Speaker Profiles

James Bergin  
*Federal Reserve Bank of New York*

James Bergin is Deputy General Counsel and Senior Vice President at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York (“New York Fed”). He is responsible for the legal team that advises on matters relating to the New York Fed’s implementation of monetary policy and other activity conducted by the New York Fed’s Markets Group, and supervisory and regulatory matters related to the New York Fed’s oversight of financial institutions. In addition, he oversees the New York Fed’s bank applications function. He previously served as chief of staff to William C. Dudley, former President and CEO of the New York Fed. Mr. Bergin holds degrees from Rutgers College and Harvard Law School.

Claude Brown  
*Reed Smith LLP*

Claude Brown, a member of the Financial Markets Law Committee, is a partner at Reed Smith and a member of the firm’s global derivatives practice. He advises banks, funds and corporates on the structuring, documentation and regulation of interest rate, FX, credit, equity, commodity and exotic derivatives (including weather, catastrophe and economic variables). He also has an active practice in advising a range of clients on prime brokerage and related transactions, debt trading and market infrastructure issues. Prior to joining Reed Smith, he was a partner at Clifford Chance. Mr. Brown holds a master’s degree from Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge University.

Jess Cheng  
*Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System*

Jess Cheng is senior counsel at the Federal Reserve Board of Governors. She was formerly counsel at the International Monetary Fund, where she led the Fund’s fintech work agenda to help member countries modernize their financial sector legal frameworks. Previously, she was deputy general counsel at Ripple, a San Francisco-based fintech company specializing in DLT-based cross-border payment solutions. Prior to that, she was counsel and officer at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, and an associate at the New York law firm Wachtell, Lipton, Rosen & Katz. She holds degrees from Yale University and Columbia Law School.
Benoît Cœuré  
*Bank for International Settlements*

Benoît Cœuré became Head of the Bank for International Settlements (“BIS”) Innovation Hub in January 2020. He is a member of the BIS’s Executive Committee. Previously, he was a member of the Executive Board of the European Central Bank, responsible for market operations and European and international relations. From 2013 to 2019, he chaired the BIS’s Committee on Payments and Market Infrastructures and was a member of the Financial Stability Board. Prior to joining the ECB, Mr. Cœuré served in various positions at the French Treasury. He was Deputy Chief Executive, then Chief Executive of the French Debt Management office (2002-2007); Assistant Secretary for Multilateral Affairs, Trade and Development, co-chair of the Paris Club, and G8 and G20 Finance Sous-Sherpa (2007-2009); then Deputy Director General and Chief Economist of the French Treasury (2009-2011). Mr. Cœuré is a graduate of the École Polytechnique in Paris. He holds an advanced degree in Statistics and Economic Policy from the École nationale de la statistique et de l’administration économique (ENSAE), and a bachelor’s degree in Japanese. He has authored articles and books on economic policy, the international monetary system and the economics of European integration.

Maria Douvas  
*Morgan Stanley*

Maria Douvas is a Managing Director in Morgan Stanley’s Legal & Compliance Division and global co-head of legal coverage for Morgan Stanley’s Fixed Income Division. Prior to joining Morgan Stanley in 2004, she was Assistant General Counsel of AIG Trading Group Inc., a foreign exchange and interest rate derivatives dealing subsidiary of American International Group Inc. Before moving in-house, Ms. Douvas was an associate in the business and finance departments at Morgan, Lewis & Bockius and Stroock & Stroock & Lavan in New York City, where she focused on mergers and acquisitions and capital markets transactions. She received her undergraduate and J.D. degrees from Duke University. Ms. Douvas is a member of the New York Fed’s Alternative Reference Rate Committee, Financial Markets Lawyers Group, and Foreign Exchange Committee.

Chinedu Ezetah  
*Citigroup Global Markets, Inc.*

Chinedu Ezetah is a Director and Associate General Counsel of Citigroup Global Markets Inc., where he is in-house counsel to Citigroup’s foreign exchange and local markets businesses in North America and Latin America. Mr. Ezetah was previously Deputy General Counsel of Old Lane, LP. He holds master’s degrees from Harvard Law School and the University of British Columbia, and is a graduate of Nigerian Law School. He is a member of the Financial Markets Lawyers Group.
Hampton Finer  
*Federal Reserve Bank of New York*

Since 2017, Hampton Finer has led the New York Fed’s Payments and Market Infrastructure Policy team. He is the Chair of the CLS Cooperative Oversight Committee, serves on the Committee for Payments and Market Infrastructure of the BIS, the Federal Reserve’s Financial Market Utilities Supervision Committee and New York Fed’s Payments and Market Infrastructure Council. Before joining the New York Fed in 2009, he was a Deputy Superintendent at the New York State Insurance Department where he led several efforts in response to the financial crisis. From 2001 to 2006, he led economic analysis work at the New York State Office of the Attorney General. Between 1998 and 2001, he was a staff economist in the Federal Trade Commission’s Bureau of Economics. He received a Ph.D. in economics from Cornell University, and a BS in economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1992.

Michael Held  
*Federal Reserve Bank of New York*

Michael Held is general counsel and executive vice president of the Legal Group at the New York Fed. He is also a member of the Bank’s Executive Committee. In addition, he serves as deputy general counsel of the Federal Open Market Committee. Mr. Held joined the New York Fed in 1998 as a staff attorney. He previously served as the New York Fed’s corporate secretary, where he advised the New York Fed’s board of directors regarding its oversight responsibilities during and after the financial crisis. Prior to joining the New York Fed, Mr. Held practiced at McDermott, Will & Emery, LLP and at Kaye Scholer LLP. Mr. Held holds a bachelor’s degree from Cornell University and a law degree from New York University School of Law.

Antoine Martin  
*Federal Reserve Bank of New York*

Antoine Martin is a Senior Vice President in the Research Group at the New York Fed, where he has worked since 2005. His recent research and policy work has focused on short-term money markets, monetary policy implementation, and payments, including digital and cryptocurrencies. He has published in a number of academic journals and is a frequent contributor to the New York Fed’s Liberty Street Economics blog. He earned a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Minnesota in 2001 and an undergraduate degree, also in Economics, from the University of Lausanne.

Kunihiko Morishita  
*Anderson Mōri & Tomotsune*

Kunihiko Morishita is a partner at Anderson Mōri & Tomotsune, and has primarily worked in the fields of domestic and international securities and finance matters. He regularly advises a number of multinational financial institutions, located inside and outside of Japan, in relation to financial regulatory issues in the field of banking, securities, trust and asset management. Mr. Morishita holds LL.B. and LL.M. degrees from the Tokyo University. He co-chairs the Financial Law Board.
Thomas Noone  
*Federal Reserve Bank of New York*

Thomas Noone is Counsel in the Bank Supervision and Markets Division of the Legal Group at the New York Fed. He serves as Secretary to the Financial Markets Lawyers Group and chairs the Education and Industry Forum on Financial Services Culture. Before joining the New York Fed, Mr. Noone was an associate at Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP and a law clerk for the Hon. José A. Cabranes of the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. He holds degrees from The Johns Hopkins University and Stanford Law School.

Panagiotis Papapaschalis  
*European Central Bank*

Panagiotis Papapaschalis is Senior Lead Legal Counsel at European Central Bank (“ECB”), where he has worked for the last 17 years. His areas of coverage include EU institutional and financial law (monetary policy, banking, investment services, payments, post-trading, corporate governance), public procurement and contract law, intellectual property law, and litigation before EU courts. He previously held a number of legal roles at the International Monetary Fund, the European Securities and Markets Authority, and the European Banking Federation. Mr. Papapaschalis holds degrees from Aristoteleion Panepistimion Thessalonikis and Fordham University School of Law.

Julie Remache  
*Federal Reserve Bank of New York*

Julie Remache is a Senior Vice President in the Markets Group at the New York Fed, where she serves as Deputy Head of the Open Market Trading Desk. She is responsible for oversight of reporting and analysis of financial market developments and related to the System Open Market Account (“SOMA”) portfolio. She previously established and ran the Portfolio Policy & Analytics directorate within the Markets Group, which supported the use of the Federal Reserve’s balance sheet as a policy tool, with a focus on development of modeling and analytics related to the Federal Reserve’s portfolio, and policy and governance issues related to the open market operations. Ms. Remache first joined the New York Fed in 2000. She holds degrees in Economics and Mathematics from Boston University and is a Chartered Financial Analyst (“CFA”).

David Sewell  
*Perkins Coie*

David Sewell is a partner at Perkins Coie, where he advises banks, nonbank financial institutions, and fintech companies regarding federal banking law and regulation, with particular emphasis on anti-money laundering (“AML”), sanctions, and financial crimes compliance matters. Earlier in his career, he served as counsel and assistant vice president at the New York Fed. Before attending law school, Mr. Sewell served in a variety of roles in the federal government, including as a senior congressional aide and, during the Clinton administration, on the White House Domestic Policy Council. He holds degrees from Wesleyan University, Columbia University, and Georgetown University Law Center, and clerked for the Hon. Gladys Kessler of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.
Dana Syracuse
Perkins Coie

Dana Syracuse is a partner at Perkins Coie, where he concentrates his practice in the blockchain, fintech, e-commerce and financial services sectors. He serves as firmwide co-chair of the firm’s Fintech industry group. Mr. Syracuse is a former associate general counsel for the New York Department of Financial Services, where he helped oversee the Department’s strategy regarding emerging payment systems, virtual currency and blockchain technology, the drafting of New York State’s BitLicense virtual currency regulation, and the chartering of virtual currency exchanges. Previously, he served as an assistant attorney general in the Taxpayer Protection Bureau of the Office of the New York State Attorney General. He holds degrees from New York University and Brooklyn Law School.

John Thomas, the Rt. Hon. Lord Thomas of Cwmgiedd
House of Lords of the United Kingdom

Lord Thomas served as Lord Chief Justice of England and Wales from 2013-2017, capping a judicial career spanning over 20 years. In 1996, he was appointed to the High Court Judge as a judge of the Commercial Court. He was judge in charge from 2002 to 2003, when he became a Lord Justice of Appeal. He was Senior Presiding Judge of England and Wales from 2003 to 2006. In 2008, he was appointed Vice-President of the Queen’s Bench Division and, in 2011 President of the Queen’s Bench Division. Lord Thomas was called to the Bar in 1969 (Gray’s Inn, of which he became a Bencher in 1992). He commenced practice in commercial law at what is now Essex Court Chambers in 1972. In 1984 he was appointed a Queen’s Counsel and, in 1987, a Recorder. Lord Thomas read law at Trinity Hall, Cambridge and holds a law degree from the University of Chicago Law School. In 2019, Lord Thomas was the Law Foundation of New Zealand Distinguished Fellow. His lectures examined the effect of the digital revolution on the law, the courts, legal practice, and legal education. Since 2017, he has served as the Chairman of the Financial Markets Law Committee.

Joseph Torregrossa
Federal Reserve Bank of New York

Joseph Torregrossa is Counsel and Associate General Counsel at the New York Fed. He advises the New York Fed in its role as a provider of Federal Reserve financial services, including in its role as operator of the Fedwire® Funds Services and the National Settlement Service. He joined the New York Fed in 2007. He is also currently a vice chair of the Uniform Commercial Code Committee of American Bar Association’s Business Law Section, and the chair of the committee’s Payments Law Subcommittee. He holds degrees from Manhattanville College and the University of Oregon School of Law.
David Trapani  
CLS US Services, Inc.

David Trapani is the Head of U.S. Legal at CLS. He concentrates his practice on payments and banking law (including settlement finality), derivatives, clearing and settlement, distributed ledger technology, and financial market infrastructure issues. He previously worked at several international law firms in their capital markets and financial institutions practices. He earned a B.A. in Economics from the University of Iowa, a J.D. from the University of Illinois, and LL.M. degrees from the Chicago-Kent College of Law and Georgetown University Law Center. Mr. Trapani is a member of the Financial Markets Lawyers Group.

György Várhelyi  
European Central Bank

György K. Várhelyi is Lead Legal Counsel in the ECB’s Directorate Legal Services and an agent of the ECB before the Court of Justice of the European Union. He focuses on financial law-related matters such as the legal aspects of the ECB’s monetary policy implementation, including non-standard measures. He previously worked as an attorney at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher and Flom LLP, and then in investment banking at BNP Paribas, where he was in charge of equity and equity-linked capital market transactions and M&A activities in and outside Europe. Mr. Várhelyi graduated from the Magistère and holds an LL.M. in commercial and corporate law from the University Panthéon-Assas Paris II.

Patricia Zobel  
Federal Reserve Bank of New York

Patricia Zobel works in the Markets Group at the New York Fed as Deputy Manager of the System Open Market Account. In this capacity, she advises on monetary policy implementation in an evolving economic and financial climate. She joined the Markets Group in 1997. Since that time, she has held positions across the group, including being Director of the New York Fed’s Discount Window and a Senior Policy Advisor for money markets and policy implementation. From 2007 to 2011, she worked at the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation on fixed income, credit and private equity portfolios. Ms. Zobel holds degrees from the University of California, Berkeley and Columbia University in business.

The Financial Markets Lawyers Group comprises lawyers who support foreign exchange and other financial markets trading in leading worldwide financial institutions. It is sponsored by, but is not part of, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York. Any views expressed by the Financial Markets Lawyers Group are the views of its private sector members, and do not necessarily represent the views of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York or the Federal Reserve System.