

# The Cryptocurrencies Market: *Where is it Headed?*

## A Virtual Panel Discussion

### Speaker Biographies



#### INTRODUCTION:

**MICHAEL BRAUNEIS** is Managing Director, Americas Financial Services Leader, Protiviti. He has advised national and international banks and mortgage lenders, as well as insurance, investment advisory and broker/dealer firms on complex

regulatory risk and compliance matters for more than 20 years. Michael is frequently quoted by media organizations, including *The Wall Street Journal*, Associated Press, Reuters, *American Banker* and the *Chicago Tribune*, among many others. He is a Certified Regulatory Compliance Manager (CRCM), a member of the Institute of Certified Bankers and was named to *Consulting Magazine's* 2018 Top 25 Consultants list.



#### MODERATOR:

**CAMILLA RUSSO** is founder of *The Defiant*, a media company focusing on decentralized finance, and the author of *The*

*Infinite Machine*, the first book on the history of Ethereum. Previously, she was a markets and crypto reporter at Bloomberg News based in New York, Madrid and Buenos Aires. She has an MSc in Journalism from Northwestern University and is originally from Santiago, Chile.

#### PANELISTS:



**BRIAN BROOKS** was an acting head of the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency under the Trump administration. Under his watch, the OCC released guidance clarifying that banks could provide cryptocurrency custody services and use stablecoins to facilitate payment activities—moves that helped make it easier for traditional financial institutions to get into crypto. Brian was acting head of the OCC, a unit of the Treasury Department, from May 2020 to January. Before joining the OCC, he was the chief legal officer of Coinbase Global Inc., the US bitcoin exchange. He also previously worked as general counsel of mortgage giant Fannie Mae.



**CHARLES CASCARILLA** is the CEO and co-founder of PAXOS, a financial technology company mobilizing assets at the speed of the internet. With over 20 years of experience in financial services, Charles has a unique perspective on integrating blockchain technology with traditional systems. He co-founded institutional asset management complex Cedar Hill Capital Partners in 2005 and its venture capital subsidiary, Liberty City Ventures, in 2012. Earlier in his career, Charles was a portfolio manager at Claiborne Capital and an analyst at both Bank of America Securities and Goldman Sachs. He serves on the boards of several charities, including

The Centurion Foundation and Project ALS. Charles holds a BBA in Finance from the University of Notre Dame and is a CFA charterholder.



**THE HONORABLE J. CHRISTOPHER GIANCARLO** served as 13th Chairman of the US Commodity Futures Trading Commission. He was dubbed "CryptoDad" for his celebrated call on the US Congress to respect a new generation's interest in cryptocurrency and is considered one of "the most influential individuals in financial regulation." He was also a member of the US Financial Stability Oversight Committee, the President's Working Group on Financial Markets and the Executive Board of the International Organization of Securities Commissions. Giancarlo is Senior Counsel to the international law firm of Willkie Farr & Gallagher and a board director,

advisor and angel investor in numerous technology and financial services companies. He is a co-founder of the Digital Dollar Project, a non-profit initiative to advance exploration of a US Central Bank Digital Currency. His forthcoming book, *CryptoDad: The Fight for the Future of Money*, will be released in October by John Wiley & Sons.



**JAN VAN ECK** is the CEO of VanEck, a global investment management firm with a long history of empowering investors with forward-looking, intelligently designed mutual fund and ETF solutions. Jan joined the firm in 1991 and its Executive Management Team in 1998. Furthering VanEck's mission to anticipate asset classes and trends, Jan created a variety of strategic beta, tactical allocation, emerging markets and commodity-related investment strategies in mutual fund, ETF and institutional formats. In 2006, he founded the firm's ETF business, one of the world's largest ETF sponsors with ETFs offered globally across a variety of equity and fixed

income asset classes. Jan holds a JD from Stanford University and graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Williams College. He is a director of the National Committee on United States-China Relations and routinely appears on CNBC and Bloomberg Television. He was a 2013 finalist for *Institutional Investor's* Fund Leader of the Year and a 2020 Finalist for ETF.com's Lifetime Achievement Award. The firm was named 2020 ETF Provider of the Year by Fund Intelligence.

Sponsored by:

**protiviti**<sup>®</sup>  
Face the Future with Confidence

**VanEck**<sup>®</sup>