

Exploring Careers in Corporate Law



Caroline Donald (Radley parent)

Deputy General Counsel, Head of Public Markets,
Cleveland & Co

Caroline will moderate our panel session.

Caroline has 25 years' financial-services-related legal experience, working for blue-chip institutional and private-wealth firms in the investment management sector.

Talk to Caroline about:

Employment, HR & C-suite advisory work

Corporate governance & regulatory careers

Working abroad in financial law

Pathways into investment management law

Caroline qualified at Slaughter and May, where she specialised in asset management. She then moved in-house and spent a large part of her career at Goldman Sachs, working on both the buy-side and sell-side. Caroline speaks Spanish and French and has experience working across a number of jurisdictions, including Spain, Italy, Ireland, Australia, Asia-Pacific and North America.

Her expertise covers all areas of investment management, including risk, compliance, corporate governance, product and legal. Caroline has also played a key role in building and managing international teams and offices. She is an experienced C-suite and independent board advisor at both fund and corporate level, and advises on a broad range of matters, including those related to independent investors, NEDs and executive leadership teams, as well as sensitive HR/employment issues and contentious regulatory matters.



Cleveland & Co is an award-winning, women-led alternative law firm redefining legal services for the investment management sector. Founded in 2012 by Emma Cleveland, the firm pioneered the *External In-House Counsel*® model, blending the commercial understanding of an in-house team with the global expertise of external advisors. Operating across the UK, EMEA, APAC and the US, Cleveland & Co supports more than 200 clients with a combined AUM exceeding £9 trillion. Renowned for its responsiveness, strategic insight and inclusive culture, the firm champions innovation and modern working practices.

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Charlie Bischoff (Radley parent)

Partner, Head of Finance, Travers Smith LLP

Charlie is a Partner at Travers Smith, a law firm specialising in large UK and international transactions.

Charlie Bischoff is a Partner and the Head of the Finance Group at Travers Smith LLP, where he leads the Finance practice and heads the Specialty Finance team.

A corporate finance lawyer for over 25 years and a market leader in finance for over 15 years, Charlie specialises in complex finance matters including specialty finance, fund finance, corporate lending and general banking.

He advises global financial institutions, private equity sponsors, funds, and corporates on highly structured and complex transactions, across a range of asset classes. He is a regular industry speaker and is recognised by Chambers for his work in Fund Finance.

Charlie read French and Italian at St Anne's College, Oxford.

Talk to Charlie about:

What do City law firms look for in graduates?

What are the 'in demand' areas of corporate finance law?

The twists and turns of my journey from trainee to Head of Finance

**TRAVERS
SMITH**

Travers Smith is a City of London based law firm specialising in large UK and international transactions. The firm acts for listed and private companies, financial institutions and private equity clients on market leading deals. Diversity of experience and true inclusion are central to the firm's approach and ongoing success.

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Julia Colegate-Stone

Partner, Hurston Eliot

Julia is a Partner at Hurston Eliot, an executive search firm. She brings insight from the talent and hiring side of the financial services sector.

Julia is the founder of Hurston Eliot, an executive search firm for alternative investment managers, family offices and foundations.

Talk to Julia about:

CV Writing

Interview skills

Careers in law and finance

She started her career as a solicitor in the Investment Management group at Linklaters and subsequently held roles at Deutsche Bank, where she spent several years advising hedge funds and their investors, and a software start-up, as Head of Business Development.

Since 2021, she has also been an adviser to a quantitative investment firm focused on inefficiencies in the crypto and blockchain ecosystem.

Julia is a qualified solicitor (non-practising) and holds an MA (Hons) in English from the University of Oxford.



Hurston Eliot is an executive search firm. We partner with investment managers, family offices and foundations to hire exceptional senior talent.

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Robert Goldsmith (1991, E)

General Council, Brexa International



Robert began his career at Freshfields, qualifying as a solicitor in the firm's corporate and M&A team. Over eight years, he worked in both London and Hong Kong, including client secondments, advising major international companies on high-value transactions.

He then moved in-house to Wolseley plc (now Ferguson Enterprises Inc.), the world's largest distributor of building, plumbing and heating materials. During eleven years with the group, Robert held a range of legal roles operating out of Reading, Zurich and Newport News, Virginia.

Talk to Robert about:

How to keep a legal career interesting!

What does corporate law encompass?

Starting off in law – different paths.

Pros and cons of working at a law firm vs in-house

From there, he joined the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan, one of the world's leading global investors, where he advised on the management of its European portfolio, including the acquisition and sale of businesses and other investment activities. He is now General Counsel of a global staffing and recruitment group owned by Bain Capital, the US private equity fund.

Robert specialises in advising boards and executive teams on business-critical issues where law, compliance, regulation and governance intersect. He has extensive experience in cross-border M&A, commercial contracts and disputes, employment matters and intellectual property.

His career spans a Magic Circle law firm, a FTSE 100 company, a global pension fund and a private-equity-backed multinational—giving him a uniquely broad perspective on the many paths a career in law can take.



Brexia International, acquired by Bain Capital in 2024, is a leading global group of companies operating across staffing, recruitment, HR services, BPO outsourcing and debt management. With revenues of €3 billion and a workforce of 65,000, Brexia operates across Europe, Latin America and Oceania. Its major brands include OTTO Workforce, CPL Group, Orizon, CDER, Liberata, GrupoExpro and Bluefin Resources. Brexia International forms part of Brexia Holdings Inc (formerly Outsourcing Inc), a Japan-headquartered global staffing and recruitment group.

Exploring Careers in Corporate Law



Oliver Smith (2011, K)

Associate (Restructuring), Weil, Gotshal & Manges

Oliver will talk about building a career in corporate law, from training at a Magic Circle firm to specialising in restructuring at an international practice.

Talk to Oliver about:

Getting into law
(particularly if you
didn't study law at
undergraduate)

Early law career
guidance

Bankruptcy,
Restructuring and
Special Situations

After graduating from Somerville College, Oxford, in 2016 with a degree in Ancient and Modern History, Oliver accepted a training contract with Slaughter and May, joining the firm in 2018. Following completion of the GDL and LPC, he rotated through the Competition, Corporate and Finance teams as a Trainee before qualifying in 2023 as an Associate with a broad practice in finance, insolvency and restructuring.

As an Associate at Slaughter and May, Oliver advised creditors to Ted Baker, Thames Water and Waldorf Energy; borrowers such as the Ministry of Sound, Ocado and Abra Group; and the UK Government in relation to legacy bailout assets from the 2008 Financial Crisis.

Oliver joined the Restructuring team at US law firm Weil, Gotshal & Manges in their London office in October 2025.



Founded in 1931, Weil, Gotshal & Manges LLP has been a preeminent provider of legal services for more than 90 years. With approximately 1,200 lawyers across offices on three continents, Weil is recognised as a pioneer in the global legal marketplace, with distinguished practices in Restructuring (advised General Motors and Lehman Brothers during their Chapter 11 bankruptcies), Corporate/Private Equity, Antitrust and Litigation.