



Mark F. Radcliffe

Partner

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Mark Radcliffe's practice is split evenly between corporate securities (particularly venture capital transactions) and intellectual property licensing and strategy. He works with technology companies and companies that use technology throughout the world. Currently, he is particularly focused on the use of blockchain technology and the use of tokens for capital formation and implementing new business models.

Mark has been working in Silicon Valley for over 30 years and has worked on over 1,000 venture capital transactions. He has significant experience in applying the law to the issues raised by new technologies, such as open source software, blockchain, IoT and domain names. For example, in 1994, he assisted Network Solutions, Inc. in developing the first domain dispute resolution system which is still the basis for the system in use today. His clients range from Fortune 500 such as Oracle Corporation and Sony Corporation to unknown startups. Currently, he and his team work with over 50 startups. He has worked across a wide variety of industries, including software (in particular open source software), blockchain, IoT, semiconductor, consumer electronics, content licensing (from music to characters), and medical devices.

LANGUAGES SPOKEN

- Franceză

RECENT MATTERS

- Assisted several large companies in developing open source strategies
- Started and manage the corporate venture capital practice at DLA Piper
- General counsel to OSI and serve on Apache Software Foundation Legal Committee on a pro bono basis

- Corporate
- Trademark and Copyright
- Mergers and Acquisitions
- Emerging Growth and Venture Capital
- Litigation, Arbitration and Investigations
- Intellectual Property and Technology
- Regulatory and Government Affairs
- Projects, Energy and Infrastructure
- Technology Transactions and Strategic Sourcing

- Media, Sport and Entertainment
- Life Sciences
- Energy and Natural Resources
- Technology

Franceză

- General counsel to the OpenStack Foundation (open source cloud computing project)
- Assisted the Navajo Nation in adopting a modified version of Article II of the UCC
- Assisted blockchain startup in its licensing strategy
- Assisted several blockchain startups in financing
- Assisted on ICOs
- Assisted Network Solutions in developing the first domain dispute resolution policy in 1994 (still used in current ICANN Dispute Resolution Policy)
- Assisted Dr. Suess Estate in determining what words, characters and symbols to register as trademarks
- Assisted major corporation in obtaining a license from a financially troubled company with a \$40M prepaid royalty and ensured that the license would survive bankruptcy
- Assisted large Asian company in developing IP asset management strategy for its 50,000 patents

REPRESENTATIVE CLIENTS

- Anaconda, Inc.
- Lightbend, Inc.
- Munich Re
- AIG
- Sun Microsystems, Inc. (former)
- Sony Corporation
- NEC
- Siemens Corporation

CREDENTIALS

Admissions

- California

Recognitions

- *Chambers USA*
2021 - Band 2, California Technology: Transactions
2015 - Band 1, California IT & Outsourcing: Transactions
2013-14 - Band 3, USA Outsourcing
2012, 2014 - Band 1, California IT & Outsourcing
2013 - Star Individual, California IT & Outsourcing
- *Chambers FinTech*
2022 - Band 3, USA FinTech Legal: Blockchain & Cryptocurrencies
- *The Legal 500 United States*
2020 - Recommended, Fintech
2018-20, 2015 - Recommended, Venture Capital & Emerging Companies
2016 - Recommended, Patents: Portfolio Management and Licensing
2012-15 - Recommended, Technology: Transactions
2012-14 - Recommended, Technology Outsourcing

Mark was named the 2019 Lawyer of the Year by *Best Lawyers*, and he is the only attorney to receive this award in his practice area in his metro region. He is also listed as a "highly recommended expert" for his transactional experience in the *IAM Patent 1000, The World's Leading Patent Professionals 2018*.

Education

- J.D., Harvard University 1981
1998 Distinguished Alumni Award
- B.S., Chemistry, University of Michigan 1974
magna cum laude
- Université Paris Panthéon-Sorbonne I 1972
Certificate of Completion

Memberships

- International Trademark Association
- South Bay Trademark Lawyer's Association, Founder
- Bar Association of San Francisco, former Chairman of the Computer Law Section
- American Bar Association
- AIPLA

Civic and Charitable

- Computer Law Association, former Board of Directors
- *Journal of Internet Law*, Editor in Chief
- *BNA Electronic Commerce & Law Report*, Advisory Board
- *Computer Lawyer*, Editorial Board
- *Cyberspace Lawyer*, Editorial Board
- *Electronic Commerce and Law Report*, Advisory Board
- *Global Intellectual Property Asset Management Report*, Advisory Board
- General Counsel, Open Source Initiative

INSIGHTS

Publications

DeFi participants should prepare to confront the unknown as bankruptcies loom

23 June 2022

Do not assume that a bankruptcy involving a DeFi platform would operate in a manner similar to other financial institution bankruptcy cases.

Exploring the metaverse: What laws will apply?

22 June 2022

Intellectual Property and Technology News

For those intrigued by the metaverse, and for creators building metaverse projects, here are practical considerations.

Blockchain and Digital Assets News and Trends

16 June 2022

Blockchain and Digital Assets News and Trends

Responsible Financial Innovation Act, the new proposed crypto regulation bill, provides some clarity on tax issues.

Blockchain and Digital Assets News and Trends

23 May 2022

Blockchain and Digital Assets News and Trends

OECD releases public consultation document on crypto tax reporting in effort to increase transparency.

Blockchain and Digital Assets News and Trends

19 April 2022

Blockchain and Digital Assets News and Trends

Treasury report on money laundering and terrorist finance in the art trade looks at NFT marketplaces; FDIC issues new crypto-asset guidance and notification requirements.

Blockchain and Digital Assets News and Trends

18 March 2022

Blockchain and Digital Assets News and Trends

Biden EO aims to protect digital asset consumers; UK authorities seize NFTs; Ukraine receiving crypto donations.

Exploring the metaverse: What laws will apply?

22 February 2022

Like any new foundational technology, the metaverse remains confusing and unknown to many. Writing for *Chambers TMT 2022*, we explore key questions.

Blockchain and Digital Assets News and Trends

18 February 2022

Blockchain and Digital Assets News and Trends

Lawsuit tackles tax treatment of staking rewards; SEC settles with crypto lending platform; emergency measures in Canada affect financial services entities.

SEC settles with BlockFi crypto lending platform

18 February 2022

This case provides insight into how the SEC evaluates and will scrutinize crypto lending platforms.

Blockchain and Digital Assets News and Trends

25 January 2022

Blockchain and Digital Assets News and Trends

The first major enforcement action in the blockchain space provides important insights for developers and operators of DeFi markets; IMF calls for global crypto regulation; FTC issues consumer alert on crypto payment scams.

Blockchain and Digital Assets News and Trends

21 December 2021

Blockchain and Digital Assets News and Trends

Breaking legal news on cryptoassets and cryptocurrency, plus: Google sues to disrupt massive botnet

Blockchain and Digital Assets News and Trends

22 November 2021

Blockchain and Digital Assets News and Trends

Infrastructure bill, including crypto "broker" rules, becomes law.

Blockchain and Digital Assets News and Trends

18 October 2021

Blockchain and Digital Assets News and Trends

Non-fungible tokens: What are the legal risks?

Blockchain and Digital Assets News and Trends

17 September 2021

Blockchain and Digital Assets News and Trends

Proposed infrastructure bill would subject cryptocurrencies to wash sale and constructive sale rules.

Blockchain and Digital Assets News and Trends

23 August 2021

Blockchain and Digital Assets News and Trends

New information reporting requirements for cryptocurrency transactions; CFPB involvement in cryptocurrency oversight; NCUA seeks comments on use of DLT and DeFi by credit unions.

Blockchain and Digital Assets News and Trends

19 July 2021

Blockchain and Digital Assets News and Trends

IRS says tax-deferred like-kind exchange is not available for cryptocurrency trades; copyright issues plague NFTs; crypto venture investments continue to accelerate.

Blockchain and Digital Assets News and Trends

21 June 2021

Blockchain and Digital Assets News and Trends

Biden tax plan spotlights cryptocurrency transactions; FTC announces spike in cryptocurrency investment scams; El Salvador is first country to adopt bitcoin as legal tender.

Blockchain and Digital Assets News and Trends

20 May 2021

Blockchain and Digital Assets News and Trends

SEC issues Staff Statement on investments in the bitcoin futures market, plus latest legal developments governing the use and acceptance of blockchain technology, smart contracts and digital assets.

Blockchain and Digital Assets News and Trends

23 April 2021

Blockchain and Digital Assets News and Trends

SEC revises token safe harbor proposal; UK updates tax treatment of cryptoassets.

Blockchain and Digital Assets News and Trends

22 March 2021

Blockchain and Digital Assets News and Trends

Wyoming moves to clarify legal status of DAOs; court dismisses class action against a cryptocurrency exchange.

Blockchain and Digital Assets News and Trends

25 February 2021

Blockchain and Digital Assets News and Trends

Canada's AML regime amendments: is your interactive entertainment service or platform operating a "money service business"?

Blockchain and Digital Assets News and Trends

22 January 2021

Blockchain and Digital Assets News and Trends

Looking at the OCC's guidance on stablecoins.

Blockchain and Digital Assets News and Trends

22 December 2020

Blockchain and Digital Assets News and Trends

New Jersey seeks to regulate digital asset business activity through a mandatory licensing framework.

Blockchain and Digital Assets News and Trends

23 November 2020

Blockchain and Digital Assets News and Trends

IMF issues report on regulatory framework for CBDs and GSCs, SEC invites feedback on application of custody rule to digital assets.

Blockchain and Digital Assets News and Trends

21 October 2020

Blockchain and Digital Assets News and Trends

SDNY finds Kin token is a security; unpacking the DOJ's cryptocurrency guidance – plus latest legal, regulatory and case law developments.

SEC wins summary judgment that Kin token is a security

21 October 2020

The decision underscores that many of the proposed arguments that digital tokens are not securities will be unsuccessful.

Blockchain and Digital Assets News and Trends

23 September 2020

Blockchain and Digital Assets News and Trends

The court finds that a valid arbitration agreement exists in the ongoing WAX tokens dispute – plus latest legal, regulatory and case law developments.

WAX tokens: Amendments to arbitration provisions still govern disputes

23 September 2020

The court found that a valid arbitration agreement exists.

Blockchain and Digital Assets News and Trends

21 August 2020

Blockchain and Digital Assets News and Trends

California appellate court affirms judgment for Coinbase in lawsuit over Bitcoin Gold – plus latest legal, regulatory and case law developments.

Blockchain and Digital Assets News and Trends

20 July 2020

Blockchain and Digital Assets News and Trends

Court upholds New York AG's Martin Act authority to investigate virtual currency fraud – plus latest legal, regulatory and case law developments.

- "Consortium blockchain governance: four critical issues for enterprise blockchain projects," *Ledger Insights*, April 24, 2019
- Co-author, "Top 10 FOSS legal developments in 2018," *Synopsys*, January 1, 2019
- Co-author, "The Big Legal Issue Blockchain Developers Rarely Discuss," *CoinDesk*, September 8, 2018
- Co-author, "The Rise of Tokens: Critical Considerations for VC Firms," *PE Hub*, April 20, 2018
- Co-author, "ICOs and hybrid token offerings — a legal perspective" *Brave New Coin*, April 12, 2018
- Co-author, "Hybrid token offerings: the rise of token offerings for venture backed-companies," *Brave New Coin*, February 27, 2018
- Co-author, "Blockchain Regulation in Finance: Recent Developments and Prospects," *The Distributed Ledger*, September 2017
- "Top 10 FOSS legal stories in 2016," *Opensource.com*, February 2017
- "Top 10 Open Source Legal Developments in 2015," *Opensource.com*, January 2016
- "A Platform for IP Lift-Off," *Global Corporate Venturing*, July 2012
- Co-author, "Dealing with potential bankruptcy of a licensor; A bankruptcy remote entity may be one way to avoid risks for licensees," *The National Law Journal*, 4 Dec 2004

Events

Previous

The Future of Blockchain and Digital Assets: The View of Silicon Valley

27 October 2021 | 9:00 am - 5:00 pm PDT
San Francisco

How the Future of Blockchain will Impact the Boardroom Level Set

July 2021
Webinar

How the future of blockchain will impact the boardroom

24 June 2021 | 1:30 - 2:45 PDT
Webinar

Corporate venture capital 2021 compensation

4 May 2021 | 12:00 - 1:00 EST
Webinar

Non-fungible tokens: Understanding the complex legal issues in this revolution for copyright holders

12 April 2021 | 1:00 - 2:00 ET
Webinar

CVC strategy: Lessons from 2020, strategic considerations for 2021

18 March 2021 | 12:00 – 1:00 ET
Webinar

2021 Venture capital in the Middle East: The mini boom

March 2021
Webinar

Corporate venture capital 2020 compensation

13 August 2020 | 1:30 - 2:30 ET
Webinar

Fiduciary duties of directors in financially distressed companies

4 August 2020 | 12:00 - 1:00 ET
Webinar

Successful enterprise blockchain adoption: Critical economic and legal issues

16 July 2020
Webinar

Corporate venture capital investment strategies in the COVID-19 pandemic

7 July 2020 | 11:30 - 12:30 ET
Webinar

- Speaker, "Non-Fungible Tokens: Understanding the Complex Legal Issues in this Revolution for Copyright Holders," *Practising Law Institute*
- Chair, "The Future of Blockchain: A Silicon Valley Perspective and Beyond," *Practising Law Institute*
- Intellectual Property Owner's Annual Conference, October, 2018, Intersection of IP and Open Source
- Woman's Director Council, September 2018 Blockchain – Digital Ledger Technology
- Chair, State Bar of California Intellectual Property Section Open Source Presentation
- Investing in Open Source: Understanding the Opportunities and Managing the Challenges, SDForum
- Garage Technology Ventures

- Georgetown University Law Center
- National Incubation Association
- National Association of Bankruptcy Trustees
- American Association of Publishers
- Seybold San Francisco Conference
- National Association of Broadcasters' Multimedia World
- Game Developers' Workshop
- Internet World
- American Society of Magazine Editors

NEWS

DLA Piper lawyers ranked in Chambers FinTech 2022

13 December 2021

DLA Piper is pleased to announce that the firm received 19 firm rankings and 14 individual lawyer rankings in the *Chambers FinTech* 2022 guide.

DLA Piper represents TikTok in launch of its first ever NFT collection

1 October 2021

DLA Piper is pleased to announce its representation of TikTok in the launch of the video platform's first ever non-fungible token (NFT) collection.

25 DLA Piper lawyers in 9 countries recognized as world's leading patent professionals

15 October 2020

IAM Patent 1000: The World's Leading Patent Professionals 2020 has named 25 DLA Piper lawyers in nine countries to its list of top patent professionals.

MEDIA MENTIONS

- "Top Billing for NFTs," *Los Angeles Lawyer*, May 2022
- "As NFTs Spur a Digital Gold Rush, Law Firms Are Getting in on the Action," *Law.com*, July 1, 2021
- "Clear Governance Key for Enterprise Blockchain to Move Forward," *Cointelegraph*, July 26, 2020
- "UK likely ahead of US in setting global agenda for IoT regulation," *LegalTech News*, May 10, 2019
- "Unbeknownst to many, IoT devices (and their cyber risk) are everywhere," *LegalTech News*, April 3, 2019
- "A perfectly imperfect marriage: blockchain and open source," *Above the Law*, February 20, 2019
- "What Dr. Seuss can teach us about bringing cybersecurity onto the blockchain," *Forbes*, November 2, 2018
- "Knowing what you don't know is more important than being brilliant,' with Mark Radcliffe of DLA Piper," *Thrive Global*, November 1, 2018
- "13 things that every blockchain company must understand, with Mark Radcliffe of DLA Piper," *Authority Magazine*, November 1, 2018
- "Davis's Take: Crypto Cowboys Ready to Lay Down the Law," *The Wall Street Journal*, March 8, 2018

- "Linux Foundation Launches Open Data Licensing Agreements," *Linux Insider*, October 23, 2017
- "Open-sourcing data will make big data bigger than ever," *ZDNet*, October 23, 2017
- "Companies Turn Blind Eye to Open Source Security Risks," *Linux Insider*, October 18, 2017
- "The Faces of Open Source Law," June 19, 2017