



Eric Sibbitt

Partner

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Eric Sibbitt structures and executes initial public offerings and other complex capital-raising transactions for companies and underwriters, including NYSE and NASDAQ listings, registered follow-on offerings, global offerings, PIPEs and other private offerings, and liability management transactions. Clients turn to Eric for boardroom counsel on SEC and corporate governance matters, and he also frequently advises on cross-border public and private company mergers, acquisitions, tender offers, and going-private transactions.

As Chair of the firm's Financial Technology Practice, Eric uses a pragmatic approach to navigating the tension between legacy regulations and innovative business models, advising fintech companies, cryptocurrency exchanges, and investors on financings, token offerings, and securities issues. The *National Law Journal* recently named Eric to its list of 2018 Cryptocurrency, Blockchain and Fintech Trailblazers.

Eric practiced in New York and Tokyo prior to joining O'Melveny's San Francisco office, and speaks and reads Japanese fluently.

Eric also is a member of the Chamber of Digital Commerce's Token Alliance and Lawyers' Committee, the Innovation Advisory Council of the Japan Society of Northern California, a director of the Japanese Chamber of Commerce of Northern California, and an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Law at UC Hastings College of the Law.

Professional Activities

Adjunct Assistant Professor of Law

- University of California Hastings College of the Law

Admissions

Bar Admissions

California

New York

Education

Harvard University, J.D., 1997: *cum laude*; Editor-in-Chief of the *Harvard International Law Journal*

Kyushu University, LL.M., International Economic and Business Law, 1998

University of California at Berkeley, A.B., Economics and Asian Studies (East Asian Political Economy), 1993: High Honors, Phi Beta Kappa

Osaka University, Economics Department, 1991-1992

Member

- Board of Directors, Japanese Chamber of Commerce of Northern California
- Innovation Advisory Counsel, Japan Society of Northern California

Speaker

- “Blockchain & Crypto Currency,” Cal CPA Society Annual Tax Conference (2019)
- “Regulatory Trends for Crypto,” FinTech 3 Workshop at Bonny Doon (2018)
- “Bankruptcy Issues Related to FinTech & Cryptocurrency,” The Bar Association of San Francisco (2018)
- “Fin-Tech Regulation in the United States,” Sogang University Conference on Fin-Tech in Seoul, Korea (2015)
- “Non-Profits Seeking Profits: The Emerging Roles of Foundations in Advancing Biotechnology,” Alllicense (2015)
- “Equity Crowdfunding,” UC Hastings Disrupt
- Regulation the Disruption Economy: Tech Startups as Regulatory Reformers, UC Hastings Conference (2015)
- “Trends in US-Japan Cross-Border M&A,” UC Hastings College of the Law (2009)
- “American Attorneys and Transactional Legal Practice in Japan,” UC Hastings College of the Law (2008)
- “SOX Goes Global: Understanding the International Impact of Sarbanes-Oxley,” International Practice Section of the Barristers Club of San Francisco (2006)
- “US Perspectives on the Convergence of International Securities Regulation and the Global Competition for Foreign Listings,” Faculty of Law, Oxford University, United Kingdom (2006)

Publications

- “Five Crypto-Securities Trends that Spell More Lawsuits in 2018,” *Journal of Investment Compliance*, Vol. 19 Issue: 2, pp. 13-15 (2018)
- “A smoother IPO path under the Jobs Act,” *International Financial Law Review* (May 31, 2012)
- “Capital structure and tax considerations for an IPO,” *The Deal Magazine* (September 13, 2011)
- “Disclosure of Pre-IPO Transactions,” *The Deal Magazine* (March 17, 2011)

Co-Author

- “Resurrecting Time-Barred Crypto Claims Is An Uphill Struggle,” *Law360* (May 6, 2020)
- “Legalized sports gambling: Anti-money laundering compliance,” *Westlaw Journal Bank & Lender Liability* (October 29, 2018)
- Expert Contributor, “Understanding Distributed Tokens: Market Overviews and Proposed Guidelines for Policymakers & Practitioners,” Chamber of Digital Commerce’s Token Alliance (July 30, 2018)
- “Accessing Capital Through Customised PIPE Offerings,” *Eurekahedge e-newsletter* (November 15, 2016)
- “Overseas IPO Strategies for Global Japanese Companies - US/JOBS Act,” *Business Homu* (August 21, 2012)

Honors & Awards

- Recognized as a "Rising Star" by *IFLR 1000* (2014-2020)
- Recognized as a Notable Practitioner in *Chambers FinTech* (2019-2020)
- Recognized by the *National Law Journal*, "2018 NLJ Cryptocurrency, Blockchain and Fintech Trailblazers"
- Ranked in *Chambers Global: Japan, Capital Markets Foreign Expert Based in USA* (2014)

Languages

- Japanese