

The CBLA Circular

Highlights of the past year from Columbia Law School's most active student organization

The **Columbia Business and Law Association (CBLA)** is one of the largest student organizations at Columbia Law School. It is the only student group dedicated to the interaction between law and business. We recognize that lawyers with business training and business leaders with a legal background can gain a critical competitive edge in the current marketplace. CBLA therefore aims to provide a forum for students to pursue scholarship and professional opportunities in business both within and outside of law. The organization utilizes sponsorship funds to routinely organize lectures, workshops, and networking events from traditional areas of interest such as investment banking, management consulting, venture capital, private equity, hedge funds, and entrepreneurship. CBLA also serves as a center for members of the Columbia Law School community interested in many aspects of business law, including corporate governance and securities regulation.

Since last August, CBLA's membership has nearly tripled, its operating budget doubled, and more than 40 successful events have been planned and organized. We have forged strong connections with the Career Services and Student Services offices, The Richman Center at Columbia Business School, and peer business law groups at Harvard, Yale, and NYU. CBLA's current law firm sponsors are committed to supporting our expansion, and eager to work with us into the future. None of this would be possible without the hard work and dedication of our board members, and the support of the Columbia Law School community.

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CAREER PROGRAMMING

CBLA is always seeking innovative ways to expose law students to a wide range of career opportunities in the private sector. These include many alternative careers outside of the traditional law firm.

This past year, CBLA hosted several panel discussions presenting alternative career options in a variety of fields including private equity, distressed debts, hedge funds, venture capital, and real estate, investment banking, and media. The discussions covered both the fundamentals of these alternative careers and how a law degree can be leveraged to help students break into these various fields. All of the panelists hold JDs.

Alternative Legal Career Options	Distressed Debt Investing	<p><i>Panelists:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michael Chaisanguanthum, Director, Credit Suisse Asset Management • Igor Fuks, Research Analyst, Halcyon Asset Management • Rick Morris, Vice President, Goldman Sachs • Michael Walsh, Global Loans & Special Situations Group, Bank of America Merrill Lynch <p><i>Moderator:</i> Professor Edward Morrison, Harvey R. Miller Prof. of Law & Economics, Columbia Law School</p>
	Hedge Funds	<p><i>Panelists:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Liftin, Managing Director and General Counsel, D.E. Shaw & Co. • Stephanie Breslow, Co-head of Investment Management Group, Schulte Roth & Zabel LLP • Bruce Wolfson, Partner and General Counsel, The Rohatyn Group <p><i>Moderator:</i> Marta Ricardo, Director of Alumni and International Career Services, Columbia Law School Office of Career Services</p>
	Venture Capital & Emerging-Growth Companies	<p><i>Panelists:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ari Shahdadi, General Counsel, Tumblr • Colman Lynch, Associate, Gunderson Dettmer • Antonia Abraham, Director of Finance and Operations, Betaworks • Omar Haroun, Founder, Sportaneous
	Real Estate	<p><i>Panelists:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ronald Sernau – Partner, Proskauer Rose LLP • Dino Fusco – Global Head of Corporate Real Estate Strategy, Goldman Sachs • Sasan Mehrara – Partner, Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP <p><i>Moderator:</i> Steven G. Horowitz - Lecturer-in-Law, Columbia Law School; Partner, Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP</p>
	Private Equity Funds	<p><i>Panelists:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Charles Parson – Partner, Proskauer Rose LLP • Donna Yip – Assistant General Counsel and Compliance Officer, Oak Hill Advisors LP • Laura Friedrich – Partner, Shearman & Sterling LLP • William Woo – Principal and General Counsel, North Cove Partners <p><i>Moderator:</i> Steve Buchman, Assistant Director of Career Advising, Columbia Law School Office of Career Services</p>
	In-House Practice	<p>Pierre Gentin, Managing Director and Global Head of Litigation, Credit Suisse Group Tom Rogers, CEO and President, TiVo, Inc., Founder of CNBC Scott Kimmel, Managing Director, Barclays</p>

For the academic year 2011-2012, CBLA coordinated with seven of New York's most prestigious law firms to host the annual "Lunch at a Law Firm" series. Each Friday, attorneys involved in the firm's recruiting efforts hosted 15-25 First-Year law students and LLMS at the firm's NY offices. Based on our membership feedback, the series helped to provide an intimate look into the cultural differences between firms—a valuable insight in preparation for upcoming summer associate interviews this Fall.

Asterisk (*) indicates sponsor	
Lunch at a Law Firm Participants	Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP*
	Shearman & Sterling LLP*
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	Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP*
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	Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP
	Sidley Austin LLP*

The support of our firm sponsors allows us to put our ambitious ideas into action. Our most successful educational events this past year would not have been possible without their generous funding.

CBLA partnered with many of New York's top law firms and business organizations to bring in the leading practitioners across a variety of different practices—including corporate law, media, retail, and regulation. These speakers shared valuable tips with law students about how to gain entry into their particular practices, their day-to-day work, the challenges they face, their views about the future of their business, and advice on how to hit the ground running as a professional attorney.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING

China as an Emerging Market	Practicing in China as a US-Trained Attorney	<p><i>Panelists:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Crowley, Partner, Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP • Patrick Naughton, Partner, Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP • Robert Pietrzak, Co-Head of New York Litigation, Sidley Austin LLP • Gregory Miao, Head of China Corporate, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP <p><i>Moderator:</i> Alex Hao, Partner, Jun He Law Offices</p>
	Tapping the U.S. Capital Market – Challenges for Chinese Companies	<p><i>Panelists:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • William K. ("Ned") Dodds, Co-Chair of the White Collar & Securities Litigation Group - Dechert LLP • John Du, Partner - Jun He Law Offices • Ying Lan, Principal, Cornerstone Research • Iris Jiang, Principal, Cornerstone Research <p><i>Moderator:</i> Alex Hao, Partner, Jun He Law Offices</p>
Private Sector Case Studies	Insider's Look at the J. Crew Acquisition	<p><i>Panelists:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scott Barshay, Partner, Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP • Daniel Sternberg, Senior Counsel, Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP • Howard Sobel, Partner, Latham & Watkins LLP <p><i>Moderator:</i> Professor Robert Jackson Jr., Associate Professor of Law, Columbia Law School</p>

Government Regulations	Speaker Series	Gregory Zuckerman , Journalist and Author of the Bestseller <i>The Greatest Trade Ever</i> Bill Winters , Former Co-Chief Executive of Investment Banking, JPMorgan Chase & Co. Charles Li , CEO, Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Ltd.
	CBLA Fed Tour	Federal Reserve Bank of New York's Gold Vault David Gross , Counsel and VP of Legal Group
	Federal Mortgage Settlement	<i>Panelists:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • James Millstein, CEO, Millstein & Co., LLC • Robert J. Jackson, Jr., Associate Professor of Law, Columbia Law School <i>Moderator:</i> James E. Tierney , Director of the National State Attorneys General Program
Fundamentals of Corporate Law Series	Capital Markets	<i>Panelists:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bob Treuhold, Former Worldwide Managing Partner, Shearman & Sterling LLP • Pamela Marcogliese, Associate, Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP • Robert Ryan, Associate, Sidley Austin LLP • Frank Lopez, Co-Head of Global Capital Markets, Proskauer Rose LLP Schweitzer, <i>Moderator:</i> Professor Edward Morrison , Harvey R. Miller Professor of Law & Economics, Columbia Law School
	Mergers & Acquisitions	<i>Panelists:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christopher Mayer, Partner, Former Head of Corporate, Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP • Trevor Norwitz, Partner, Wachtell Lipton Rosen & Katz LLP • Ezra Borut, Partner, Deputy Chair of Corporate, Debevoise & Plimpton LLP • Caroline Gottschalk, Partner, Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP <i>Moderator:</i> Lois Jeffers , Assistant Director of Career Advising, Columbia Law School Office of Career Services
	Bankruptcy & Restructuring	<i>Panelists:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lee Attanasio, Partner, Sidley Austin LLP • Lisa Schweitzer, Partner Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP • J. Soren Reynertson, Managing General Partner, GLC Advisors & Co. • Erwin Mock, Executive Director, Leveraged Finance Group, UBS Investment Bank <i>Moderator:</i> Professor Edward Morrison , Harvey R. Miller Professor of Law & Economics, Columbia Law School
	Technology Transactions	<i>Panelists:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • J. Alexander Lawrence, Partner, Morrison & Foerster LLP • Harry Rubin, Partner, Ropes & Gray LLP • Jeffrey Tochner, Partner, Latham & Watkins LLP <i>Moderator:</i> Janice Shaw , Director of J.D. Career Advising at Columbia Law School
	Tax	<i>Panelists:</i> Steve Matays , Partner, Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP Samuel Dimon , Partner, Davis Polk & Wardwell LLP Nancy Mehlman , Partner, Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP Leslie Samuels , Partner, Cleary Gottlieb Steen & Hamilton LLP <i>Moderator:</i> Professor Rebecca Kysar , James S. Carpenter Visiting Professor of Law, Columbia Law School
	Derivatives	<i>Speakers:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Witold Balaban – Partner, Latham & Watkins • Rafal Gawlowski – Partner, Latham & Watkins

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

CBLA isn't "all business," we know how to have fun too! Through our membership development activities, we sought to promote a sense of camaraderie within the organization. The Bagel Brunch in the fall of 2011 was an opportunity for existing and potential members to meet and interact with the CBLA board and ask the important questions about how they can play a greater role in the organization. Our happy hours, held throughout the semester, allowed members to engage with each other to provide and receive feedback on the events they helped organize, and to exchange new ideas about how to promote CBLA going forward.

This year, over 90 individuals participated in CBLA's targeted mentoring program. The program "matched" mentors with a group of 4-5 mentees based on academic and professional interests, professors-in-common, undergraduate schools, hometowns, language skills, and other preferences. The program gave 1Ls the opportunity to candidly engage upperclassmen—who were more than happy to share their experiences, provide job-search advice, and serve as a source for study materials and outlining strategies—all over CBLA-funded lunches, dinners, and happy hour cocktails! We hope to further enhance this program through the continued sponsorship of our law firm partners.

SUPPORT CBLA!



We accept single donations of \$1,500 to become a General Sponsor of CBLA for an academic year. We also welcome sponsorship of a **single planned event (ranging from \$300-\$500)** that may meet your firm's targeted interests. CBLA acknowledges all of our corporate sponsors on our website at www.clscba.com. If you choose to become a General Sponsor, your firm's logo will be displayed on the right hand side directly under our banner. If you would like to sponsor a specific event, we will acknowledge your sponsorship in all of our school-wide emails and publish a link to your homepage on our website under the event description. Please contact us for an updated list of our upcoming events, so that you can reserve the events to which you would like to send a representative.

Note: In the event that no goods or services are provided in exchange for donations, your gift will be tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

If you would like to make a sponsorship donation, please contact our VP of Sponsor Relations or send a letter to:

Columbia Business and Law Association
435 West 116th Street
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Contact Information: cbla@law.columbia.edu

For more information about the breadth and quality of our speakers and events, please see www.clscba.com