

BLB&G Hosts the Forum for Institutional Investors: Protecting Shareholder Rights in New Orleans, LA

April 10, 2019



PROTECTING SHAREHOLDER RIGHTS

BLB&G held its Forum for Institutional Investors: Protecting Shareholder Rights in New Orleans, LA on April 10-13, 2019.

The Forum was designed to help fiduciaries enhance their knowledge of the US securities markets and deepen their understanding of fiduciary responsibilities. It also explored important issues of shareholder rights, corporate governance, and securities litigation that affect pension funds today.

One of the premier educational conferences in the field, the Forum brought together representatives of public pension systems, Taft-Hartley funds, and other institutional investors from around the globe with experts from corporate America, finance, the law, academia, and the media in a relaxed, collegial setting. The educational sessions provided a valuable learning experience, while the evening events at various New Orleans' landmarks served as the backdrop for excellent opportunities to interact with colleagues and friends.

Our Keynote Speakers included:



Adm. Mike Mullen

United States Navy (Ret.) Former Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff



Ronan Farrow

Pulitzer Prize winning journalist, lawyer and government advisor



Preet Bharara

Former United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York

[Click here for full list of speakers.](#)

About the Program

Our conference featured notable keynote speakers, as well as analysis and panel discussions from a broad array of industry officials and experts — including executive directors, business managers, trustees and fund counsel — on a variety of topics relevant to fiduciaries:

- The **critical role the institutional investor community and shareholder litigation** have played, and should play, in preserving the integrity and transparency of our capital markets since the passage of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act;
- An **overview of the changing regulatory, legislative and market landscape**, and the challenges they present to investor rights;
- The importance of **portfolio monitoring** in protecting institutional assets;
- The key factors involved in determining **when, and when not, to get involved in a securities litigation**;
- **Best practices** for executives and counsel of pension funds and other institutional investors;

- The **pros and cons of active and index investing** for institutional portfolios;
- Developments “since *Morrison*” — a comprehensive look at the landscape of **shareholder litigation outside the US**;
- The **evolution of institutional investor activism** and the impacts it has had on the C-suite and reforming corporate governance over the last two decades;
- **Roundtable discussions** featuring pension fund executives and outside counsel sharing their experiences and challenges managing retirement savings in today’s landscape;
- How the US markets, securities laws and class action system are viewed by the **international financial community**; and
- **Current litigation trends**, the nature of the corporate misconduct driving them, and discussion of the state of the US securities market.

CLE accreditation of this program is available.

There is no fee associated with seeking CLE credit for this event.

For more information, please contact Amanda Rekemeier, Director of Client Relations, at amanda@blbglaw.com or at (212) 554-1451 with any questions.

About our Keynote Speakers

Adm. Mike Mullen

United States Navy (Ret.), Former Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

Considered one of the most influential chairmen in history, Admiral Mike Mullen served under Presidents Bush and Obama. Since retiring from the Navy, Mullen has joined the boards of General Motors, Sprint and the Bloomberg Family Foundation and teaches at the Woodrow Wilson School of International and Public Affairs at Princeton University. He looks at how today’s geopolitical issues and economic trends directly impact America’s national security.

Ronan Farrow

Pulitzer Prize winning journalist, lawyer and government advisor

Ronan Farrow is an influential voice in government and media, helping traditional institutions address the frustrations — and tap the promise — of a new generation. Twice named one of the “30 Under 30” most influential people in law and policy by *Forbes* Magazine, he was the winner of a Pulitzer Prize for Journalism in 2018. Farrow is a Yale Law School educated attorney and a member of the New York Bar, and attended Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar.

Preet Bharara

Former United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York

Preet Bharara served as US Attorney for the Southern District of New York from 2009 to 2017, where he earned a reputation as one of “the nation’s most aggressive and outspoken prosecutors” (*The New York Times*). As US Attorney, Bharara supervised an office of more than 200 Assistant US Attorneys, who handled cases involving terrorism, financial and health care fraud, cyber crime, public corruption, gang violence, organized crime, and civil rights violations.

Speaker Faculty

Shaamini Babu

Partner – Saltzman & Johnson, Counsel to the Pension Trust
Fund for Operating Engineers
(Alameda, CA)

Robert Beale

Chief Investment Officer – Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System

Kevin Bergenhenegouwen

Head of Legal & Regulatory Affairs – PGB Pensioendiensten
(The Netherlands)

Frank

Partner – Martin & Drought, Burney P.C.
(San Antonio, TX)

Joseph

Partner – Jacobs, Burns, Orlove & Hernandez
(Chicago, IL)

Mary

Partner – Pat Burns
Burns & Pinelli, Burke Ltd.
(Chicago, IL)

Commander

William

Trustee – City of Cook
Police Relief Miami
Pension Fund and

Jim

Business Manager – The Chicago Journeymen Plumbers Local Union 130 UA

Coyne

Amy

General Counsel – Crane

Rhode the General Treasurer	Island	Office	of
Gerard Trustee Government of Guam Retirement Fund	&	Treasurer	Cruz –
Jeff Solicitor Providence, RI	–	City	Dana of
Derek Chief Executive Officer and Plan Manager – The College of Applied Arts and Technology Pension Plan (Ontario)			Dobson
Carolina General Teacher System of Texas	Counsel	de	Onis The Retirement
Hans Deputy Investment (Sweden)	CEO	Management	Ek SEB AB
Jesse Director Orleans Retirement System	–	Evans, City	Jr. New Employees'
Michael Senior Los Employees Association	Staff	Angeles	Herrera – County Retirement
Pedro Partner & (Coral Gables, FL)		– Susskind,	Herrera Sugarman P.A.
Joseph General New York State Teachers' Retirement System		Indelicato,	Jr. Counsel
Ron Member (Lansing, MI)	–	Clark	King PLC

Robert Principal Kaufmann, (Plantation, FL)	Jensen	-	&	Klausner Klausner, Levinson
Danial Managing Legal Development, Municipal Retirement System		Director &		Lam - Business Ontario Employees'
Kevin General Fire Association of Colorado	&	Counsel	Police	Lindahl - Pension
Ann Michael Fleishman Associate Professor Tulane University Law School		in Corporate Law	& Entrepreneurship	Lipton -
David Portfolio FrontFour Captial Group, LLC		Manager		Lorber -
Lou Executive Massachusetts Benefit Funds		Director		Mandarini - Laborers
James Napier Deputy City of Los Angeles - Pensions-Retirement Division	City		Attorney	IV
Harmen Nieuwenhuis Senior Blue (The Netherlands)	Legal	Sky	Counsel	- Group
Tiffany Shareholder Van (Madison, Wisconsin)	-	R. Deuren	Reinhart	Reeves Boerner S.C.

Cindy Executive Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System	Director	Rougeou –
Lori In-House Alameda County Employees' Retirement Association	Counsel	Schnall –
Cathy General Government Employees' Retirement of the Virgin Islands	Counsel	Smith – System
Doug Managing Starboard (New York, NY)	Director Value	Snyder – LP
Gail Former Arkansas Public Employees Retirement System	Executive Director	Stone –
Elmira Deputy Attorney General of the State of Hawaii	K. Counsel to Employees' Retirement	L. Tsang System
David Professor Boston University School of Law	of	Webber Law –
John County Board President – Allegheny County (PA) Employees' Retirement System		Weinstein Treasurer
Steven Wieting Chief and Citi (New York, NY)	Investment Chief Private	Strategist Economist Bank
Steve Partner Wolosky (New York, NY)	– Olshan	Wolosky Frome LLP

Mark

Partner

(Toronto, Ontario)

–

Koskie

Minsky

Zigler

LLP

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