# **Hedge Fund and Private Equity Fund Panelist Bios**

#### **David Blass:**

Based in Washington, D.C., David Blass is a Partner in the Firm's Investment Funds Practice. David is a leading regulatory lawyer in the funds industry and has advised on matters involving innovative registered funds products, Investment Advisers Act compliance, SEC examination and enforcement matters, and broker-dealer regulatory compliance. He is uniquely qualified to provide strategic and regulatory advice on matters involving asset management firms and broker-dealers.

David has extensive knowledge of the regulatory requirements of the asset management industry having served as General Counsel of the Investment Company Institute, the trade association for registered investment funds. He also held senior roles for over a decade at the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, most recently as Chief Counsel and Associate Director in the Division of Trading and Markets, where he oversaw broker-dealer regulation and large aspects of FINRA's regulatory program. David was the Associate General Counsel for the SEC where he was responsible for Dodd-Frank Act implementation, among many other programmatic areas. He also held a senior role in the SEC's Division of Investment Management, leading the office regulating registered investment advisers, including advisers to private funds.

According to Chambers Global, clients say he is an "excellent regulatory lawyer" who is both "very knowledgeable and easy to work with." David was notably named "Independent Counsel of the Year" by Fund Intelligence's Mutual Fund Industry & ETF Awards in 2021.

David is licensed to practice in New York and Washington, DC.

### Rebekah Jurata:

Rebekah Goshorn Jurata serves as the General Counsel for the American Investment Council (AIC). AIC, a leading trade association in the financial services industry, is an advocacy, communications, and research organization established to advance access to capital, job creation, retirement security, innovation, and economic growth by promoting responsible long-term investment. In her capacity as General Counsel, Rebekah assists in developing the policy positions of its members and coordinates the responses to regulatory agencies rulemakings and actions that impact private equity and credit.

Before joining the AIC, Rebekah served as a Board Member of the Public Company AccountingOversight Board (PCAOB). The PCAOB oversees the audits of public companies and registered brokers and dealers. As a Board Member, Rebekah assisted in the oversight and operations andactions of the agency, advised on all policy-related matters impacting the PCAOB's statutory mandate and voted on enforcement actions and inspections of auditors. Prior to the PCAOB, she served in the White House as Special Assistant for Financial Policy at the National Economic Council where she worked on a wide array of financial services policy issues including the U.S. capital markets, banking, insurance, and consumer protection. Before receiving her appointment as a commissioned officer at the White House, Rebekah held a variety of senior roles in the Federal Government including serving as Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Financial Markets at the U.S. Department of the Treasury, Senior Securities Counsel for the U.S. House of Representatives Financial Services Committee, and Counsel to Commissioner Daniel M. Gallagher of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. Rebekah has also spent time in the private sector where she worked as a Senior Associate in the Washington, D.C. office of an international law firm.

A California native, she earned a J.D. from the University of San Diego School of Law and a Master of International Affairs with a concentration in International Management from the University of California, San Diego. Rebekah earned her Bachelor of Science degree in Management Science Economics, and Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science also at the University of California, San Diego.

Rebekah is licensed to practice law in California and Washington, DC.

### **Neal Prunier:**

Neal Prunier, Senior Director, Industry Affairs at the Institutional Limited Partners Association (ILPA) is responsible for the continuing evolution and expansion of ILPA standards and best practices, as well as ILPA's legal, government and regulatory affair efforts.

Prior to ILPA, Neal spent his career at Cambridge Associates where he most recently served as Senior Director in CA's Arlington, Virginia office. In this role, he oversaw staff across Singapore, London, and Arlington as head of a global investment operations department responsible for enterprise data management for Private Investment, Hedge Fund, and Long Only investment manager/client specific data. This work focused on serving the data needs of Research, Consulting, and Performance Reporting functions, as well as clients and the broader industry.

Neal holds a BS in Finance from Elon University and an MBA from the Duke University Fuqua School of Business.

## **Catherine Cook**

Catherine Cook is a current 3L at Columbus School Law. Since the end of her 1L year, Catherine developed an increasing interest in the securities industry and has thus joined as a member of the Securities Law Program. In addition to academics, Catherine serves as a Dean's Academic Fellow, the Lead Articles Editor for the *Catholic University Law Review*, and as a Research Assistant for Professor J. Joel Alicea. Catherine has also interned at the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, at the SEC's Division of Enforcement, and most recently, as a Summer Associate at Latham & Watkins in its Washington, DC office. Catherine will be returning to Latham & Watkins as a first-year associate following her graduation in May 2024.