expertise in regulatory investigations and securities class action responses and advise on bank partnerships and compliance with state money transmission laws. The team has additional capabilities in financing and capital markets, as well as data security and cyber security.

Strengths

"They have a deep bench of smart and approachable lawyers. We feel that they can handle any matter we bring to them."

"The firm is excellent at quickly analysing complex issues through both a strict legal lens, but also through a commercial lens. I have been impressed with the fact that the firm seems to have a partner with on-point expertise for every matter I bring to them."

"The team at Morrison Foerster has been able to handle anything brought forth to them. Their pool of qualified experts has been responsive to complex and sophisticated matters that are new to our organisation and the industry as a whole."

Work highlights Morrison Foerster represented Coinbase, a large cryptocurrency exchange, in filing an amicus brief in Grayscale v SEC, arguing in favour of Grayscale Investments' efforts to launch a spot-bitcoin exchange-traded fund (ETF).

Notable practitioners

Crystal Kaldjob is co-head of the firm's FinTech practice group. She provides comprehensive regulatory analysis and product structuring advice to payments products and services clients. **Strengths:** *"Crystal is very responsive, a great drafter, and knows how to anticipate things."* *"Working with Crystal has been pretty easy – she is available when needed, knows the various capabilities that the firm has, and is able to get me in contact quickly. Crystal is responsive, knowledgeable and a strong negotiator. She has become a trusted adviser for us."* **Jeffrey Silberman** is noted for his ability to advise on online payments and lending platforms on product and regulatory matters. Silberman's clientele ranges from startups to incumbent financial institutions, who rely on his expertise in capital markets transactions, consumer lending matters and state licensing issues.

Nathan Taylor advises clients on privacy and security of financial information. Taylor specialises in developing practical solutions to comply with privacy and data security laws.

Norton Rose Fulbright

What the team is known for Norton Rose Fulbright advises on the regulatory and transactional aspects of blockchain projects. Its partners are adept at providing multi-jurisdictional licensing and regulatory advice, as well as handling M&A work.

Strengths

"Norton Rose has a knowledgeable team with deep knowledge, and their service is impeccable."

Work highlights Norton Rose Fulbright advised Broadridge Financial Solutions, a publicly traded FinTech company, on the development of a DLT-based platform to facilitate repo trading between financial institutions and buy-side counterparties such as hedge funds.

Notable practitioners

Stephen Aschettino, head of FinTech, is a key contact.

O'Melveny & Myers LLP

What the team is known for O'Melveny & Myers is a prominent firm in FinTech, particularly for blockchain and cryptocurrency matters. The firm assists crypto exchanges with regulatory and litigation issues, and often acts as corporate counsel on significant transactions. It also represents crypto clients in class action defence.

Strengths

"The matters we have instructed them on have involved complex and novel factual and legal cryptocurrency issues, and the O'Melveny & Myers team's subject matter expertise has been extremely valuable."

"The team are extremely versatile and equipped for everything. We have yet to find an area of missing skills."

"OMM has a strong ability to handle complex and sophisticated matters. They are not only effective in their approach but are mindful and respectful of internal deadlines. They have a strong sense and knowledge of the issues that are presented for consideration and review."

Work highlights O'Melveny defended Bittrex, a crypto-asset trading platform, in a class action alleging market manipulation of crypto-assets.

Notable practitioners

William Pao chairs O'Melveny's FinTech group and assists clients in high-profile litigation and regulatory matters. **Strengths:** *"William's subject matter expertise, savvy and practical approach, and excellent client service and results have earned him the trust of clients in delicate situations."* *"Will Pao is a very strong external counsel who is reliable, has a strong understanding of both commercial as well as regulatory and litigation issues, and has a broad knowledge of securities law issues, and also unique issues as they relate to digital assets and cryptocurrencies."* *"Will is super smart and takes direction quite well."*

Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP

What the team is known for Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe is active across multiple FinTech verticals. Its lawyers handle regulatory analysis, facilitate transactions and represent clients in litigation relating to blockchain, payments and data protection.

Strengths

"The team at Orrick have been super responsive, helpful and very strong."

"Orrick is very strong. Their team is able to partner knowledgeably and thoughtfully to apply the law to the facts, and work together to achieve the goals of the business in an effective and compliant manner. Orrick has demonstrated expertise in not only knowing the law, but also how to apply the law to new and innovative products and business needs." *"Orrick has first-class attorneys that dig into their client's business to provide the best possible counsel."*

Work highlights Orrick advised Slope, a US-based company which enables B2B platforms to offer buy now, pay later, on corporate and securities matters privacy and licensing, employee benefits, and fundraising, including the company's USD24 million Series A financing.

Notable practitioners

Behnam Dayanim is the global head of digital commerce and gaming at Orrick. Dayanim advises FinTech and financial services companies on data ownership, data protection and cybersecurity.

Strengths: *"Behnam is a great lawyer and he has a uniquely encyclopedic knowledge on everything."*

"Dayanim is incredibly business-oriented and his advice is always spot on and pragmatic. He also knows the risk appetite for our company so his advice is really relevant and accurate." *"He is an expert in this space."* **Joseph Perkins** is a go-to adviser for clients in the digital assets ecosystem. His practice involves advising blockchain companies on financing rounds and providing corporate counsel to clients entering the NFT space. **Strengths:** *"Joseph is a unique lawyer in the field of crypto FinTech law. The depth of his experience is really unmatched, when it comes to working on token-related questions. Joseph is also a very commercially aware and sensible lawyer. His focus on client service is top-notch."* *"Joe is business-calibrated and pragmatic on his approach to decentralisation/centralisation and crypto structuring matters."* **Chris Witeck's** regulatory practice centres on assisting clients in compliance issues and partnership agreements. His clients include FinTech companies and challenger banks, which often call upon his expertise to assist with state and federal regulatory and licensing guidance. **Strengths:** *"On any regulatory issues or any banking structures and finance structures, Chris is the best. He is excellent and has tremendous experience."*

Paul Hastings LLP

What the team is known for Paul Hastings is at the forefront of payments law in the USA. The firm has an impressive client list and advises major payments platforms on regulatory matters and transactions. It has further strength in cryptocurrency regulatory matters and data privacy and cybersecurity work.

Strengths

"The lawyers I've worked with at Paul Hastings have a great ability to translate law into business speak and partner with me to go a level deeper on the law and how it affects us."

"The Paul Hastings team is industry leading in terms of service levels and responsiveness. The team are also very commercial. They tie their work into the broader transaction and seek to provide value for us. They are also very plugged into the market and bring real-time, real-world perspectives."

"The lawyers at Paul Hastings are extremely responsive and helpful. They will also tailor their advice depending on the degree of risk and priority for the company. Their work is worth their weight in gold!"

Work highlights Paul Hastings advised Airbnb on a host of product and regulatory issues, including the launch of its 'Pay By Bank' product, a new payment method associated with longer-term Airbnb stays.

Notable practitioners

Chris Daniel is the founder and chair of the Global FinTech and Payments Group at Paul Hastings. Daniel advises prominent FinTech players on securities law issues, as well as acquisitions and money transmission licensing questions.

Strengths: *"Chris is on the cutting edge of issues concerning payments."* **Eric Sibbitt** serves as co-chair of the Global FinTech and Payments practice group. Sibbitt advises trading platforms and FinTechs on the regulatory complexities in digital assets. **Strengths:** *"Eric is someone who*

has worked in this space for a very long time. He understands the space." "He is extremely senior and experienced. We are very happy with Eric."

Perkins Coie LLP

What the team is known for Perkins Coie is pre-eminent in blockchain and cryptocurrency. The firm advises clients on product structuring, licensing, acquisitions and crypto litigation. Perkins Coie's client base includes payments platforms, innovative blockchain companies, challenger banks and crypto exchanges. Its lawyers also advise on data privacy, securities and money transmission laws.

Strengths

"Perkins Coie lawyers' technical expertise on FinTech matters is second to none. They have the ability to see the bigger picture and address every aspect of a query. What is most appreciated is their ability to anticipate the problems we do not even think of, and offer solutions to address them."

"They always have an expert for the nuanced situations which is incredibly helpful when running a complex and sometimes ambiguous regulatory operation. I've also never been disappointed with the time it takes to get a response. The team puts in the hours to ensure the work product is delivered in a timely fashion."

"The team of attorneys at Perkins have a deep understanding of the relevant legal issues and are able to work collaboratively to navigate the complex legal landscape and achieve a successful resolution. They have a large number of highly skilled attorneys with diverse areas of expertise, which allowed them to provide comprehensive legal services for my matter."

Work highlights Perkins Coie advised Stripe, a financial services and software-as-a-service company, on Stripe's response to government and law enforcement requests for information, globally, to manage responses to bankruptcy proceedings, and to help Stripe resolve merchant complaints (litigation threats, TROs, and garnishment orders) before they escalate to litigation.

Notable practitioners

Dax Hansen is a pre-eminent figure in blockchain and cryptocurrency law. He provides expert counsel to clients on transactional as well as regulatory and licensing issues. His recent work includes a number of matters representing well-known brands on NFT and metaverse projects.

Strengths: "Dax is one of the few lawyers who have been in the crypto space for a long time and understands the technology." "Dax Hansen is a tremendous partner to us as we look to enter more complex areas on the regulatory side, and his experience has been extremely valuable in helping us to achieve this goal. He is also very invested in us and we feel like he is focused on assisting us, is very responsive, and that we've developed a trusting relationship that allows us to test our ideas with him openly and effectively." "Dax is the go-to lawyer for crypto and blockchain payments matters." **Joe Cutler** has significant expertise in blockchain and cryptocurrency. He advises clients, including leading digital asset businesses, payment processing platforms and multinational corporations, on regulatory matters. **Strengths:** "Joe Cutler is a go-to for practical advice in tough spots." **Lowell Ness** is

a recognised expert in the blockchain and cryptocurrency. He has particular expertise in providing regulatory advice to crypto clients, and helping crypto projects raise funding from venture funds.

Strengths: "Lowell has a fantastic understanding of the crypto market as well as the legal and regulatory landscape." "Lowell is an excellent emerging companies and venture capital attorney with strong client relationships."

Pillsbury

What the team is known for Pillsbury Winthrop's FinTech team advises on regulatory compliance and corporate matters, as well as handling transactional work and licensing. The team also acts for startup FinTechs on capital raising rounds.

Strengths

"They are a full-service firm and are excellent. Not only have they helped us check that we understand regulations correctly, they have helped us with checking requirements for our entity. I would choose the Pillsbury team over and over again."

"The team at Pillsbury closely monitors the FinTech competitive and regulatory environment, and has a great deal of practical advice and wisdom to share for clients wrestling with complicated matters."

Work highlights Pillsbury Winthrop advised Blackhawk Network, a prepaid gift card and payments company, on a range of issues, including public policy advocacy and government affairs, regulatory compliance, data protection and privacy.

Notable practitioners

Deborah Thoren-Peden is a key contact.

Pryor Cashman LLP

What the team is known for Pryor Cashman has a strong FinTech practice centred around blockchain and cryptocurrency. The team advises blockchain and crypto companies on evolving regulations, government inquiries and investigations as well as corporate transactions.

Strengths

"The team at Pryor Cashman are abreast of developments in the blockchain industry."

"Pryor Cashman has built an impressive team who understand the regulatory space. The transactions they worked on went smoothly because they understand how to manage relationships in a way to get a deal done."

Work highlights Pryor Cashman represented Paxos Trust Company, a regulated blockchain and tokenisation infrastructure platform, in the termination of its relationship with Binance for the branded stablecoin BUSD.

Notable practitioners

Jeffrey Alberts co-heads the firm's FinTech Group and represents blockchain, digital currency, payments and FinTech companies in a wide variety of regulatory issues, including securities offerings, anti-money laundering, privacy and data security, and in responding to regulatory inquiries. **Strengths:** "Jeffrey is a strong adviser in crypto assets." "He is very practical and understands the industry and regulation. Jeff has a good combination that we enjoy using."

Ropes & Gray LLP

What the team is known for Ropes & Gray is strong on FinTech corporate transactional matters. The firm advises on significant SPAC transactions and other equity capital markets matters. Its lawyers also help clients to comply with regulation concerning crypto investments.

Strengths

"Our experience working with Ropes & Gray is very good. We consider them, and the senior lawyers in their teams, trusted advisers. They have a broad range of experience, know market practices very well and give excellent, to-the-point, commercially smart and practical advice. They are easy to reach and always fast at responding."

"The team at Ropes excels at handling complex and sophisticated matters."

"Ropes & Gray is an excellent outside counsel resource for us when thinking about how to navigate cutting-edge legal issues. They maintain a robust cross-disciplinary blockchain and cryptocurrency group that is easily able to loop in top practitioners regardless of the sector of law in question. We are fortunate to be able to count on their insights as a resource on numerous sophisticated issues."

Work highlights Ropes & Gray represented Silver Lake in its Series I-1 investment in Stripe, a private FinTech company that creates software which processes payments for e-commerce businesses.

Notable practitioners

Melissa Bender is a partner in Ropes & Gray's asset management group and co-head of the private funds practice. Bender has a strong funds practice advising hedge fund managers on blockchain and digital assets, hybrid structures and formations. Clients especially appreciate Bender's commercial awareness. **Strengths:** "Melissa's level of sophistication, commercial awareness and vision, client service and general level of service is very strong. She is commercial, solution-oriented and always ready to jump in and orchestrate all teams to meet client demands." "She's a complete rockstar. Melissa has a rare combination of excellent commercial awareness, attention to detail and ability to solve complex problems." "Melissa can straddle novel complexities and the balance between legal and commercial considerations. She responds quickly and is always thoughtful." "Melissa is amazing. She is brilliant, creative, commercial and responsive."

Schulte Roth & Zabel LLP

What the team is known for The Schulte Roth & Zabel team is sought out to provide specialist regulatory counsel on blockchain and payments-related FinTech matters. SRZ also represents prominent hedge funds in high-profile cryptocurrency litigation.

Strengths

"The breadth of the team and range of subject matter expertise is strong. SRZ is able to handle complex and sophisticated matters and give good advice regarding these types of matters."

"The depth and breadth of the team is strong all around. Schulte Roth are able to handle any simple or complex task effectively. They have also never failed us on service levels or responsiveness."

"The team are extremely responsive. I have a lot of trust in them. The Schulte team are fantastic in this

space.”

Work highlights Schulte Roth advised One River Digital Asset Management, an institutional digital asset manager and SEC-registered investment adviser, on its merger with Coinbase.

Notable practitioners

Donald Mosher is a co-head of the bank regulatory group and is an expert on money transmission licensing issues. He provides payments regulatory advice to clients throughout the US. **Strengths:** “Donald Mosher is able to provide advice regarding sophisticated matters and has a deep breadth of knowledge of the payments and money transmitter regulatory space.” “Don is super strong in terms of knowing the laws in and out and being responsive and efficient. He is very commercially attuned. He is good at identifying when a risk is a commercial matter. His ability to measure a risk level in a practical way is very helpful.” “Don has deep expertise and great connections with regulators and throughout the industry.”

Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton LLP

What the team is known for Sheppard Mullin's blockchain and FinTech team advises established businesses as well as FinTech innovators on blockchain technology, NFTs, digital currencies, as well as financing rounds.

Strengths

“The Sheppard Mullin lawyers are actively aware of what's going on in the market.”

“Sheppard Mullin's lawyers always try to give you the answers from every important related aspect.”

Work highlights Sheppard Mullin represented The NFT Gaming Company (NFT Gaming) in its initial public offering of common stock.

Notable practitioners

Moorari Shah is a key contact.

Sidley Austin LLP

What the team is known for Sidley Austin is a market leader securities law, broker-dealer licensing and state money transmission law matters. The team has impressive regulatory expertise in payments law and blockchain. It also advises on investment fund formation for FinTech funds, and handles capital markets matters and FinTech M&A.

Strengths

“I have found the attorneys in Sidley's blockchain and cryptocurrency practice to be very sophisticated and very well versed in the space. I was very impressed at how well the lawyers knew both the digital asset space as well as the traditional securities space and the ease with which they were able to translate securities industry concepts to the digital asset world.”

“Sidley Austin has excellent partners and associates who help deliver excellent work product on time and on budget.”

“Sidley's lawyers are incredibly knowledgeable and accessible. The advice is practical and easy to implement.”

Work highlights Sidley Austin advised PayPal on its launches of the new pay monthly service and buy now, pay later products, as well as the expansion of PayPal's cryptocurrency offerings.

Notable practitioners

Joel Feinberg is a leader of Sidley's international Banking and Financial Services group. Feinberg's work centres around regulatory compliance, licensing and transactional matters in payments. Feinberg often acts for open banking platform businesses. **Strengths:** “Joel is exactly what I look for in an external counsel. He is knowledgeable about the law and our internal requirements, exceedingly accessible and responsive, and creative.” **Lilya Tessier** is the New York head of Sidley's FinTech and blockchain services group. She is an industry leader in securities enforcement and regulatory issues pertaining to blockchain. Her clear understanding of the underlying technology is commended by a range of sources. **Strengths:** “No one works harder than Lilya. She is incredible, dedicated and knowledgeable about the law and technology. I would rate her as my top go-to person.” “She has a great understanding of what is going on in the digital asset tokenisation space.” “Lilya is very responsive and gives good feedback. She is very smart on all issues.” **David Teitelbaum** has great expertise in payments law and blockchain-related matters. He advises payments platform businesses and crypto projects on regulatory matters, including anti-money laundering compliance. **Strengths:** “David is a terrific lawyer. He really makes an effort to understand the technology, value proposition and products.” “I love him. David gives excellent, practical advice on banking law and money transmission and knows AML and sanctions work. I find him to be just terrific.”

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP & Affiliates

What the team is known for Skadden has a pre-eminent M&A practice and impressive capabilities in digital assets regulatory matters. The firm also advises on financial regulation, litigation and intellectual property matters, including innovative cryptocurrency projects.

Strengths

“One of Skadden's strongest qualities and one that sets it apart is the strength of its various specialty practices and deep bench.”

“Skadden continually raises the bar for its client service. The teams clearly communicate timelines and turnaround times for work product, and are overall incredibly responsive in all of their communications with clients.”

“Overall, they have an extremely strong team in all the practice areas where we need help. It is incredibly helpful in that they are a one-stop shop where they can meet all of our needs at an extremely high level.”

Work highlights Skadden represented Citigroup in establishing a service offering to custody and settle digital assets for its customers.

Notable practitioners

Stuart Levi (see p.255) is an expert in blockchain matters and regularly advises clients on intellectual property and securities law questions related to NFT and blockchain products. Levi also provides product counselling advice to established cryptocurrency exchanges as well as global consumer brands first entering the space. **Strengths:** “Stuart is one of the best attorneys that I have worked with. He has an exceptional grasp of the issues as they exist now as well as how they

might be in years to come.” “Stuart Levi brings to the table an understanding of what it takes to get a deal done. Stuart will be aggressive but his best strength is he will talk you down from the ledge. He is a wonderful reminder of the best way to get deals done.” **Jeffrey Brill** (see p.253) is based out of New York and remains a popular choice for M&A and corporate advisory matters related to FinTech. He regularly represents clients in financing rounds and complex transactions. **Strengths:** “Jeffrey is one of those lawyers who truly takes joy in what he does and helping clients achieve their goals. You want him on your most high-stakes matters. He has a great understanding of what in-house lawyers need and the internal politics they are often dealing with. He is also great at the legal technicalities of transactions but conveys information and advice in a digestible way.” “He goes above and beyond, both professionally and personally. He also has expert knowledge and business insights of all things FinTech, M&A and public transactions.” “Jeff Brill is probably my favourite M&A lawyer I've worked with as an in-house counsel. Jeff is extremely hard-working and responsive, and overall an excellent lawyer.” “Jeff Brill is an outstanding FinTech lawyer with deep transaction experience. His level of client service is unmatched and his deal teams are consistently top-notch! I never hesitate to recommend Jeff for transactional work.” **Sven Mickisch** (see p.255) is co-head of both the financial institutions group and the FinTech practice at the firm. He handles general corporate matters for clients and advises on cutting-edge transactions between banks and FinTech platforms, which often require multi-state licensing approval. **Strengths:** “Sven is good lawyer and has a good practice.” “Mickisch is really smart, excellent on M&A, and excellent on financial services.” **Alexander Drylewski** (see p.253) is co-head of Skadden's Web3 and digital assets practice. Drylewski focuses on digital asset-related securities and commercial litigation in state and federal courts throughout the country. **Strengths:** “Alex is a valued counsel and, more so, a confidante for my colleagues and me. His knowledge of the industry and our needs is unparalleled and his skills and judgement as counsel are second to none.” “He is the golden child. Alex's ability to recall, apply, analyse and remain completely natural is amazing. Alex is so practical, and you know that underlying his practicality is an extraordinary reservoir of knowledge. It is quite something.” “He gets to know the clients very well and is responsive. Alex gets to know what is important to his clients from a business perspective.”

Step toe & Johnson LLP

What the team is known for Steptoe & Johnson is recognised for its excellent capabilities in cryptocurrency mandates and experience in financial services regulation. The firm has substantial expertise in anti-money laundering issues and can provide expert advice on the taxation of cryptocurrency.

Strengths

“The lawyers at Steptoe are fantastic and possess deep experience in blockchain-related investigations and litigation.”

Notable practitioners

Alan Cohn is a cyber-policy expert advising a

range of companies, from startups to large institutions, on cryptocurrency and blockchain-related matters. **Strengths:** "Alan is a long-time expert and a thoughtful partner."

Sullivan & Worcester

What the team is known for Sullivan & Worcester's FinTech practice centres on advising prominent cryptocurrency businesses, large enterprises and emerging startups on blockchain and digital assets issues. The firm provides key securities law, product structuring and regulatory compliance advice.

Strengths

"The lawyers at Sullivan & Worcester are extremely knowledgeable and competently cover a wide array of issues. They provide a high level of customer service, consistent communications and full engagement with its clients."

"The team provided quick turnaround times and were available for calls on short notice."

Work highlights Sullivan & Worcester provided regulatory guidance to Music.com, which is developing a platform for issuing and trading NFTs developed by musicians and bands for their fans and others in the music ecosystem.

Notable practitioners

Joel Telpner is chair of Sullivan & Worcester's FinTech and blockchain practice. He is well regarded for his work on enterprise blockchain solutions and on the development of the law surrounding stablecoins. Telpner provides expert regulatory guidance to platforms concerning NFT and token issuance. **Strengths:** "Joel is one of the top lawyers on these topics in the world." "Joel is an excellent lawyer." "He is very thoughtful and has been in the space forever. Joel is well respected."

Sullivan & Cromwell LLP

What the team is known for Sullivan & Cromwell has an impressive reputation for bank regulatory matters and a focus on blockchain and cryptocurrency. The firm is often instructed on SEC and CFTC registrations and provides regulatory and corporate counsel to digital asset businesses.

Strengths

"The Sullivan & Cromwell team are very easy to get a quick response from where something is time-sensitive. They are also always willing to get on the phone on a reasonable time horizon to discuss issues."

"We view their expertise as stellar. We have worked with the S&C team for years. They are leaders in the bank regulatory space and have significant expertise in FinTech, an intersection which we care about. That is why we look to them."

"I've been impressed with everyone that I've worked with there. I think that the bench there is probably fairly deep. One of the most impressive aspect of the practice is that they're equally if not more capable in advising on traditional financial institutions issues."

Notable practitioners

Colin Lloyd is an expert in blockchain-related matters and helps cryptocurrency platforms to become registered entities and interpret relevant regulation. He regularly liaises with the SEC and CFTC on behalf of clients. **Strengths:** "Colin is an excellent attorney with great expertise who

continues to pick up more crypto work. He is very insightful and knowledgeable on the regulatory scene." "He is a superb lawyer with strong analytical skills." "Colin is great. We find him among the best out there for thoughtful, intelligent, practical advice related to trading concepts, regulations and related matters." **Rebecca Simmons** is head of the firm's payments practice and co-head of its FinTech practice. Simmons represents clients in the development of payments products and assists banks with setting up strategic partnerships with blockchains. **Strengths:** "Rebecca is very easy to work with but also intellectually rigorous. When dealing with complicated negotiations and obscure areas of law, she picked up on the issues immediately and pushed for explanations so we could land in a better place." "Rebecca has been in this space for a long time and is very knowledgeable."

Troutman Pepper

What the team is known for Troutman Pepper has a strong FinTech practice in payments, data protection and corporate securities. Its lawyers advise and represent key trade associations, traditional financial institutions, payment providers and major tech firms on privacy and data regulatory compliance, security incidents, M&A, enforcement actions, as well as licensing and commercial matters. The team is also able to act on blockchain and crypto-related matters.

Strengths

"Troutman has had expertise in every question we've asked over the last three years. They are our go-to firm."

"They are able to handle complex matters of significant organisational impact. They have folks spanning many different subject matter expertise and practices such that it can often be a one-stop shop."

"Troutman has provided excellent guidance in helping us work through complicated transactions, and their attorneys have been extremely responsive."

"Their service has been great. They are very responsive and their turnaround time is quick. We are happy with their advice, as they really understand our business and goals."

Work highlights Troutman Pepper represented Momento NFT, a platform that allows creators to own and sell social NFTs to their fans, on day-to-day corporate issues.

Notable practitioners

James Kim is a payments law and lending specialist at Troutman Pepper. Kim was previously a senior enforcement lawyer at the CFPB, and in private practice advises FinTech clients on consumer protection and general regulatory compliance work. **Strengths:** "James is very easy to work with, incredibly knowledgeable, proactive, highly organised, and he can bring the firm's strengths to bear as needed." "He provides very commercial advice. A lot of lawyers are very conservative but James pushes us to get the best outcome." "James is knowledgeable and thoughtful in his advice. I trust his expertise and his judgement." **Kim Phan** is a partner in Troutman Pepper's privacy and data security group. Phan assists clients with building regulatory compliant structures and advises on data protection and cybersecurity law. **Strengths:** "Kim is excellent at advising us on complex matters

and business issues." "She is awesome and great. Kim knows her stuff and knows how to communicate with clients in a digestible way."

Venable LLP

What the team is known for Venable advises FinTech clients on payments and lending issues. The firm advises FinTech companies, payments platforms and lenders on product development matters as well as regulatory due diligence and regulatory investigation responses.

Strengths

"The Venable team is extremely knowledgeable about the payments space. They also have a breadth of experience many do not have and if there are areas of research needed, they are prompt and thorough."

"They have deep experience in the payments world and often bring issues to our attention that we were previously unaware of. Every individual I've worked with at Venable has been extremely talented."

"Venable provides knowledgeable and actionable advice. The team is very responsive and efficient."

Work highlights Venable advised First American Payment Systems in resolving an FTC investigation related to First American's sales and marketing of payment processing services to small business merchants.

Notable practitioners

Ellen Berge is a compliance and regulatory expert in payments and lending. She often assists neobanks, payments processors and lenders with licensing issues and regulatory investigations.

Strengths: "Ellen is excellent to work with and highly recommended." "She shows great leadership and produces quality work." "She is aces."

Waymaker LLP

What the team is known for Waymaker's FinTech practice specialises in responding to blockchain and cryptocurrency regulatory investigations and class action defence. Its clients include prominent crypto companies.

Strengths

"The firm has a number of former DOJ and SEC lawyers, which gives them a deep bench of really talented lawyers."

"The Waymaker team is always highly responsive. They are always attentive to deadlines and do everything they can to ensure that clients meet all deadlines."

"I wouldn't use any other firm for regulatory/investigation work."

Work highlights Waymaker defended Block.one, a blockchain company, in two related class actions in the SDNY alleging that Block.one violated securities laws in connection to its USD4 billion token sale.

Notable practitioners

Brian Klein of Waymaker is one of the pre-eminent cryptocurrency litigators in the USA. He defends FinTech clients and companies in active federal criminal and regulatory investigations.

Strengths: "Brian is one of the best in the industry. Given the depth of his experience in the blockchain and FinTech industries, he knows the regulatory players well and can give very practical but strategic advice to clients as they deal with regulatory inquiries. He is excellent in leading clients through

the fact gathering phase of regulatory investigations, but is also adept at leading them through the formal processes as well, whether that be negotiation of settlements or litigating the matters.” “He is very responsive, and deeply knowledgeable about crypto, as well as being a skilled litigator.” “Brian is the best of the best. He is my first call and he responds immediately.”

White & Case LLP

What the team is known for White & Case has a very strong reputation for capital markets work and oversees acquisitions and partnerships in the digital assets industry. It also handles regulatory matters concerning cryptocurrency and other digital assets, including NFT platform launches. Its clients include financial institutions, technology companies and payments processors.

Strengths

“The White & Case team are extremely current and commercial regarding matters which are effectively changing in real time.”

“Understanding crypto requires knowledge of the law, complex technical matters, and current events. The lawyers at White & Case pull this off.”

Work highlights White & Case represented Meta and its family of apps on financial services product development, particularly in the digital assets/NFT area.

Notable practitioners

Douglas Landy has regulatory expertise and significant experience in working with global banks and helping state governments draft digital assets securities regulations. **Strengths:** “Doug is a regulatory expert.” “Doug was very knowledgeable in his field and very easy to work with.”

Pratin Vallabhaneni’s background as a former banking regulator ensures that he is well placed to assist clients in both blockchain and payments law matters. He provides counsel to clients on the regulatory aspects of NFT platform launches and helps to negotiate agreements and structure partnerships between banks and cryptocurrency providers. **Strengths:** “Pratin is one of the smartest people I’ve ever met at the intersection of law and digital assets.” “Pratin is extremely responsive and has solid commercial thinking.” **Burr Eckstut** (see p.254) advises on a variety of issues across FinTech, with particular expertise in technology transactions. His practice includes helping banks integrate Bitcoin into their services. **Strengths:** “Burr is great on substance and at being practical. He knows the industry and the tech as well as anyone.” “Eckstut is extremely commercial, a problem solver and current on complex issues.”

Willkie Farr & Gallagher LLP

What the team is known for Willkie Farr & Gallagher frequently acts on FinTech M&A matters. The firm also regularly advises clients on crypto legislation. It has a strong data protection practice, advising clients on privacy issues concerning blockchain-enabled platforms.

Strengths

“The lawyers at Willkie have excellent knowledge of crypto market regulation.”

“Willkie has significant depth and a practical approach to matters related to blockchain.”

“They are able to bring together both deep knowl-

edge of regulatory requirements on US investment advisers together with knowledge and expertise in complex and evolving digital asset investment environment.”

Work highlights Willkie’s privacy, cybersecurity and data strategy team advised Digital Dollar Foundation and its Board of Directors on existing regulatory financial privacy obligations and cybersecurity considerations, and on considering legal, regulatory and technical means for ensuring the protection of consumer privacy in the contexts of a potential United States Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC).

Notable practitioners

Christopher Giancarlo is a former CFTC chairman and draws praise from clients and peers alike for his contribution to industry and thought leadership. He is also the founder and director of the Digital Dollar Project, a multi-stakeholder initiative that facilitates the exploration of a United States Central Bank Digital Currency. **Strengths:** “Chris adds immense value with his expertise at former chair of the CFTC and understanding of global impact of digital currencies on markets.” “Giancarlo is a fantastic lawyer.” **Laura Jehl** leads the data protection and cybersecurity practice at the firm. Jehl helps clients to respond to significant data breaches and provides guidance on regulatory compliance both domestically and abroad.

Strengths: “Laura is a force. She understands what needs to get accomplished immediately and gets it done. She’s a calming influence in the tornado. Laura has an amazing ability to work multiple angles of a problem simultaneously and see around corners.” “Laura is a pleasure to work with. She provides a steady hand and confidence during uncertain times. She adeptly manages multiple work streams and rolls up her sleeves for her clients. She is definitely a cyber lawyer to call when the business is at stake.” “Laura has provided immeasurable value as a privacy lawyer for the organisation’s privacy and security work around digital currencies.”

WilmerHale

What the team is known for WilmerHale advises financial institutions, corporate clients and emerging FinTech companies. The firm is particularly strong on blockchain matters, including transactional matters, SEC investigations and OFAC sanctions compliance advice.

Strengths

“The team at Wilmer is solid and consistently reliable at all levels and across all practice areas. In addition, counsel at Wilmer demonstrate remarkable professionalism and quality in each conversation. When navigating a complex, sophisticated legal matters, it is a pleasure to listen, work with, and rely on counsel from WilmerHale.”

“The team at WilmerHale are very responsive, regardless of hours, mindful of time lines, and get things done early. They are thorough and have a deep bench in the FinTech space. We were very impressed with their work, especially on the enforcement side.”

“They are efficient, timely and reliable. WilmerHale is a force multiplier for our legal department.”

Work highlights WilmerHale represented Citibank in its Series C-1/C-2 Preferred Stock financing of LiquidX, a FinTech company that

facilitates the origination, distribution and optimisation of trade, inventory and working capital finance assets.

Notable practitioners

Tiffany Smith is co-chair of the firm’s blockchain and cryptocurrency working group. Smith focuses her practice on advising broker-dealers, financial institutions and FinTech companies on federal securities laws and regulations. Smith is well regarded by clients and market sources alike.

Strengths: “Tiffany is responsive, professional and a subject matter expert. She is also good at corraling the right people across the firm to step in on issues.” “She is very knowledgeable, practical and strategic in her advice.” “Tiffany is very knowledgeable. She is great at navigating the grey areas of FinTech and keeping in touch and keeping up to date. She is very responsive as well.”

Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati

What the team is known for Wilson Sonsini is noted for its strong regulatory practice, advising on product and data management mandates. It is also able to advise early-stage FinTech companies on a wide range of transactional and financing issues.

Strengths

“I think they are great. The lawyers are super responsive, very practical and amazing value for money.”

“The team at Wilson Sonsini are entrepreneurial and responsive.”

“No matter the hour, the team is very responsive.”

Work highlights Wilson Sonsini represented Flexa, a digital payments company, on a broad range of issues, including the formation of the Ampere Foundation, a nonprofit founded to develop the AMP asset token ecosystem.

Notable practitioners

Amy Caiazza is a key contact.

ZwillGen PLLC

What the team is known for ZwillGen is a renowned boutique firm in data protection and cybersecurity. Its partners provide regulatory advice and have litigation expertise to assist clients with data privacy and security issues.

Strengths

“The ZwillGen team is great at breaking down complex matters and speaking clearly. They are often able to take a commercial approach to issues and offer straightforward solutions.”

“ZwillGen has made a huge influence in this space even though they are not a huge firm. They have done great.”

“ZwillGen has quick turnaround times, they meet our deadlines and are very commercial. They are able to provide real and very helpful advice on some of the more thorny issues. The team is also very practical.”

Work highlights ZwillGen counselled over 40 hedge funds and similar types of investment firms in their diligence, contracting, acquisition and use of alternative data.

Notable practitioners

Marc Zwillinger is a privacy and data security expert. He provides privacy and money transmission advice for FinTech clients. He also represents clients in regulatory investigations and privacy

class actions. **Strengths:** “Marc is an excellent attorney and very knowledgeable.” “Marc is very well known in the FinTech and cyber space, he’s very well respected.”

Other Ranked Lawyers

Catherine Brennan of Hudson Cook focuses on due diligence and compliance mandates for institutions such as banks, investment banks and consumer finance companies.

Strengths:

“Catherine Brennan is extremely knowledgeable and very well thought of, I have a lot of respect for her.”

Samson Enzer is a former federal prosecutor and chairs Cahill’s cryptocurrency and blockchain practice. He represents companies and individ-

uals in regulatory enforcement proceedings in the financial services and cryptocurrency sector.

Strengths:

“Sam gets to the bottom of the issue quickly. He is very results-oriented and client-focused, which is very helpful.”

“He is a real expert and is a triple threat. He can do regulatory advice, litigation, and he has the investigator background. Sam is an incredible resource.”

“Samson is an excellent lawyer and a hard worker.”

Joshua Ashley Klayman is the head of blockchain and digital assets and US head of FinTech at Linklaters. She advises global technology companies and startups on issues related to tokens and digital assets.

Strengths:

“Josh is a brilliant lawyer with outstanding knowledge of the blockchain, crypto, Web3 space and provides spot-on advice.”

“Josh Klayman is one of the pre-eminent blockchain lawyers currently in private practice. Her skills and judgement are very rare.”

Richard Levin (see p.255) chairs the FinTech and regulation practice at Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough. He advises early-stage companies as well as publicly traded entities on matters such as alternative trading systems, digital currency exchanges and broker-dealer licensing.

Laurel Loomis Rimón is co-chair of Jenner & Block’s FinTech and crypto assets practice. She is a former federal prosecutor with deep experience in the financial regulatory and enforcement sector.

Strengths:

“Laurel is fantastic and has a very diverse practice. She handles a lot of AML, payments and enforcement mandates.”

Crypto-Asset Disputes

Crypto-Asset Disputes
Leading Firms
Band 1
Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP
Latham & Watkins LLP
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP
Waymaker LLP
Band 2
Debevoise & Plimpton LLP
Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP
Goodwin
Kaplan Hecker & Fink LLP
McDermott Will & Emery LLP
Morrison Cohen LLP
Band 3
Ballard Spahr LLP
Cahill Gordon & Reindel LLP
Fenwick
Morrison Foerster
Paul Hastings LLP
Perkins Coie LLP
Sullivan & Cromwell LLP
Withers Bergman LLP
* Indicates individual with profile.
◇ (ORL) = Other Ranked Lawyer.
Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.

Band 1

Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP

What the team is known for Davis Polk & Wardwell is highly regarded for its crypto-asset disputes practice, combining expertise in cryptocurrency and blockchain with strong litigation capabilities. The firm represents major players in the crypto industry in complex cryptocurrency investigations, enforcements, and class actions

Crypto-Asset Disputes
Leading Individuals
Band 1
Cohen Robert A. Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP
Drylewski Alexander Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher *
Evans Joseph McDermott Will & Emery LLP *
Gottlieb Jason Morrison Cohen LLP
Klein Brian Waymaker LLP
Naftalis Benjamin Latham & Watkins LLP
Yatter Douglas K. Latham & Watkins LLP
Band 2
Ceresney Andrew J. Debevoise & Plimpton LLP
Fondo Grant P. Goodwin *
Hecker Sean Kaplan Hecker & Fink LLP
Band 3
Enzer Samson Cahill Gordon & Reindel LLP
LaVigne Christopher N. Withers Bergman LLP *
Levi Stuart Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP *
Band 4
Greenfield Elliot Debevoise & Plimpton LLP
Peerce Marjorie Ballard Spahr LLP
Sadeghi Kayvan Jenner & Block LLP (ORL) ◇
Tessler Lilya Sidley Austin LLP (ORL) ◇
Ubell Karen Goodwin *
Up-and-coming individuals
Martabano Ashley Waymaker LLP
Moran Fiona Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP

suits, with a particular specialty in SEC action.

Strengths

“Davis Polk has a strong combination of deep SEC securities law expertise, and crypto familiarity. The firm is very well connected with the large crypto players and has a deep knowledge of the current state of play with regulators, particularly the SEC.”

“Davis Polk have a deep bench to handle large, complex cases. They are very reliable overall.”

“The Davis Polk & Wardwell crypto team is very strong. They have multiple experienced litigators who have handled complex crypto-related litigations.”

Work highlights Davis Polk & Wardwell represented Coinbase in an investigation by the New York Department of Financial Services into its historical compliance with Bank Secrecy Act and Anti Money Laundering regulations.

Notable practitioners

Robert Cohen is a highly regarded government investigations lawyer with particular expertise in crypto assets, data protection and cybersecurity. He brings a wealth of experience in SEC actions, having formerly been head of the SEC’s Crypto Assets and Cyber Unit. **Strengths:** “Rob’s advice and proposed strategies have been nuanced, practical and effective.” “Rob is very good, and does significant work in this space.” “Rob is excellent and a very seasoned enforcement lawyer.” **Fiona Moran** has a strong practice acting for digital asset clients in multi-agency government investigations and enforcement actions. **Strengths:** “Fiona has knowledge and is very thoughtful.” “Fiona Moran has a very client-first ethos, she wants to do the best thing for the client.”

Latham & Watkins LLP

What the team is known for Latham & Watkins represents major crypto projects and venture funds, including DeFi projects, NFT platforms and creators, crypto miners and exchanges, DAOs and trading firms, on commercial disputes matters, bankruptcy proceedings and regulatory investigations and enforcement. It has handled a significant number of regulatory investigations and white-collar matters, including SEC, CFTC and

FinCen investigations, and advises on OFAC sanctions compliance.

Strengths

"Latham & Watkins has an outstanding team, with relevant experience and expertise to cover a number of practice areas. They are able to react quickly and adjust tactics and strategy based on developing legal and factual situations. The team exercises extraordinary judgement and skill."

"Latham has outstanding knowledge in all areas; the team has an expert for everything, and they are incredibly responsive."

"Latham & Watkins is a major player."

Work highlights Latham & Watkins acted as lead litigation counsel for the joint liquidators of Three Arrows Capital, a crypto hedge fund.

Notable practitioners

Benjamin Naftalis is a former Assistant US Attorney for the Southern District of New York, where he focused on securities and commodities fraud matters, and co-head of the firm's digital assets and Web3 practice. Naftalis advises major crypto clients on investigations and regulatory enforcement. **Strengths:** *"Ben is brilliant and highly skilled; he has excellent judgement."* *"Ben is very strong in this area. He is very strong on the enforcement side and has real engagement in this area."* **Douglas Yatter** is a former Chief Trial Attorney in the CFTC, and is co-head of the firm's digital assets and Web3 practice and co-chair of its commodities and derivatives regulation and enforcement practice. Yatter advises crypto clients on investigations and regulatory enforcement matters concerning token offerings, CeFi and DeFi platforms, allegations of insider trading, money laundering and market manipulation. **Strengths:** *"Doug Yatter is a really sharp thinker."* *"Doug comes from a CFTC background which is helpful. He is really smart."* *"Doug is an extraordinary advocate and counsellor. He is able to handle issues at all levels of complexity in a number of practice areas. Doug is brilliant and is a true standout."*

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP & Affiliates

What the team is known for Skadden has a long-established and successful Web3 and digital assets practice, and has strong expertise representing crypto clients in commercial disputes, securities litigation and regulatory enforcement. Its litigation lawyers and regulatory specialists regularly represent exchange operators, token projects, DAOs, crypto miners and custodians, venture funds and stablecoin issuers, among others.

Strengths

"Skadden is top-notch. They are so responsive, and very keyed into the issues for the client, really tailoring information down when giving advice."

"Skadden have good practitioners in the space."

"Skadden has skilfully and thoughtfully managed and defended our litigation. The team remained lean while still bringing all the resources and power to bear on the matter that one expects from a multinational top flight law firm."

Work highlights Skadden represented Coinbase in Underwood et al v Coinbase Global, Inc., successfully securing a full dismissal of the class

action suit.

Notable practitioners

Alexander Drylewski (see p.253) is co-head of the firm's FinTech, Web3 and digital assets practice, advising clients on digital asset-related securities litigation and commercial disputes. He has represented clients in some of the most significant securities litigation cases in crypto.

Strengths: *"Alex has worked tirelessly, making himself available at any time we needed. He was patient in explaining complex issues to our team of non-lawyers. I was most impressed by his ability to manage challenging personalities."* *"Alex's knowledge of the industry and the client's needs are unparalleled, and his skills and judgements as counsel are second to none."* *"Alex is excellent. He knows crypto, and is very practical and strategic."* **Stuart Levi** (see p.254) is co-head of the firm's FinTech, Web3 and digital assets practice, principally advising on crypto transactional and regulatory advisory matters, but has also acted on some of the team's most significant digital assets litigation mandates. **Strengths:** *"Stuart's business-savvy has repeatedly come in handy. We feel how strongly he cares about our success as a company; he's an incredible asset to the team."*

Waymaker LLP

What the team is known for Waymaker is a Los Angeles-based trial and appellate litigation boutique, and is held in high esteem for FinTech and crypto-asset disputes. It acts for developers of crypto tokens, dApps and DeFi protocols, crypto investors and wallet providers on commercial disputes and securities litigations as well as regulatory enforcement and criminal defence matters.

Strengths

"Waymaker is absolutely tier one; they provide a really good option for smaller crypto firms."

"The Waymaker team is small but mighty, the depth of experience of the attorneys on their team ranges across the public and private sectors. The Waymaker team is highly responsive: always attentive to deadlines and does everything it can to ensure that clients meet all deadlines."

Work highlights Waymaker represented Payward Ventures, Inc and Payward Trading Ltd, known as Kraken, in the SEC's investigation of its US staking-as-a-service product.

Notable practitioners

Brian Klein is one of the pre-eminent cryptocurrency litigators in the USA. He has represented a number of businesses in responding to regulatory inquiries and defended them against criminal prosecutions. **Strengths:** *"Brian has done a really great job at picking up major cases. He is really smart, thoughtful and very, very effective."* *"Brian is a good, knowledgeable crypto asset practitioner in the space."* *"Brian has developed an outstanding practice, he really is the crypto lawyer in the country in the white-collar space. He is brilliant, the person that everybody turns to. I can't speak more highly of what Brian has done in this space."*

Ashley Martabano has experience representing clients in complex crypto-asset and blockchain disputes, acting in civil litigation and criminal investigations. **Strengths:** *"Ashley is terrific."* *"Ashley is incredibly impressive in her ability to quickly and efficiently understand a client's busi-*

ness, understand the challenges that the matter at hand presents, manage those challenges but also communicate them to clients in a way that is helpful, practical and clear."

Band 2

Debevoise & Plimpton LLP

What the team is known for Debevoise & Plimpton advises major cryptocurrency projects on securities litigation matters, including some of the most significant cases in the industry. It also handles regulatory inquiries and enforcement matters, class action defence and commercial disputes.

Strengths

"Debevoise handled the Ripple case and they've done a tremendous job."

"Debevoise & Plimpton has a very large and experienced team."

"Debevoise & Plimpton has had the biggest decision in the space in the past few years."

Work highlights Debevoise & Plimpton defended Ripple Labs in civil litigation brought against them by the SEC, who alleged that the offering of Ripple's XRP cryptocurrency constituted the unlawful sale of a security.

Notable practitioners

Co-chair of Debevoise's litigation department, **Andrew Ceresney** is an expert litigator who represents cryptocurrency exchanges in complex and high-profile government investigations and enforcement actions. Ceresney has a wealth of experience in this area, having previously served as the director of enforcement at the SEC. **Strengths:** *"Andrew is amongst the best of the best in SEC enforcement. He does white-collar and crypto work."* *"Andrew is an excellent lawyer, and reached a precedent-setting decision."*

Elliot Greenfield is a civil litigator at Debevoise & Plimpton. Greenfield defends cryptocurrency exchanges and other significant crypto-asset clients in class action lawsuits and commercial disputes. **Strengths:** *"Greenfield is a very good litigator. A smart tactician a good strategist. All around he is a very solid litigator who understands the space well."*

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher LLP

What the team is known for Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher acts for major crypto exchanges on regulatory investigations, commercial litigation matters and cases connected to the theft of crypto-assets.

Work highlights Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher represented Binance, a large cryptocurrency exchange, in concurrent investigations from multiple government agencies.

Notable practitioners

Stephanie Brooker and Kendall Day are notable contacts.

Goodwin

What the team is known for Goodwin has a strong litigation practice, and is involved in a number of high-profile regulatory investigations at the state and federal level. It has a number of attorneys with prior experience of working in government regulatory departments.

Strengths

"Every partner we've worked with at Goodwin has been thoughtful and measured, while also a creative problem solver. The team responds quickly and stays abreast of the crypto market."

Work highlights Goodwin represented Kraken/Payward in responding to a "John Doe" summons by the IRS, in the matter of United States of America v Payward Ventures, Inc.

Notable practitioners

Grant Fondo (see p.254) is a respected name in FinTech litigation, and draws on his experience as a federal prosecutor when representing blockchain, digital asset, venture capital and private equity clients in disputes and regulatory enforcement mandates. **Strengths:** *"Grant is a very strong lawyer in this space."* *"Grant has a lot of experience with crypto matters, and has strength in criminal investigations and trial matters in particular. He has a very strong nose for business and is ultra-sophisticated when it comes to the commercial aspects of the practice of law in the FinTech space."* **Karen Ubell** (see p.255) is a co-chair of Goodwin's Digital Currency and Blockchain practice, and is experienced in regulatory and transactional issues surrounding blockchain and cryptocurrency. Ubell is well regarded for assisting clients with crypto asset disputes. **Strengths:** *"Karen is a keen commercial and regulatory attorney with a great business sense and outside-the-box thinking."* *"Karen is one of the big players on the crypto side."*

Kaplan Hecker & Fink LLP

What the team is known for Kaplan Hecker is a litigation boutique with a strong track record in commercial disputes, securities litigation cases, regulatory inquiries and enforcement proceedings, and white-collar criminal defence. It has solid expertise in cryptocurrency and has represented crypto companies on a variety of disputes matters.

Strengths

"They are all fantastic lawyers over at Kaplan Hecker."

"Kaplan Hecker is a great boutique."

"They are brilliant attorneys, capable of taking complex situations and distilling them to relevant and helpful legal guidance."

Work highlights Kaplan Hecker represented FinTech company Galaxy Digital, as well as associated investment firms ParaFi Capital and Maven 11, in an EDNY class-action lawsuit regarding a cryptocurrency savings application.

Notable practitioners

Sean Hecker is one of the top white-collar crime and government investigations lawyers in the country, and has handled significant matters involving digital assets. These include criminal defence matters and securities litigation cases. **Strengths:** *"Sean Hecker is a first-rate defence lawyer."* *"Sean is a phenomenal lawyer. He is a specialist at representing individuals in the crypto space; he has a really good sense of that space."* *"Sean is a very strong litigator."*

McDermott Will & Emery LLP

What the team is known for McDermott Will & Emery's FinTech and blockchain practice group has attorneys with long-standing experience in

cryptocurrency matters, including crypto-asset disputes. Its lawyers handle DoJ, SEC, CFTC and OFAC inquiries and investigations, and help victims of crypto-asset theft to trace and recover their cryptocurrency and NFTs.

Strengths

"Joe Evans and the McDermott Will & Emery team are extremely knowledgeable; they have been able to handle complex and sophisticated matters in the current crypto landscape."

"McDermott Will & Emery thoroughly understands the complexities of cyber and cryptocurrency investigations."

"McDermott Will & Emery is very knowledgeable in case issues, including highly technical aspects related to crypto. MWE is in high demand, but is still able to respond to case demands in a fast and efficient manner."

Work highlights McDermott Will & Emery represented the Committee of Unsecured Creditors affected by the Voyager Digital bankruptcy.

Notable practitioners

Joseph Evans (see p.254) has expertise in disputes matters, white-collar crime and regulatory enforcement mandates involving digital assets. He also advises on crypto bankruptcy matters and helps to trace and recover stolen crypto-assets. **Strengths:** *"Joseph Evans is a pleasure to work with, and his level of expertise as it relates to crypto and cyber-related topics is unparalleled."* *"Joe is genuinely crypto-literate; he is deeply immersed in the projects space and his understanding of how to apply legal frameworks to crypto issues is as sharp as it gets. He offers really good practical advice to clients, and he is arguably one of the best crypto lawyers globally."* *"Joe takes the time to listen attentively, provides clear and concise explanations, and offers personalised solutions tailored to each client's unique circumstances. His responsiveness and professionalism make him a trusted partner for anyone seeking guidance and support in the complex world of cryptocurrencies."*

Morrison Cohen LLP

What the team is known for Morrison Cohen has a strong digital assets practice, and regularly represents its cryptocurrency clients in litigation matters. It also handles regulatory enforcement work.

Strengths

"Morrison Cohen has good practitioners in this space."

Work highlights Morrison Cohen defended Genesis Global Capital against litigation brought by the SEC relating to Genesis's cryptocurrency borrowing and lending platform.

Notable practitioners

Jason Gottlieb is head of the firm's FinTech practice as well as co-head of its white-collar and regulatory enforcement practice. He has expertise in regulatory enforcement with regard to cryptocurrencies. **Strengths:** *"Jason is one of the deep thinkers in the space who is looking around corners and seeing how the industry is developing."* *"Jason is incredibly knowledgeable."* *"Jason has built a great practice. He is doing a lot of work, seems to know everybody and is involved in all sorts of stuff. He is very well respected by a lot of people in the crypto crowd."*

Band 3**Ballard Spahr LLP**

What the team is known for Ballard Spahr's blockchain technology and cryptocurrency initiative includes white-collar criminal defence and regulatory specialists, who help the firm's crypto clients to respond to regulatory investigations, regulatory enforcement and criminal prosecutions. The team also handles commercial litigation.

Strengths

"The Ballard Spahr team provides commercial, friendly, risk-weighted advice."

"Ballard Spahr has strong experts in the digital asset field."

"Ballard Spahr is a fantastic go-to firm, with incredible response time."

Work highlights Ballard Spahr represent Kevin Kang, co-founder of crypto fund BK Coin Management, in a lawsuit brought by the SEC involving allegations of securities fraud.

Notable practitioners

Marjorie Peerce is an experienced white-collar crime lawyer who has expertise defending clients in SEC investigations relating to cryptocurrency trading. **Strengths:** *"Marjorie is well known generally and I would speak highly of her as a lawyer."* *"Marjorie handles your case as though it were her only case and you were family."*

Cahill Gordon & Reindel LLP

What the team is known for Cahill Gordon & Reindel has a strong securities, white-collar crime, and commercial litigation practice. The firm leverages this expertise to represent cryptocurrency clients in SEC and DOJ investigations.

Strengths

"Cahill Gordon & Reindel has done some very good work. They are extremely conscientious about vetting the issues and making sure they are applying the law in a way that is consistent."

"Cahill Gordon & Reindel offers a really robust full-service model."

Work highlights Cahill Gordon & Reindel represented Ilya "Dutch" Lichtenstein who was alleged by the DOJ to have laundered over USD4 billion of stolen Bitcoin from cryptocurrency exchange Bitfinex in 2016.

Notable practitioners

Samson Enzer is a recognised white-collar and government investigations practitioner with experience in defending clients against SEC, DOJ, and CFTC actions. As chair of Cahill's cryptocurrency and blockchain group, he frequently represents clients involved in the cryptocurrency trading space. **Strengths:** *"Samson is a real expert and a triple threat. He can do regulatory advice, litigation and he has the investigations background. He is an incredible resource, big in DeFi and is an emerging leader in the space."* *"Samson is excellent and does a great job. He really knows his stuff, is great to work with, and has shown a lot of creative thinking around novel areas of the law that are developing."* *"Sam gets to the bottom of the issue quickly. He is very results-oriented and client-focused, which is very helpful."*

Fenwick

What the team is known for Fenwick is a California-based firm with strong capabilities in Fin-Tech. They frequently represent cryptocurrency exchanges, digital asset platforms and associated individuals in government investigations and lawsuits.

Strengths

"Fenwick is an extremely creative and ingenious firm who look for novel ways to solve new problems."

"Fenwick have been great. On the crypto side there are only a few people in the US who know what they are doing, but Fenwick does."

Work highlights Fenwick represented Mythical Games, a gaming technology studio, in its acquisition of DMarket, a marketplace for trading, gaming and esports digital assets.

Notable practitioners

Michael Dicke is a partner in the firm's securities litigation group, and is a key contact.

Morrison Foerster

What the team is known for Morrison Foerster is heavily involved in cryptocurrency matters and has a strong litigation practice. Its team handles securities litigation cases and class action defence.

Strengths

"The Morrison Foerster team is really good."

Work highlights Morrison Foerster represented the venture fund LaunchCapital LLC and Woody Benson, a director of co-defendant Atonomi, in a securities class action in the Western District of Washington (Hunichen v Atonomi LLC et al).

Notable practitioners

Haimavathi Marlier is co-chair of the firm's Fintech & Cryptocurrency Task Force and is a key contact.

Paul Hastings LLP

What the team is known for Paul Hastings has a well-regarded cryptocurrency practice and handles securities litigation matters for crypto clients. Attorneys at the firm also handle high-value and complex government investigations matters.

Strengths

"Paul Hastings has good lawyers in SEC enforcement and defence."

Notable practitioners

Chris Daniel is a key contact.

Perkins Coie LLP

What the team is known for Perkins Coie has a market-leading blockchain transactional and regulatory practice, and its team members also handle securities litigation matters for crypto companies.

Work highlights Perkins Coie represented crypto-asset trading platform Bittrex in OFAC and FinCEN investigations, resolving the matter through a consent order.

Notable practitioners

Joe Cutler is a co-leader of the firm's FinTech group and a notable contact.

Sullivan & Cromwell LLP

What the team is known for Sullivan & Cromwell has a well-regarded government investigations and white-collar criminal litigation team. The team draws upon this expertise to represent cryptocurrency trading platforms in SEC and CFTC actions.

Strengths

"Sullivan & Cromwell was exceptional at dissecting the issues. All members of the team had a high level of expertise."

"For company-side representations, Sullivan & Cromwell is top of the game."

Work highlights Sullivan & Cromwell represented the 102 FTX chapter 11 debtors as lead counsel in matters relating to FTX's sudden implosion and November 2022 bankruptcy filing, including conducting a comprehensive internal investigation and responding to multiple global investigations.

Notable practitioners

Steven R Peikin is a former co-director of the SEC's enforcement division and is a key contact.

Withers Bergman LLP

What the team is known for Withers Bergman is dedicated to private capital and high net worth individuals, and its art law practice includes several attorneys with specialist expertise in NFTs and digital artworks. This includes tax and litigation representation for NFT creators and trading platforms, and it also handles disputes work for crypto token projects and exchanges.

Strengths

"Withers has a commanding knowledge of the blockchain space."

"Withers is able to handle complex and sophisticated fact patterns. They have creative and thoughtful litigation decision-making."

"Withers does fabulous work, client engagement and communications. They have great levels of service and responsiveness."

Notable practitioners

Christopher LaVigne (see p.254) is an experienced litigator with experience representing clients in DOJ, SEC and CFTC investigations relating to digital asset exchanges. **Strengths:** *"Christopher is an exceptional lawyer with a broad set of skills." "Christopher is a strategic litigator, with very thoughtful attunement to client service." "Christopher is a leading light, and provides a very strategic and high level of service. He is phenomenal."*

Other Ranked Lawyers

Kayvan Sadeghi of Jenner & Block is an experienced litigator with a particular focus on cryptocurrency-related matters.

Strengths:

"Kayvan is deeply knowledgeable on all things crypto."

"Kayvan is a stellar litigator and a great strategist. He is a strong player."

Lilya Tessler of Sidley Austin is a strong litigator with a background in securities enforcement, representing clients in SEC action relating to cryptocurrency platforms.

Strengths:

"Lilya is great and very well respected in this space."

"Lilya has a very big reputation in crypto."

Consulting

Consulting
Leading Firms
Band 1
Deloitte LLP
Band 2
Accenture
EY
KPMG
PwC
Band 3
Chain Bridge Partners, LLC
Promontory
Treliant

Band 1

Deloitte LLP

What the team is known for Deloitte offers a range of FinTech consulting services. Start-ups and institutional clients benefit from Deloitte's risk and financial advisory team, which can assist clients with strategic, reputational and financial risks, as well as operational, cyber and regulatory matters.

Strengths

"Deloitte is the premier accounting firm in the digital asset space."

Band 2

Accenture

What the team is known for Accenture receives recognition for its notable capabilities across the FinTech industry. Its multidisciplinary group offers a diverse range of consultancy services and has particular expertise in digital payments.

EY

What the team is known for EY is recognised for its strengths in supporting a range of startups and financial institutions across the USA. The firm utilises its expertise in emerging technologies to provide specialist blockchain advice. Data protection and cybersecurity are additional strengths of the firm, as EY is well versed in identifying data and cyber threats and providing solutions.

KPMG

What the team is known for KPMG is sought after for its multidisciplinary practice offering the full range of FinTech-related advisory services. Clients can benefit from the firm's financial sector experience, global network of expertise and close professional relationships across the industry. KPMG can offer cybersecurity and blockchain solutions, including implementing digital transformation strategies.

PwC

What the team is known for PwC has an extensive international network and a wealth of expertise. The firm offers a range of blockchain and crypto services, including the design and testing of blockchain systems and advice on cybersecurity, AML and the regulatory implications of cryptocurrency operations.

Band 3

Chain Bridge Partners, LLC

What the team is known for Chain Bridge Partners is an independent regulatory advisory firm serving financial institutions. The firm focuses its advice and services on entities facing or affected by supervision and/or enforcement from regulatory bodies.

Promontory

What the team is known for Promontory, a subsidiary of IBM, provides specialist capabilities in strategy, risk management and regulatory compliance for clients across the financial sector. The team is highly skilled at providing expert advice on pressing issues affecting expanding FinTech businesses, such as anti-money laundering, fraud prevention and governance.

Strengths

"Promontory have an excellent reputation and have been involved in many different aspects of the FinTech world."

Treliant

What the team is known for Treliant is a specialist management consultancy firm that provides comprehensive risk and compliance advice. The firm's staff has a wealth of experience in the sector and regularly advises asset managers, banks, corporations, credit unions, insurance companies, technology suppliers and a range of other FinTech enterprises.

FinTech PR & Communications

FinTech PR & Communications
Leading Firms
Band 1
Spark PR
Wachsman PR
Band 2
Edelman
Vested Communications
Band 3
Caliber
Cognito Media
Prosek Partners
Walker Sands Communications
<i>Alphabetical order within each band. Band 1 is highest.</i>

Band 1

Spark PR

What the team is known for Spark PR is a communications and marketing agency headquartered in San Francisco, with an additional office in New York City. The company works with established institutional clients in reinvigorating their branding through communications strategies and creative campaigns, as well as helping startups craft their company values and core message.

Wachsman PR

What the team is known for Wachsman PR is a specialist FinTech communications agency with regional headquarters in New York, Dublin and Singapore, as well as offices in London, Geneva, Los Angeles and Washington, DC. The firm offers

a range of services, including public relations, strategic counsel and crisis communications, and its clients include major financial institutions, payment gateways and digital asset exchanges.

Band 2

Edelman

What the team is known for Edelman is a long-standing firm in marketing and public relations. The firm has particularly strong financial services and technology sector teams, and regularly acts for financial institutions and big tech companies.

Strengths

"Edelman are very strong and you see them all the time in this space and other tech spaces."

Vested Communications

What the team is known for Vested Communications is a full-service communications and marketing agency that provides specialist services to the financial services industry. The agency combines its expertise in marketing, public relations and social media to support its clients in building their public profile. Its clients range from hedge funds to financial institutions.

Band 3**Caliber**

What the team is known for Caliber Corporate Advisers is a boutique communications agency that aims to help companies connect with key stakeholders. The company focuses on public relations, content marketing and digital marketing. Caliber is staffed by experienced communications specialists who have a track record of working with clients in the financial services or technology industries.

Cognito Media

What the team is known for Cognito Media is an integrated PR, marketing and communications agency that specialises in serving clients in the fields of finance, technology and professional services. Cognito Media provides clients with a range of specialist services, including crisis management, data analytics, content creation and events management.

Prosek Partners

What the team is known for Prosek Partners is an independent public relations and communications agency focused on the financial and professional services sectors. Prosek Partners is headquartered in New York, and it also assists clients from regional offices in Connecticut, Boston and Los Angeles. Its services include investor relations, corporate communications and crisis management advice.

Walker Sands Communications

What the team is known for Walker Sands Communications is a specialist B2B communications and marketing agency with offices in Chicago, San Francisco and Seattle. The firm offers an extensive range of services, such as public relations, branding, web design and content creation. Its clients include companies involved in FinTech, AI, cybersecurity and InsurTech.

Leaders' Profiles in USA**BEAUCHAMP, Todd W**

Allen & Overy LLP, Washington, DC
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todd.beauchamp@lw.com

Featured in FinTech Legal (USA – Nationwide)

Practice Areas: Todd is in our U.S. Corporate practice, based in Washington, D.C. With a core focus and extensive experience in payments and fintech, he advises a wide range of clients, including those in the financial services and technology sectors, on the full spectrum of related regulatory, transactional and general corporate matters.

BRILL, Jeffrey A

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP & Affiliates, New York
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Featured in FinTech Legal (USA – Nationwide)

Practice Areas: Jeffrey Brill is co-head of Skadden's global fintech practice. He has a diverse practice, primarily concentrating on mergers and acquisitions, other corporate and commercial transactions and corporate law matters. Mr. Brill has represented public and private clients in a broad variety of U.S. and international transactions, including negotiated and contested acquisitions, dispositions, mergers, auctions, carve-outs, strategic investments, recapitalizations, reorganizations, joint ventures, partnerships, and other corporate and commercial transactions. He also represents clients in connection with various corporate matters, financings and corporate governance. Mr. Brill serves on Skadden's Policy Committee, its top governing body, as well as the Hiring and M&A Associates committees.

He also is the co-coordinator of the firm's global alumni program.

Professional Memberships:

Member, Board of Directors, National Academy Foundation; Former member, Law360's M&A Editorial Advisory Board.

CHANG, Mitzi

Goodwin, San Francisco
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Featured in FinTech Legal (USA – Nationwide)

Practice Areas: Mitzi Chang is a partner in Goodwin's Technology and Life Sciences group and serves as co-chair of its FinTech practice and Digital Currency & Blockchain practice. She focuses her practice on corporate and securities law, representing public and private companies, venture capital and private equity firms, and investment banks in capital markets transactions, mergers and acquisitions, venture capital financings, SEC reporting, and other general corporate and securities matters. Mitzi advises companies through every stage of the corporate life cycle—from initial formation and financing through successful initial public offering or acquisition. Mitzi also advises fintech, blockchain and digital asset companies, investors and network participants with respect to digital asset transactions and platforms, blockchain technology matters (including establishing new blockchains and nodes), decentralized finance (DeFi), non-fungible tokens (NFTs), and related securities law and regulatory matters, including representing clients in their discussions with the SEC's Strategic Hub for Innovation and Financial Technology (FinHub). Prior to joining Goodwin, Mitzi spent three years as

in-house legal counsel at a Nasdaq-listed public technology company in San Francisco.

Personal: JD, Georgetown University Law Center 2002; BA, University of California, Berkeley (magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa) 1999

CHERNICHAU, Adam

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adam.chernichaw@allenoverly.com

Featured in FinTech Legal (USA – Nationwide)

Practice Areas: Adam is a partner in the Technology Transactions practice in the New York office. Adam's practice is deal-focused. He is highly regarded by both clients and adversaries alike, as a business and results oriented negotiator who facilitates and structures complex (and often innovative and transformative) commercial transactions to help clients execute their strategic goals.

DE MARTINO, Dario

Allen & Overy LLP, New York

Featured in FinTech Legal (USA – Nationwide)

Practice Areas: Dario's practice focuses on domestic and cross-border public and private mergers and acquisitions, carve-outs, joint ventures, strategic and private equity transactions, and corporate governance matters.

DEWAAL, Gary

Katten, New York

Featured in FinTech Legal (USA – Nationwide)

Practice Areas: Gary DeWaal brings substantial experience from both industry and government to his practice counseling clients on exchange-traded derivatives and cryptoassets. He advises a worldwide client base on

transactional and regulatory matters relating to those and other complex financial products. Gary's clients benefit from his deep well of contacts and practical knowledge from his prior work with the world's largest exchange-traded derivatives broker and, before that, as a senior trial attorney at the US Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC). Gary understands the urgency that drives the financial industry. His business background also gives him a unique understanding of his clients' products. This allows him to provide fast and practical responses to clients, often consulting directly with business executives as opposed to legal staff. On multiple occasions, Gary's detailed knowledge of his clients' business has helped him prevail with regulators to close investigations before taking enforcement action. When a financial exchange was investigating one of his clients, a multinational investment bank, Gary went beyond avoiding disciplinary activity; he worked with the exchange to amend a rule predicated on an outdated trading environment to accommodate his client's current business.

DRYLEWSKI, Alexander

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Featured in FinTech Legal (USA – Nationwide)

Practice Areas: Alex Drylewski is co-head of Skadden's Web3 and Digital Assets Group. His practice focuses on high-stakes complex commercial and securities litigation involving emerging technologies, government investigations, securities class actions, trials and appeals. In 2023, Mr. Drylewski helped

secure court victories on behalf of a number of clients, including Coinbase, Maker Ecosystem Growth Foundation, Paradigm, and QIWI.

Publications: Mr. Drylewski regularly writes on digital asset-related litigation and regulatory topics. He is an author of Skadden's Distributed Ledger, a compendium of legal developments in the blockchain industry, and a chapter on "Virtual Currencies" in the leading treatise, *Business and Commercial Litigation in Federal Courts*. In 2023, Mr. Drylewski was named a FinTech MVP by Law360 and was the winner of a Law360 Award for Distinguished Legal Writing (presented by the Burton Awards). He regularly speaks on panels and at conferences regarding digital asset-related litigation and regulation. A select list of other recent publications includes: 1.The Distributed Ledger: JPX Is Test Case for Hong Kong's New Regulatory Regime for Virtual Asset Exchanges (Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, November 7, 2023) 2.Blockchain & Cryptocurrency Laws and Regulations 2024 (Legal Considerations in the Minting, Marketing and Selling of NFTs) (Global Legal Group Ltd., 2023) 3.Skadden Discusses CFTC Charges That DeFi Developers Facilitated Off-Exchange Trading (The CLS Blue Sky Blog, September 26, 2023) 4.Ripple, Terraform, and the Reach of the Federal Securities Laws to Digital Asset Transactions on Secondary Trading Platforms (Future & Derivatives Law Report, September 2023) 5.Inside the Courts – An Update From Skadden Securities Litigators (Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, September 2023) 6.Two Sides of the Same Coin: Analyzing the Recent Ripple and Terraform Decisions (Reuters Legal News, August 31, 2023) 7.Skadden Discusses DOJ's Reliance on Traditional Statutes in Cryptoasset Fraud Cases (The CLS Blue Sky Blog, August 3, 2023) 8.New Senate Crypto Bill Would Limit SEC Regulatory Role in Favor of CFTC (Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, July 20, 2023) **Personal:** In 2023, Mr. Drylewski was named a FinTech MVP by Law360 and recognized by Lawdragon among its 2024 500 Leading Litigators in America list, in its first edition of 500 X – The Next Generation, and among its 500 Leading Global Litigators. In 2022, he attained Band 1 in Chambers FinTech 2023's inaugural Crypto-Asset Disputes rankings. The New York Law Journal named him a 2020 Rising Star and Benchmark Litigation has recognized him as a Future Star since 2021. Mr. Drylewski has been recognized by The American Lawyer for several successful representations. J.D., Brooklyn Law School, B.A., Colgate University.

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Practice Areas: Joseph (Joe) B. Evans is the co-head of the FinTech & Blockchain Practice and head of Crypto Litigation and Regulatory Defense. He is widely recognized as a leader in the crypto industry. The American Lawyer recognized Joe as a "Trailblazer" for his progressive work in crypto. Joe runs the industry's only crypto-exclusive team whose members spend 100% of their time serving the crypto industry. Joe represents companies and individuals in all aspects of crypto and blockchain-related legal matters, spanning from defending government investigations, pursuing cutting-edge crypto litigation, obtaining money transmitter and other state licenses, and advising on initial coin offerings. Joe has demonstrated success in pioneering first of its kind crypto litigation, including crypto tracing, decentralized autonomous organization (DAO) litigation, and pursuing actions against fictitious entities and anonymous founders. Joe's in-court successes include a series of wins in connection with the crypto industry's largest bankruptcy cases in the United States and intellectual property litigation between competing crypto companies. Joe has qualified crypto tracing experts in federal court and obtained immediate recovery of stolen crypto. View Joe's full biography on McDermott website at: <https://www.mwe.com/people/evans-joseph-b/> **Professional Memberships:** Joe is a Certified Fraud Examiner and a member of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners.

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Practice Areas: Grant Fondo, an experienced federal prosecutor and former Assistant US Attorney in the Northern District of California, is founder and Co-Chair of its Digital Currency & Blockchain practice, Co-Chair of the firm's Foreign Corrupt Practices Act practice, and part of the Investigations for Technology team. He is a partner in the firm's Securities Litigation & White Collar Defense group, and in its Data, Privacy & Cybersecurity practice. He represents technology, fintech, blockchain, digital currency, private equity, venture capital, and individual clients in a wide range of regulatory and contested matters. Grant has significant experience conducting trials and arbitrations, as well as representing clients before governmental agencies. He focuses his practice on white collar criminal defense, blockchain and digital currency, securities and class action litigation, federal and state regulatory matters including before the DOJ, SEC,

FTC, State Attorneys General, District Attorneys, and FinCEN, cybersecurity and privacy matters, internal investigations, and commercial disputes, and often advises boards on a variety of matters.

Personal: JD, University of Virginia School of Law, 1993; BA, University of Vermont, 1990 (cum laude).

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Practice Areas: Brandon M. Hammer's practice focuses on a broad range of financial regulatory, market infrastructure, creditors' rights, bankruptcy, digital asset, and netting issues. His clients include financial institutions, clearinghouses, asset managers, hedge funds, FinTech firms, sovereigns, and end users. He is frequently counsel to leading financial market trade associations and ad hoc coalitions on major industry initiatives and industry-standard opinions. Clients regularly turn to Brandon to help them address many of their highest stakes issues, including fundamental market changes and financial distress scenarios. Brandon is a go-to counselor on complex issues that span multiple practice areas and disciplines. His areas of expertise include the application of regulatory, commercial law, and bankruptcy rules to digital assets; close-out netting rights under a variety of different insolvency regimes; derivatives and securities regulatory matters; and the Uniform Commercial Code.

Career: Brandon joined the firm in 2014. J.D., magna cum laude, Harvard Law School (2013); B.A., summa cum laude, Columbia University (2010).

Professional Memberships: Member, New York Bar.

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Practice Areas: Chris is co-chair of the global crypto & digital asset practice and a partner in the litigation and arbitration team. He is also the head of the US dispute resolution division. He is an experienced litigator with a proven track record of navigating individuals and companies through high-stakes legal and business issues. Chris regularly handles complex litigation before federal and state trial courts, appellate courts, and arbitral bodies, as well as investigations involving the U.S. Department of Justice, the Securities and Exchange Commission, and other regulatory and prosecutorial agencies. Chris represents and advises numerous digital asset companies, including some of the biggest digital asset exchanges in the world. He is listed in Band 3 for crypto-asset disputes in the 2024 Chambers FinTech USA Guide. One

source says "Christopher is a leading light, and provides a very strategic and high level of service. He is phenomenal." Another states "Christopher is a strategic litigator, with very thoughtful attunement to client service." He has represented companies and individuals in a variety of civil and commercial disputes, including securities class actions, contract disputes, and personal and business tort actions.

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Practice Areas: Stuart D. Levi serves as co-head of Skadden's Web3 and Digital Assets Group. He has a broad and diverse practice that includes advising on matters involving Web3 and digital assets (including NFTs), artificial intelligence, fintech, technology transactions, outsourcing transactions, intellectual property licensing, privacy and cybersecurity, and branding and distribution agreements. Utilizing his background in computer science and the information technology industry, Mr. Levi has extensive understanding of the technology and business drivers underlying agreements and transactions in these areas.

Career: Prior to joining Skadden, Mr. Levi was director of intellectual property for Reuters America Inc. and a vice president of Reuters NewMedia Inc. In these roles, he was responsible for all of Reuters' technology and intellectual property matters.

Publications: Mr. Levi has written and spoken on numerous outsourcing, privacy, technology and intellectual property issues, and each year he co-chairs the Practising Law Institute's Open Source Institute. He was named a winner of a Law360 Award for Distinguished Legal Writing (presented by the Burton Awards) in both 2023 and 2019.

Personal: Mr. Levi has been a recognized leader in the technology transaction field for over 30 years and has been named a National Law Journal Trailblazer in cryptocurrency, blockchain and fintech. He also has been recognized as a Thought Leader by Who's Who Legal: Fintech & Blockchain and an IP Star and Transactions Star by Managing IP. Additionally, Mr. Levi has been named to Intellectual Asset Management's IAM Patent 1000, where he is described as a "master at ... formulating strategies, structuring deals and successfully negotiating them." In addition to his inclusion in Chambers FinTech since 2021, he has been highly recommended in Chambers Global since 2002, Chambers USA since 2004, and The Best Lawyers in America since 2003.

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Personal: Mr. Levi has been a recognized leader in the technology transaction field for over 30 years and has been named a National Law Journal Trailblazer in cryptocurrency, blockchain and fintech. He also has been recognized as a Thought Leader by Who's Who Legal: Fintech & Blockchain and an IP Star and Transactions Star by Managing IP. Additionally, Mr. Levi has been named to Intellectual Asset Management's IAM Patent 1000, where he is described as a "master at...formulating strategies, structuring deals and successfully negotiating them." In addition to his inclusion in Chambers FinTech since 2021, he has been highly recommended in Chambers Global since 2002, Chambers

USA since 2004, and The Best Lawyers in America since 2003.

LEVIN, Richard B

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Practice Areas: FinTech Blockchain & Digital Currency Broker Dealers & Investment Management Litigation Corporate & Securities Emerging Companies Government Relations Securities & Enforcement White Collar Defense & Government Investigations

Career: Richard B. Levin is a partner at Nelson Mullins and is the chair of the firm's FinTech and Regulation Practice and was one of the first lawyers to focus on the regulation of blockchain and digital assets. He is considered a thought leader in the FinTech space. Richard brings his experience as a senior legal and compliance officer on Wall Street and in London to bear in advising clients on corporate, FinTech, securities, and regulatory issues. A problem-solver by nature, he has been advising FinTech clients on legal and regulatory issues since the start of electronic trading in the late 1990s. His practice focuses on helping financial services and technology clients identify and address regulatory issues as they build their businesses. Richard's practice focuses on the representation of early stage and publicly traded companies in the FinTech space, including investment banks, broker-dealers, investment advisers, peer-to-peer lending platforms, digital currency trading platforms, alternative trading systems (ATSs), exchanges, and custodians. He represents these firms before the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC), the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA), the U.S. Department of the Treasury, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC), state regulators, and Congress. Richard has represented clients before regulators in Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Ireland, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, and the United Kingdom. His current and past clients include leading national financial institutions, multinational financial services holding companies, leading firms in the FinTech space, and institutions engaging in global invest-

ment banking, investment management, securities, and other financial services with institutional clients. Richard has been identified by Chambers and Partners as one of the leading lawyers in the Blockchain and Cryptocurrencies category seven times – every year since the inception of the category. He has been recognized by Chambers for his knowledge on regulatory matters, great relationships with regulators, for helping clients push the boundaries of the FinTech sector, and for his advice on matters such as broker-dealer licensing and alternative trading systems.

Richard is routinely quoted by leading publications including Bloomberg, the New York Times, Reuters, and the Wall Street Journal and is a frequent speaker at conferences around the world on the regulation of FinTech, blockchain, and digital assets.

Professional Memberships:

– Chamber of Digital Commerce – Lawyers Committee – SIFMA – Compliance and Legal Division

Publications: <https://www.nelsonmullins.com/professionals/richard-levin/main>

Personal: – University of Denver Sturm College of Law, JD – Colorado College, BA, History

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Practice Areas: Sven Mickisch is co-head of Skadden's Financial Institutions Group. He handles complex transactions and regulatory matters in the financial services industry, with an emphasis on the banking/specialty finance and financial technology sectors. He also is co-head of Skadden's financial services initiative, which oversees coverage of the firm's financial services clients across all of its practices, and founded/co-leads Skadden's global financial technology practice. Mr. Mickisch has significant experience representing financial institutions in mergers, acquisitions, strategic investments and financing transactions. He also regularly advises private equity firms transacting in the financial services sector. In addition, he has handled numerous

restructurings and recapitalizations of financial institutions.

Publications: "Skadden Discusses the Impact of Banking System Turmoil" (The CLS Blue Sky Blog, June 9, 2023); "US Government Takes Major Steps To Make Depositors Whole and Provide Liquidity" (Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, March 12, 2023); "Recent Actions by the Fed Show Its Continued Cautious Approach to Cryptoasset Activities by Supervised Institutions" (Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, February 6, 2023); "US Regulators Express Concern About Banks' Exposure to Cryptoasset Risks" (Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, January 6, 2023)

Personal: Columbia University School of Law, J.D. (James Kent Scholar; Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar), 2005; London School of Economics and Political Science, LL.B. (Sir Morris Finer Memorial Prize), 2004.

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Practice Areas: Karen Ubella is a partner in Goodwin's Technology group and serves as Co-Chair of the Digital Currency and Blockchain practice. She practices general corporate and securities law, focusing primarily on transactions and regulatory compliance in connection with the implementation and adoption of novel technologies, including blockchain, distributed networks, cryptocurrencies, and digital assets. Karen represents investors and issuers in digital asset offerings, private financings, and securities offerings, and advises startups and existing companies in the implementation and development of blockchain technologies and tokenization models. Karen also advises blockchain projects, digital asset trading platforms, and blockchain industry groups on regulatory compliance as well as direct interactions with regulators, offering unique perspective and insight gained from her experience in the Division of Corporation Finance at the US Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

Personal: JD, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Law (with Honors); BA, Public Policy, Duke University