

PRESENTED BY THE  
BITCOIN POLICY INSTITUTE

# Bitcoin Policy Summit 2024

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National Press Club  
Washington, D.C.





**Bitcoin Policy Institute (BPI) is a non-partisan, non-profit think tank researching the impacts of Bitcoin and emerging monetary networks. Established as a 501(c)3, BPI provides educational resources to policymakers while empowering scholars nationwide to research cryptocurrency and technology policy issues.**

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## Our Team



**David Zell**  
Co-Founder and  
Co-Executive Director



**Grant McCarty**  
Co-Founder and  
Co-Executive Director



**Stephen Pollock**  
SVP, Strategy &  
Operations



**Francesca Bercasio**  
External Affairs Associate



**Zack Cohen**  
Government Affairs  
Associate



**Madelyn Ash**  
Operations Associate



**Ian Gaines**  
Communications  
Advisor



**Jason Brett**  
Policy Advisor

# BPI Experts

Bitcoin Policy Institute hosts an interdisciplinary cohort of scholars with unique areas of expertise and diverse perspectives on digital assets.

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**Troy Cross**

Professor of Philosophy & Humanities, Reed College



**Margot Paez**

Ph.D.Candidate, Georgia Institute of Technology



**Josh Hendrickson**

Professor of Economics, University of Mississippi



**Natalie Smolenski**

Executive Director, Texas Bitcoin Foundation



**Bradley Rettler**

Associate Professor, Univ. of Wyoming



**Matthew Pines**

Director of Security Intelligence at PinnacleOne



**Andrew Bailey**

Associate Professor, Yale NUS College



**Zack Shapiro**

Partner, Rains LLP



**Yaël Ossowski**

Deputy Director, Consumer Choice Center



**Craig Warmke**

Associate Professor, Northern Illinois University



**Avik Roy**

Senior Advisor, BPI & President, FREEOP

# BPI Experts

Bitcoin Policy Institute hosts an interdisciplinary cohort of scholars with unique areas of expertise and diverse perspectives on digital assets.

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**Fadi Elsalameen**

Adjunct Senior Fellow, BPI



**Gabe Royal**

Instructor of American  
Politics, West Point



**Sarah Kreps**

Director, Cornell Tech Policy  
Institute, Adjunct Professor  
Law Cornell University



**Win Ko Ko Aung**

Scholar and Human Rights  
Activist



**Chris Barnard**

VP of External Affairs,  
American Conservation  
Coalition



**Gerald Dwyer**

Professor Emeritus and  
BB&T Scholar at Clemson  
University



**Matthew Ferranti**

Ph.D. Candidate,  
Harvard University



**William Luther**

Assistant Professor  
of Economics,  
Florida Atlantic  
University



**Thomas Hogan**

Senior Fellow, BPI &  
Senior Research Fellow,  
AIER

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# Plenary Programming



Visit the event website for up-to-date session times.

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## 7:30 AM - REGISTRATION + BREAKFAST

8:30 AM - Welcome & Remarks from Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand

8:40 AM - Opening Keynote (Natalie Smolenski)

8:50 AM - *Resistance Money: A Philosophical Examination of Bitcoin*

9:30 AM - Fireside Chat with Rep. Patrick McHenry

9:50 AM - *What Makes Bitcoin Valuable?* (Mike Brock)

10:00 AM - Perspectives from Global Human Rights Activists

- *How I Resisted Three Dictators with Bitcoin* (Lyudmyla Kozlovska, Open Dialogue Foundation)
- *Why Russian Dissidents Use Bitcoin: Lessons from Navalny's Foundation* (Anna Chekhovich, Anti-Corruption Foundation)
- *Bitcoin Against Autocracy: A Modern Tool for Freedom* (Felix Maradiaga, 2024 Nobel Peace Prize Nominee)

## 10:40 AM - COFFEE BREAK

11:05 AM - Mining in America: A Fireside Chat with Sen. Cynthia Lummis

11:30 AM - Bitcoin Mining & US Competitiveness: A Fireside Chat with Paul Thanos, Department of Commerce ITA

## 11:45 AM - LUNCH

12:35 PM - CONCURRENT PROGRAMMING BEGINS

3:55 PM - CONCURRENT PROGRAMMING ENDS

4:00 PM - Fireside Chat with Sen. Marsha Blackburn

4:25 PM - *Using Bitcoin To Power Underground Education In Afghanistan*

4:45 PM - Closing Keynote (Jeff Booth)

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# Concurrent Programming



Visit the event website for up-to-date session times.

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## Ballroom

**12:35 PM - *A Climate Scientist's Perspective on Bitcoin Mining*** (Mining & Energy), Pg. 11

**12:50 PM - *Convergence & the Power of Bitcoin***  
(Mining & Energy), Pg. 12

**1:15 PM - *Fireside Chat with Lauren Boyd, Department of Energy*** (Mining & Energy), Pg. 21

**1:40 PM - *Fireside Chat with Rep. Wiley Nickel (D-NC)***  
(Future of Money), Pg. 23

**2:00 PM - *Crypto & Illicit Finance*** (Geopolitics), Pg. 25

**2:30 PM - *The Geopolitics of Bitcoin***, Pg. 27

**3:05 PM - *The Role of Bitcoin in the Dollar-Based System***  
(Future of Money), Pg. 13

**3:25 PM - *The State of Bitcoin Policy***  
(Future of Money), Pg. 31

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# Concurrent Programming



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## Holeman Lounge

**12:35 PM - *Bitcoin's American Future*** (Geopolitics), Pg. 12

**12:55 PM - *The State of Bitcoin's Global Adoption & Technology Ecosystem*** (Geopolitics), Pg. 20

**1:40 PM - *How Mining Incentivizes Efficient Energy Development*** (Mining & Energy), Pg. 12

**2:00 PM - *Mining & Regulation*** (Mining & Energy), Pg. 24

**2:40 PM - *Power, Policy, and Progress: The Impact of Next-Gen Computing*** (Mining & Energy), Pg. 28

**3:20 PM - *How Institutions Consider Bitcoin and Sustainability*** (Mining & Energy), Pg. 30

**3:40 PM - *Bitcoin & Nuclear Energy*** (Mining & Energy), Pg. 32

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# Concurrent Programming



Visit the event website for up-to-date session times.

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## First Amendment Lounge

**12:35 PM - *Bitcoin & Financial Inclusion: A Fireside Chat with Chastity Murphy, U.S. Treasury*** (Future of Money), Pg. 18

**12:50 PM - *State & Local Digital Asset Policy: Examining the Current Landscape*** (Future of Money), Pg. 19

**1:35 PM - *The Political Economy of Bitcoin***  
(Future of Money), Pg. 22

**2:20 PM - *Bitcoin L2s: Policy Lessons from Ethereum?***  
(Future of Money), Pg. 26

**3:00 PM - *Countering Digital Authoritarianism***  
(Geopolitics), Pg. 29

**3:40 PM - *Bitcoin & Palestine***  
(Geopolitics), Pg. 13

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# Keynote Speakers



## **Senator Kirsten Gillibrand - *Remarks on Bitcoin*** | 8:30 AM

In her first Senate term, Kirsten Gillibrand led the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and passed the 9/11 health bill for first responders and survivors. She secured benefits for veterans exposed to toxic burn pits, made domestic gun trafficking a federal crime, and reformed the military justice system. Gillibrand enacted the STOCK Act to prevent Congress insider trading and was the first to post her meetings, earmark requests, and financial disclosures online. Advocating for working families, she champions paid leave for all working Americans. She chairs the Senate Armed Services Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities and serves on the Intelligence, Agriculture, and Aging Committees. Gillibrand lives in Albany, New York, with her husband Jonathan, their sons Theo and Henry, and their labradoodle, Maple.



## **Natalie Smolenski - *Opening Keynote*** | 8:40 AM

Natalie founded and leads the Texas Bitcoin Foundation, a public charity dedicated to original research and education about Bitcoin and political economy. Previously, Natalie co-founded Learning Machine, a SaaS company that built the first Bitcoin-based digital identity wallet and helped launch the decentralized identity movement. She exited Learning Machine to Hyland, where she currently leads business development. She also co-founded the Texas Blockchain Council, a professional trade association representing the Bitcoin industry in Texas. Natalie is also a political and economic anthropologist developing a theory of value. She writes about Bitcoin policy as a Senior Fellow at the Bitcoin Policy Institute.



## **Mike Brock - *What Makes Bitcoin Valuable?*** | 9:50 AM

Mike leads TBD, which focuses on cryptocurrency and decentralized finance. Mike has held a number of leadership positions at Cash App and was responsible for setting up Spiral, an open source, separate Block initiative focused on a more accessible global financial system for the internet. Prior to Block, he was a principal software engineer and project lead at Red Hat.

# Keynote Speakers



## **Lyudmyla Kozlovskaya - *How I Resisted Three Dictators with Bitcoin* | 10:00 AM**

Lyudmyla Kozlovskaya, a human rights defender from Ukraine, is president of the Open Dialogue Foundation (ODF). Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, ODF has provided Ukrainian refugees and the military with support worth €5,9 mln. The speed of Bitcoin and USDT has been a key factor in raising emergency funds from donors in the EU and the US and to provide humanitarian aid to Ukrainians. Kozlovskaya will present how debanking/de-risking of the ODF became a consequence of transnational persecution: how authoritarian and hybrid regimes disempower human rights activists, obstructing humanitarian aid for Ukraine and harassing their critics in the EU. Based on own experience, Kozlovskaya has launched an EU-wide campaign aimed at sharing with regulators the best practices and experiences of civil society activists employing Bitcoin to tackle financial exclusion and oppression. Despite the disconnection from the banking system, the use of digital assets enabled them to continue their human rights, humanitarian and environmental efforts all over the world (e.g. in Poland, Belgium, Palestine, Venezuela, Belarus and Russia). Since the EU and US attempt to regulate digital currency, human rights defenders advocate the lawmakers to take these issues into consideration.



## **Anna Chekhovich - *Why Russian Dissidents Use Bitcoin Lessons from Navalny's Foundation* | 10:15 AM**

Anna Chekhovich is the financial director of the Anti-Corruption Foundation (ACF), the leading opposition power in Russia, founded by Alexei Navalny. Working on major opposition projects, the ACF has been using Bitcoin technology since 2016 to avoid government surveillance. Crypto assets helped the foundation maintain opposition activities in Russia, especially when local bank accounts were under constant attacks from the government. Even after the foundation's relocation to Europe, Bitcoin remains a crucial tool in daily operations, particularly given Russia's current financial sanctions.

# Keynote Speakers



## **Felix Maradiaga - *Bitcoin Against Autocracy: A Modern Tool for Freedom* | 10:30 AM**

Felix Maradiaga is a human rights advocate and leading public intellectual in the field of nonviolent resistance against authoritarian regimes. This year, he was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of his commitment to advancing democracy in his native Nicaragua. A former presidential candidate, Maradiaga has faced political persecution, including two years of arbitrary detention in inhumane conditions, under the dictatorship of Daniel Ortega. Felix is the president of the Foundation for Liberty in Nicaragua and the Leadership Council of the World Liberty Congress. Through these organizations, he has been advocating for the use of Bitcoin as a means to overcome the various forms of financial repression imposed by authoritarian regimes on pro-democracy activists. Felix's exceptional political acumen became evident early in his career when, at the age of 20, he assumed leadership of the Office of Economic and Social Reintegration of War Veterans. By 26, he had ascended to a cabinet position, overseeing disarmament programs in Nicaragua. Beyond his national borders, Maradiaga has made significant contributions as a consultant on post-conflict strategy in more than 45 countries. He currently serves as a distinguished member of the Board of Trustees of Freedom House, advocating for human rights and democracy worldwide. His academic credentials include master's degrees from Harvard University and the University of Barcelona, as well as a fellowship at Yale University.



## **Margot Paez - *A Climate Scientist's Perspective on Bitcoin Mining* | 12:35 PM**

Margot Paez is a PhD candidate in the civil engineering department at Georgia Institute of Technology. She has an MS in physics from GT and works on climate change statistical-based modeling, primarily in relation to water resources. Her previous research includes robotics and physics of living systems, astrobiology instrumentation, and web-based data management systems.

# Keynote Speakers



## **Alex Thorn - *Bitcoin's American Future* | 12:35 PM**

Alex Thorn is Head of Firmwide Research at Galaxy Digital. At Galaxy, Alex leads a team of researchers dedicated to understanding and unpacking developments in the cryptocurrency ecosystem, producing insights for internal and external audiences. Prior to joining Galaxy Digital, Alex spent 12 years at Fidelity Investments, mostly recently co-managing Avon Ventures, the early-stage crypto venture fund affiliated with FMR LLC, the parent company of Fidelity Investments. Before that, Alex was Director of Blockchain Research at Fidelity Center for Applied Technology where he directed technology experimentation and published research on the cryptocurrency and blockchain ecosystem, and held several roles in Legal and Compliance functions before that. Alex has a B.A. in Political Science from Vanderbilt University.



## **John Belizaire - *Convergence & the Power of Bitcoin* | 12:50 PM**

John Belizaire is the CEO of Soluna Holdings, the world's first utility-scale company building modular, batchable computing centers for intensive applications like Bitcoin mining, AI, and machine learning, powered by renewable energy. As a serial entrepreneur, John has successfully founded and scaled multiple industry-leading technology startups that have achieved market leadership and double-digit growth, including FirstBest, an insurance software company acquired by Guidewire, and The Theory Center, a software company acquired by BEA Systems. Before becoming an entrepreneur, John was the lead architect for Intel's Digital Enterprise Group. John holds BS and MEng degrees in Computer Science from Cornell University.



## **Ben Gagnon - *How Mining Incentivizes Efficient Energy Development* | 1:40 PM**

Ben Gagnon is the Chief Mining Officer for Bitfarms. He has been working in the Bitcoin mining industry since 2015, after discovering Bitcoin and Crypto at the Kelley School of Business in 2010. His considerable mining and international experience includes establishing mining operations in China, Canada, and the United States, as well as founding multiple Bitcoin companies and developing technologies, including mining as a service, negative emissions mining (otherwise referred to as turn-key flare gas mitigation) and immersion cooling technology. Ben has a B.Sc. in Economics and International Business from the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University and an M.Sc. in Internet Computing and E-commerce with a specialty in Cyber Security from Hong Kong University.

# Keynote Speakers



## **Josh Hendrickson - *The Role of Bitcoin in the Dollar-Based System* | 3:00 PM**

Dr. Joshua R. Hendrickson is an associate professor of economics and chair of the Economics Department at the University of Mississippi. He is a senior fellow at the American Institute for Economic Research's Sound Money Project, a senior affiliate scholar at the Mercatus Center at George Mason University, and serves on the board of the Mississippi Council on Economic Education. Hendrickson's research focuses on the intersection of monetary theory and political economy. He has written extensively on the political economy of bitcoin.



## **Fadi Elsalameen - *Bitcoin & Palestine* | 3:40 PM**

Fadi Elsalameen is an Adjunct Senior Fellow at the Bitcoin Policy Institute. Previously Elsalameen was a Fellow at the Foreign Policy Institute at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies and a Fellow at the American Strategy Program at the New America Foundation. Elsalameen is an advocate for Human rights, democracy, and anti-corruption with a special focus on bitcoin and crypto as a tool for freedom.



## **Jeff Booth - *The Future is Watching: The Discovery of an Honest and Open Protocol Changes Everything* | 4:45 PM**

Jeff Booth is a visionary leader, technology entrepreneur and best-selling author of [The Price of Tomorrow – Why Deflation is Key to an Abundant Future](#). With his expertise in technology, system thinking and design, he is at the forefront of a transition from an economic system built for the past, and one built for the future.

Jeff has been featured in Forbes, TechCrunch, Inc.com, The Globe and Mail, BNN, Fast Company, Entrepreneur, Bloomberg, TIME, and The Wall Street Journal. In 2015, he was named BC Technology Industry Association's (BCTIA) Person of the Year, and in 2016 Goldman Sachs named him among its 100 Most Intriguing Entrepreneurs.

He is a Founding Partner of [ego death capital](#), Co-Founder of [addy](#) and [NocNoc](#). He has been a Young Presidents Organization member since 2004 and contributes time as a Founding Fellow at the [Creative Destruction Lab](#). Jeff currently sits on the boards of [Core Scientific](#), [Scoop Solar](#), [Fedi](#) and [Breez](#).

# Resistance Money: A Philosophical Examination of Bitcoin



## Andrew Bailey

Andrew M. Bailey is an interdisciplinary teacher and scholar whose work spans philosophy, politics, and economics. He is an Associate Professor of Humanities at Yale-NUS College (Singapore), a BPI Fellow, and one-third of Resistance Money, a Bitcoin research collective.



## Bradley Rettler

Bradley is an Assistant Professor of Philosophy at the University of Wyoming, where he teaches classes on metaphysics, ethics, and bitcoin. He is a founding member of Resistance Money, a Bitcoin Research Collective. He received his PhD from the University of Notre Dame in 2014.



## Craig Warmke

Craig (Ph.D., UNC - Chapel Hill) is an Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Northern Illinois University. He has published peer-reviewed articles about the nature and function of bitcoin and is currently writing an academic book about bitcoin with Andrew Bailey and Bradley Rettler. Their work and media appearances are available at the domain [resistance.money](http://resistance.money). Craig is also a member of the advisory panel on cryptoassets for the Law Commission of England and Wales and writes for the financial services startup, Atomic Finance.

# Regulating Digital Assets: A Fireside Chat with Rep. Patrick McHenry



## David McIntosh

David McIntosh is a leader for the principles of limited constitutional government and individual freedom. He is the President of the Club for Growth, the leading advocate for economic liberty.

Former Congressman David McIntosh represented Indiana's 2nd Congressional District in the United States Congress from 1995-2000. David served during the Reagan administration as special assistant to Attorney General Edwin Meese III, and as special assistant to President Reagan for Domestic Affairs. During the first Bush administration, he served as executive director of the President's Council on Competitiveness and assistant to the Vice President.

David co-founded the Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy and serves on the Board of Directors. He remains active with several free market and conservative think tanks and grassroots organizations. David has also had stints at the Hudson Institute and as a Professor of Economics at Ball State School of Business. Prior to the Club for Growth, David was a partner at Mayer Brown, LLP in Washington, DC.

David graduated from the University of Chicago Law School in 1983, and Yale University, BA, cum laude, in 1980. He is the proud father of two adult children, Ellie and Davey.



## Congressman Patrick McHenry

Representative Patrick McHenry represents North Carolina's 10th District in his tenth term, covering parts of nine counties. As Chair of the House Financial Services Committee in the 118th Congress, he advocates for banking access and credit for families and small businesses.

Previously, McHenry was the Republican Leader and Vice Chairman of the Financial Services Committee, as well as the Chief Deputy Whip, where he played a key role in passing the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. He has also focused on supporting entrepreneurs, authoring the "RAISE Act" and legislation for equity-based crowdfunding, both signed into law, earning him accolades in crowdfunding and finance innovation.

McHenry has been an advocate for veterans, securing a health care clinic in his district, and has received numerous awards for his conservative leadership and support of small businesses, manufacturing, and taxpayer rights. Before Congress, he served in the North Carolina House and the U.S. Department of Labor. McHenry, a Belmont Abbey College graduate, lives in Denver, N.C., with his wife Giulia and their three children.

# Mining in America: A Fireside Chat with Senator Cynthia Lummis



## Fred Thiel

Prior to serving as Marathon's chief executive officer, Thiel co-founded and served as chairman of Sprocket, a blockchain and cryptocurrency technology and financial services company whose mission is to reduce the risk and friction of cryptocurrency trading across marketplaces, regions and exchanges by establishing a federation of exchanges that together create a single aggregated global trading marketplace with large scale liquidity, rapid execution, minimal counter-party risk, and price transparency. Prior to that, Thiel served as chairman and chief executive officer of Local Corporation, an \$80 million Nasdaq-listed leader in online local search and digital media, mobile search monetization and programmatic retargeting markets with over 240 million unique annual visitors. During his career while holding the title of CEO across multiple companies, Thiel successfully created in excess of \$750 million in shareholder value, efficiently raised more than \$150 million through both public (IPO and secondary offerings) and private capital sources, led multiple successful corporate transformations resulting in highly accretive exits, built high output agile product development organizations, and established corporate innovation groups resulting in the creation of new product businesses that generated significant new revenues in their first year.



## Senator Cynthia Lummis

Cynthia Lummis, sworn in as the first female U.S. Senator from Wyoming on January 3, 2021, has a rich background in public service and advocacy for her state. Born and raised on a Laramie County cattle ranch, she has dedicated her career to supporting Wyoming's families, businesses, and values. Lummis, who first entered the U.S. House in 2008, is known for her conservative stance and was a founding member of the House Freedom Caucus. Throughout her tenure, she has focused on fiscal responsibility, western issues, and energy resources, notably chairing significant appropriations bills and advocating for public land use. Before her Congressional service, she was Wyoming's State Treasurer, served in the State Legislature, and held various legal roles, including working for the Governor and the Supreme Court. After leaving Congress in 2016, she managed family ranching operations. Lummis holds degrees in animal science, biology, and law from the University of Wyoming. She was married to Al Wiederspahn, with whom she has a daughter, Annaliese, a son-in-law, Will Cole, and three grandsons.



# Bitcoin Mining & US Competitiveness: A Fireside Chat with Paul Thanos, ITA



## Jason Les

Jason joined Riot in 2017, initially as a member of the Advisory Board before being asked to join the Board of Directors later that year. Alongside Riot's strategic transformation, and the reconstitution of its Board of Directors and management team, Jason became Chief Executive Officer in February 2021. Jason is the driving force behind the mission to make Riot one of the most significant players supporting the Bitcoin network. Jason's passion for Bitcoin dates to 2013, where he gained significant experience in cryptocurrency mining, protocol development, and contributing to open-source projects. He is deeply committed to the advancement of Bitcoin and his technical expertise plays an integral part in Riot's strategic decision making. Jason's experience extends beyond the world of Bitcoin. He was a founding partner of Binary Digital, where he led the engineering team and coordinated the development of projects ranging from artificial intelligence to reverse engineering and inter-software compatibility. Jason's ability to navigate complex technical challenges with ease and precision is a testament to his leadership skills. Jason also brings a unique background as a former professional heads-up poker player to Riot. He successfully competed in high-stakes games online and the most prestigious, high-stakes tournaments worldwide. In 2015 and 2017, he was selected as a human benchmark for testing the world's best poker artificial intelligence in what was dubbed "Man vs Machine" at Carnegie Mellon University. This experience instilled in Jason the discipline, focus, and strategic thinking that he applies to his work today. Jason holds a Bachelor of Science in Information & Computer Science from UC Irvine. He is dedicated to achieving excellence in his work and making a meaningful impact in the world of Bitcoin technology.



## Paul Thanos

Paul J. Thanos is the Director for Finance and Professional Services at the U.S. Commerce Department's International Trade Administration. Mr. Thanos is responsible for developing and executing policy, analysis, and promotion initiatives pertaining to finance and insurance industries, business and professional services, trade and project finance and sustainability. Mr. Thanos is an interagency leader on digital assets and Web3 including leading the Commerce Department's work on responsible development of digital assets. Mr. Thanos leads an initiative on the future of work and competitiveness which includes examining issues such as talent pipelines, portable benefits, and independent work. He leads the U.S. delegation to the OECD Insurance and Private Pensions Committee and supervises the Commercial Pillar of the US-UK Financial Innovation Partnership. He is a regular guest lecturer on topics ranging from trade, competitiveness, corporate strategy and value creation, and risk management. Mr. Thanos served as the inaugural Global Trade and Investment Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in 2016-17 where he published a series of articles on inclusive capitalism, services trade, and US-Canada bilateral economics in the Great Lakes region. He also served as a Brookings Institute fellow in the United States Senate with responsibility for trade, foreign policy, and defense issues.

# Bitcoin & Financial Inclusion: A Fireside Chat with Chastity Murphy



## Grant McCarty

Grant McCarty is the Co-Founder and Co-Executive Director of the Bitcoin Policy Institute. Before founding BPI, Grant built an education startup dedicated to reducing inequity in college admissions, worked at a fintech startup focused on democratizing investment access in the US, and led policy efforts at BTC Inc -- the largest media company in the Bitcoin industry. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Alabama and his MBA from Johns Hopkins University.



## Chastity Murphy

Chastity serves as a Senior Advisor to the Assistant Secretary of Financial Institutions, where she oversees the activities of four distinct offices. Her direct responsibilities include managing areas such as cryptocurrency, digital assets, consumer protections, and financial inclusion initiatives. In addition to her primary duties, Chastity contributes her expertise to the Counselor for Racial Equity and engages in special projects focusing on technology, inclusion, and access initiatives under Deputy Secretary Adeyamo.

Before her current role, Chastity was instrumental in shaping the American Rescue Plan through her work on state and local fiscal recovery programs within the office of recovery programs. Her experience also includes a tenure as a senior economic policy advisor for Representative Rashida Tlaib, where she led pioneering efforts on legislation related to e-cash, stablecoins, and digital assets. In this capacity, she managed Tlaib's involvement in the Financial Services Committee and spearheaded initiatives aimed at anti-austerity, financial reform, racial equity, and financial inclusion.

Earlier in her career, Chastity worked closely with Representative, now HUD Secretary, Marcia Fudge, and also gained experience as a cooperative education student and analyst at the Federal Reserve Board of Governors. Chastity's contributions to economic policy making and her insights into digital cash and blockchain technology were highlighted in a Forbes article in 2020 titled "Women of Color Hill Staffers Talk New Economic Policy Making, Digital Cash Without Blockchain." More recently, Forbes featured her again, focusing on her work with Digital Payments, Stablecoin Policy, and Inclusion. Chastity resides in Washington, D.C., and holds a B.A. in Political Science and Economics from South Carolina State University.

# State & Local Digital Asset Policy: Examining the Current Landscape



## **Zack Shapiro - Moderator**

Zack Shapiro is the Managing Partner at Rains and leads the law practice. Previously, he was co-founder and general counsel of BZR, a startup backed by Founders Fund, Greycroft, and Abstract Ventures. Zack is a graduate of Williams College and Yale Law School, and started his legal career clerking in the federal courts for the S.D.N.Y. and the 2nd Circuit, and at Davis Polk & Wardwell. Zack serves in various advisory roles in the crypto industry, including as a member of the Pleb Lab Accelerator advisory board, and as a Legal Fellow at the Bitcoin Policy Institute.



## **Arry Yu**

Arry Yu is a 23-year technology industry veteran, serial founder and operator. She is currently the Executive Director/Co-Founder of the U.S. Blockchain Coalition (USBC), which merged with the Global Business Blockchain Council (GBBC) in November 2023. She is now Head of Strategy (US) with the GBBC. She is also the founding Chair of the Cascadia Blockchain Council, now the WTIA Advanced Technology Cluster. Yu also works in venture capital as she serves as the Managing Director of Yellow Umbrella Ventures and Venture Partner with Startup Haven Fund. She also serves as an emerging technology educator, as Adjunct Professor and instructor for various academic institutions like the University of Washington Milgard School of Business, Columbia University and the Coding Dojo. She is currently also the Executive-in-Residence (EIR) for 1871's inaugural global Web3 Innovation Lab in Chicago, IL.



## **Yaël Ossowski**

Yaël Ossowski is a consumer and technology advocate, journalist, and writer. He is deputy director at the Consumer Choice Center. Since 2010, he has worked as a journalist, policy analyst, and grassroots organizer both in Europe and North America. He was previously Watchdog.org's Florida Bureau Chief, chief Spanish translator, and national investigative reporter from 2012-2015, and Senior Development Officer at Students For Liberty. His articles have appeared in USA Today, The Hill, The Chicago Tribune, Washington Examiner, La Presse, Le Journal de Montréal, Charlotte Observer, Miami Herald, The Philadelphia Inquirer, Detroit News, Reason Magazine, American Spectator, Huffington Post, FoxNews.com, and much more. He has had over 1,000 articles published in newspapers, magazines, and online outlets. He is also a visiting fellow at the Bitcoin Policy Institute. He studied at Concordia University in Montréal and the University of Vienna, and received an MA in Philosophy, Politics, Economics (PPE) at the CEVRO Institute in Prague. Born in Québec and raised in North Carolina, he splits his time between Austria and North Carolina. You can follow his work on [Yael.ca](https://yael.ca).

# The State of Bitcoin's Global Adoption & Technology Ecosystem



## Tom McDivitt

Tom, a US Army Veteran, is an accomplished investigations and intelligence executive. He has extensive experience supporting US government clients in digital assets, cyber intelligence, and anti-money laundering. Tom has held leadership roles in large government and public sector consultancy and advisory firms helping to shape strategic vision, go-to-market, business development, partnerships, and technical product development.



## Alyse Killeen

Alyse Killeen is the GP and Managing Partner of Stillmark and is focused on the Firm's investments. With over a decade of experience in identifying and investing in frontier technologies, Alyse founded Stillmark in 2019 to focus on investments in durable innovation in the bitcoin ecosystem. In 2013, Alyse entered the bitcoin industry as one of the first institutional investors to study the potential of Satoshi Nakamoto's invention. Alyse has been recognized as a technology and industry expert across various outlets, including Bloomberg, Sky News, CNBC, Forbes and Fortune.



## Wolf Von Laer

Dr. Wolf von Laer is the Chief Executive Officer of Students For Liberty (SFL). SFL is a non-profit organization with 90+ staff members that trains and supports pro-liberty students in the United States and around the world. Wolf received his PhD in Political Economy at King's College London in March 2017. Wolf lived and studied in the US, Turkey, Spain, Germany, the UK, Sweden, and Argentina. He has published several book chapters, a book about central banking, and a peer-reviewed journal article. Wolf has appeared in the Wallstreet Journal, Foreign Policy, Forbes, Huffington Post, Bitcoin Magazine, Coindesk, and CSPAN. He is a member of the Mont Pelerin Society. His website is [www.wolfvonlaer.com](http://www.wolfvonlaer.com).



## Charlene Fadirepo

Charlene Fadirepo is a banker, a former U.S. Federal regulator, and a Bitcoin activist with 15 years of experience in the traditional finance world. She is the CEO of Mango Digital Strategies, a digital assets consulting firm that helps financial services institutions integrate Bitcoin into their overall business strategy. Charlene is the author of the upcoming book called Take the Leap: How Bitcoin Is Transforming Africa and also the founder of the Bitcoin In Africa Show Podcast. Charlene is a co-author of the best-selling Bitcoin policy book, Bitcoin & the American Dream, and the author of a Bitcoin children's book called Sade's Satoshis. Charlene studied Electrical Engineering at the University of Virginia and has a MBA from the Fuqua School of Business at Duke University.

# Bitcoin & Geothermal Energy: A Fireside Chat with Lauren Boyd, DOE



## Troy Cross

Troy Cross is Professor of Philosophy and Humanities at Reed College, where he specializes in contemporary metaphysics and epistemology. He has formerly taught at Oxford University and Yale University. Cross is also a long-time bitcoiner, and has been thinking about bitcoin's environmental impact and energy profile since 2011. He now writes on these issues as a Fellow at the Bitcoin Policy Institute and consults with media, policymakers, and industry.



## Lauren Boyd

Lauren Boyd leads the efforts of the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Geothermal Technologies Office (GTO) to improve performance, reduce costs, and accelerate the deployment of all geothermal technologies.

In this role, Lauren is responsible for a budget of more than \$115 million for geothermal research, development, and demonstration and champions GTO's partnerships with industry, academia, the DOE national laboratories, and others to increase geothermal deployment and advance geothermal as an economically competitive and widely available part of the U.S. energy supply.

Lauren also manages DOE's international portfolio on geothermal and represents the United States on several international steering committees. Prior to becoming director, Lauren served as GTO's senior advisor, providing technical expertise and input on matters across the Office's portfolio.

She also spent more than a decade leading GTO's enhanced geothermal systems (EGS) program, where she was instrumental in spearheading and launching DOE's flagship EGS research site, the Frontier Observatory for Research in Geothermal Energy (FORGE), as well as EGS Collab and DOE's Enhanced Geothermal Shot™

# The Political Economy of Bitcoin



## **Natalie Smolenski - Moderator**

Natalie founded and leads the Texas Bitcoin Foundation, a public charity dedicated to original research and education about Bitcoin and political economy. Previously, Natalie co-founded Learning Machine, a SaaS company that built the first Bitcoin-based digital identity wallet and helped launch the decentralized identity movement. She exited Learning Machine to Hyland, where she currently leads business development. She also co-founded the Texas Blockchain Council, a professional trade association representing the Bitcoin industry in Texas. Natalie is also a political and economic anthropologist developing a theory of value. She writes about Bitcoin policy as a Senior Fellow at the Bitcoin Policy Institute.



## **Avik Roy**

Avik Roy is the President of the Foundation for Research on Equal Opportunity, focusing on expanding economic opportunity through liberty and innovation. He authored “Bitcoin and the U.S. Fiscal Reckoning” in 2021. Roy serves on the Texas Bitcoin Foundation board, advises the Bitcoin Policy Institute, and is involved with Sats Center and the Milken Center for Advancing the American Dream. A policy advisor for three presidential campaigns, he contributed to Rick Perry's pro-Bitcoin stance in 2015. Roy's articles have appeared in major publications; he is Forbes' Policy Editor and has a background in hedge fund management. He was educated at MIT and Yale School of Medicine.



## **Craig Warmke**

Craig (Ph.D, UNC - Chapel Hill) is Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Northern Illinois University. He has published peer-reviewed articles about the nature and function of bitcoin and is currently writing an academic book about bitcoin with Andrew Bailey and Bradley Rettler. Their work and media appearances are available at [resistance.money](http://resistance.money). Craig is also a member of the advisory panel on cryptoassets for the Law Commission of England and Wales and writes for the financial services startup, Atomic Finance.



## **Andrew Bailey**

Andrew M. Bailey is an interdisciplinary teacher and scholar whose work spans philosophy, politics, and economics. He is Associate Professor of Humanities at Yale-NUS College (Singapore) and one third of Resistance Money, a bitcoin research collective.

# Bitcoin, Regulation, & Bipartisanship: A Fireside Chat with Rep. Wiley Nickel



## Jason Brett

Jason formerly served as a regulator at the FDIC during the last financial crisis. Additionally, he has extensive experience in developing and implementing successful governmental affairs programs for various companies, including clients of Key Bridge Advisors. While serving as Policy Director for ConsenSys, he was responsible for their domestic and international policy during a key period of their growth. Jason has also worked as a consultant at Booz Allen Hamilton, the Operations Director for the Digital Chamber of Commerce, and the Founder of the Value Technology Foundation, a non-profit technology think tank. He is also a forbes.com contributor who writes on policy issues related to bitcoin, other cryptocurrencies, and blockchain. Jason holds an MBA from American University and a bachelor's degree from Cornell University.



## Congressman Wiley Nickel

Wiley Nickel is currently serving his first term in Congress as the U.S. Representative of the 13th District of North Carolina which includes Wake, Wayne, Johnston and Harnett Counties.

Wiley lives in Cary with his wife, Caroline, and their two kids. Wiley earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Tulane University and later graduated from the Pepperdine University School of Law.

Prior to being elected to Congress, Wiley served as a North Carolina State Senator, attorney, small business owner and worked for two White House administrations.

Having served in a divided legislature, Wiley understands the importance of reaching across the aisle and finding common ground while defending fundamental North Carolina values. As a state Senator, Wiley fought for the issues that matter most to North Carolinians: lowering the cost of living, expanding access to affordable health care, protecting voting rights and women's reproductive health rights.

Wiley is a pragmatic problem solver who is focused on finding solutions and delivering results for the people of North Carolina's 13th Congressional District. Wiley is committed to representing every constituent in North Carolina's 13th District and delivering bipartisan results as their voice in Washington.

# Mining and Regulation



## **Susan Joseph - Moderator**

Susan Joseph (JD/MBA) is the Executive Director of FinTech at Cornell and also engages as Fractional GC and Consultant to startups and financial services/insurance companies implementing digitization and innovative products. As Executive Director for Cornell FinTech, she assembles and engages industry experts, academia, and former regulators for in-depth educational events addressing digital assets, Central Bank Digital Currencies, and programmable monies/Stablecoins. Susan also educates through continuing legal education classes on blockchain, crypto, digital assets, and AI at Cornell, MIT, Stanford, PLI, and ABA and is a recognized expert.



## **Brian Morgenstern**

Brian Morgenstern joined Riot in January 2023 as the Company's Head of Public Policy. He is primarily responsible for leading Riot's advocacy efforts at the state and federal level regarding legislative and regulatory issues in the areas of energy, environment, financial services, tax, and national security. Prior to Riot, Brian served as White House deputy press secretary, deputy communications director, and special assistant to the President of the United States from 2020 to 2021. Prior thereto, he served at the U.S. Treasury Department as senior advisor, deputy assistant secretary, and chief speechwriter to the Secretary. Brian earned his B.A. in government from Georgetown University and his J.D. from Columbia Law School.



## **Tyler Williams**

Tyler Williams is the Head of Regulatory and Legislative Affairs & Regulatory Counsel at Galaxy. Previously, Tyler spent nearly a decade in public service having served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Financial Institutions Policy at the U.S. Department of the Treasury, Banking Counsel for Senator Thom Tillis (NC), Legislative Director and Counsel to Congressman Robert Hurt (VA), and Legislative Assistant for Speaker John Boehner (OH). Prior to working in government, Tyler worked for an institutional investment research firm in New York. Tyler holds a BA in Economics and minor in Biology from Kenyon College and a JD from The George Washington University School of Law.



## **Jayson Browder**

Jayson serves as the Head of Public Policy for Marathon Digital Holdings, where he leads public policy and government relations strategy. A trained United States Air Force engineer, he has spent the last 12 years post-military service managing projects and developing policy covering Asia, the Middle East, Eurasia, Central America, and Mexico. Jayson has served in the White House, U.S. State Department, USAID, and on Capitol Hill. He is an Iraq veteran and U.S. Fulbright Scholar to Turkey. Jayson holds a Global Executive M.P.A. from New York University and the University College London and a B.A. in Sociology and Latin American and Latino Studies from Fordham University.



# Crypto and Illicit Finance



## **Matt Pines - Moderator**

Matthew Pines is Director of Security Intelligence at PinnacleOne, the cybersecurity and geopolitical risk advisory group of SentinelOne. Matthew manages delivery of integrated geopolitical advisory, tech security, and business strategy solutions at PinnacleOne. In this role, he helps enterprises and executives assess complex risks and adapt to global change. As a National Security Fellow at the Bitcoin Policy Institute, he conducts research to help policymakers understand the geopolitical and national security implications of Bitcoin.



## **Ken Egan**

Ken is a former Senior Operations Officer in the Directorate of Operations at the Central Intelligence Agency. He served in multiple locations overseas, and last served as the Deputy Chief of Operations at CIA's Center for Cyber Intelligence. Ken currently serves as Head of Operations at BlockTrace, a full service blockchain analytics and cyber intelligence company delivering custom analytic and technical solutions to government clients.



## **Meredith Fitzpatrick**

Meredith Fitzpatrick is the Director of Cryptocurrency Investigations and Compliance at Forensic Risk Alliance (FRA), a global consulting and investigations company. Prior to joining FRA, Meredith was Special Agent at the Baltimore field office of the FBI where she investigated cryptocurrency money laundering and cyber matters. She is a SME in the investigation of cryptocurrency enabled money laundering and computer intrusion incidents, including Russian state-sponsored computer intrusions, non-compliant cryptocurrency exchanges, financially motivated cryptocurrency fraud schemes, theft of Personally Identifiable Information and Intellectual Property, ransomware and darknet marketplaces.



## **Sam Lyman**

Sam Lyman is director of public policy at Riot Platforms, a leading Bitcoin mining company. He served previously as the policy director of a DC-based think tank, the speechwriter to the President and CEO of the US Chamber of Commerce, and the chief speechwriter to Senator Orrin G. Hatch. His graduate research at Princeton focused on the impact of emerging technologies on international relations.

# Bitcoin L2s: Policy Lessons from Ethereum?



## Zack Shapiro - *Moderator*

Zack Shapiro is the Managing Partner at Rains and leads the law practice. Previously, he was co-founder and general counsel of BZR, a startup backed by Founders Fund, Greycroft, and Abstract Ventures. Zack is a graduate of Williams College and Yale Law School, and started his legal career clerking in the federal courts for the S.D.N.Y. and the 2nd Circuit, and at Davis Polk & Wardwell. Zack serves in various advisory roles in the crypto industry, including as a member of the Pleb Lab Accelerator advisory board, and as a Legal Fellow at the Bitcoin Policy Institute.



## Shailee Adinolfi

Shailee's experience is at the intersection of crypto, payments, international institutions and governments. She leads Business Development for Trust Machines, focused on making Bitcoin productive through products and services. She previously led business development for MetaMask, the largest self-custodial crypto wallet globally, and a web3 messaging protocol XMTP. Prior to joining the crypto industry 7 years ago, Shailee managed financial and digital inclusion projects for the US Agency for International Development in Africa, Asia, and the Middle East.



## C. Wallace DeWitt

C. Wallace DeWitt is a senior counsel in Allen & Overy's Financial Services Regulatory practice. Before rejoining Allen & Overy in 2019, he served as Senior Advisor and Counsel to Acting Chairman and Commissioner Michael S. Piwowar of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. He was also designated as the SEC's observer of the FINRA FinTech Industry Committee. From 2014 to 2017, he was a senior associate in Allen & Overy's U.S. Bank Regulatory Group, immediately prior to which he served as the Executive Director of Research for the Committee on Capital Markets Regulation. Upon graduation from Harvard Law School, he served as law clerk to the Hon. Laurence H. Silberman of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. He is an adjunct scholar at the Cato Institute's Center for Monetary and Financial Alternatives, a member of the Exchequer Club, and a member of the Financial Services & Corporate Governance Committee of the Federalist Society's Regulatory Transparency Project. He is proficient in eight languages at various degrees of fluency.



## Peter Van Valkenburgh

Peter is the Director of Research for Coin Center. Formerly, he was the Google Policy Fellow for TechFreedom. He has a JD from the NYU School of Law and a BS in Economics from George Mason University.

# The Geopolitics of Bitcoin



## **Matt Pines - Moderator**

Matthew Pines is Director of Security Intelligence at PinnacleOne, the cybersecurity and geopolitical risk advisory group of SentinelOne. Matthew manages delivery of integrated geopolitical advisory, tech security, and business strategy solutions at PinnacleOne. In this role, he helps enterprises and executives assess complex risks and adapt to global change. As a National Security Fellow at the Bitcoin Policy Institute, he conducts research to help policymakers understand the geopolitical and national security implications of Bitcoin.



## **Ken Egan**

Ken is a former Senior Operations Officer in the Directorate of Operations at the Central Intelligence Agency. He served in multiple locations overseas, and last served as the Deputy Chief of Operations at CIA's Center for Cyber Intelligence. Ken currently serves as Head of Operations at BlockTrace, a full service blockchain analytics and cyber intelligence company delivering custom analytic and technical solutions to government clients.



## **Jake Langenkamp**

Jacob Langenkamp is a former national security practitioner for the U.S. Government with experience in the Middle East, Central Asia, Europe and Africa. Jake is the co-founder and CEO of Bridger Solutions, a Bitcoin mining company focused on geographically diversifying the Bitcoin hash rate, especially in Africa. Jake most recently has traveled to East Africa in order to facilitate some burgeoning mining projects. Bridger believes that bringing Bitcoin mining to developing countries is not only good for the protocol, but also for U.S. foreign policy aims.



## **Kyle Schneps**

Kyle is Vice President of Public Policy at Foundry, an Upstate New York-based company focused on empowering decentralized infrastructure and Bitcoin data centers across the world. He has held a variety of Federal and State Government positions, most recently working as Special Advisor for State Operations in the New York State Governor's Office. Prior to this role, Kyle spent most of his career serving as a US Intelligence Officer, which was preceded by a diplomatic post at the US Department of State. He is a former White House Fellow, during which time he worked across different national security and federal budgeting portfolios in the Executive Office of the President. He holds two Masters' degrees from Columbia University.

# Power, Policy, and Progress: The Impact of Next-Gen Computing



## **Margot Paez - Moderator**

Margot Paez is a PhD candidate in the civil engineering department at Georgia Institute of Technology. She has an MS in physics from GT and works on climate change statistical-based modeling, primarily in relation to water resources. Her previous research includes robotics and physics of living systems, astrobiology instrumentation, and web-based data management systems.



## **Sharon Sadler**

Ms. Sharon Sadler has 14 years of professional experience in environmental consulting with a focus on air quality. Ms. Sadler has expertise in minor New Source Review and Title V permitting, comprehensive air emissions inventories, greenhouse gas reporting, ozone depleting substances, and regulation review. Her extensive air compliance experience encompasses auditing, training, compliance tool development, and reporting. She also has experience with Toxic Release Inventory reporting and performance testing coordination. Ms. Sadler is practiced in a variety of industries, primarily healthcare, military, higher education, data centers, and small manufacturing, and has completed projects in numerous states and outside of the United States.



## **James Giannantonio**

James Giannantonio is a seasoned Program Manager with 12 years in the energy and sustainability sectors, skilled in driving organizational energy conservation and sustainability programs. James graduated from the University of Colorado – Boulder in 2007 with a bachelor's degree in Economics. In addition, he received his master's degree from Harvard University in Sustainability and Environmental Management in 2010. James holds certifications as a Project Management Professional (PMP), GRI Certified Sustainability Professional, a Certified ScrumMaster (CSM), LEED AP Building Design and Construction (BD+C), and LEED AP Operations and Maintenance (O+M).



## **Jim McDonald**

Jim McDonald, Co-founder and Director of Environmental Impact at MIRATECH Corporation, leads the Power Generation division with a focus on compliance and innovation in emissions regulation for backup generators across North America and Europe. With stints at Rypos Corporation and PowerSecure's environmental department, he returned to MIRATECH in 2019 to head ENP Concepts. A recognized expert, McDonald has testified before the EPA, contributed to state-level rulemaking, and taught for 15 years at the Advanced School of the Electrical Generating Systems Association. He also has a patent pending for an emissions reduction invention. Jim holds a B.S in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Delaware,

# Countering Digital Authoritarianism



## **David Zell - Moderator**

David Zell is the Co-Founder and Co-Executive Director of the Bitcoin Policy Institute. Before founding BPI, David was the Director of Policy for BTC Inc. He is an advisor to Bitcoin Magazine and holds a Visiting Fellowship at the Foundation for Research on Equal Opportunity. David studied Political Science at the University of Alabama.



## **Roger Huang**

Roger was one of the first writers in 2014 to write about the intersection of Bitcoin in remittance payments and drug policy with VentureBeat and TechCrunch. He has contributed to Hong Kong Free Press, the Toronto Star and the Los Angeles Review of Books on China and human rights, and he was the co-creator of the largest English-language room for discussion on China on Clubhouse. He recently wrote a book on Bitcoin and China that will be published in Summer 2024.



## **Jorge Jraissati**

Jorge Jraissati is the President of the Organization for Economic Inclusion, a global coalition uniting youth leaders, industry experts, and policymakers. Their mission is to safeguard democracy by advancing economic inclusion and opportunity, especially among the youth. The organization's areas of focus include advocating for financial reforms that guarantee a "right to banking" for all people, promoting the use of Bitcoin as a tool for financial inclusion among marginalized groups, and ensuring that young people have representation in policy decisions, fostering a climate of freedom and opportunity for all people and enterprises. Jraissati is also an economist and a researcher at IESE Business School for the Center for Public Leadership and Government. His research has been published in Economic Affairs, the Brookings Institution, and Foreign Policy, among others. His policy recommendations have been supported by institutions like the OECD. He has been a guest lecturer at universities like Harvard and Cambridge. Jorge has bachelor's degrees in economics and business administration from the Wilkes Honors College of FAU, as well as executive diplomas in management from Stanford University, IESE Business School, and Harvard Business School.

# How Institutions Consider Bitcoin's Sustainability: A Fireside with Brian Consolvo, KPMG



## Troy Cross

Troy Cross is Professor of Philosophy and Humanities at Reed College, where he specializes in contemporary metaphysics and epistemology. He has formerly taught at Oxford University and Yale University. Cross is also a long-time bitcoiner, and has been thinking about bitcoin's environmental impact and energy profile since 2011. He now writes on these issues as a Fellow at the Bitcoin Policy Institute and consults with media, policymakers, and industry.



## Brian Consolvo

Brian is a Partner in KPMG's Technology Risk Management practice in the Richmond, VA office with over 18 years of experience providing IT risk and consulting services, including financial statement audit, IT internal audit, Sarbanes-Oxley assistance, IT general control reviews, SOC1 and SOC2 examinations, and system-based application control reviews. Brian's primary engagement experience is in financial services including crypto asset service providers and exchanges.

# The State of Bitcoin Policy



## Grant McCarty - Moderator

Grant McCarty is the Co-Founder and Co-Executive Director of the Bitcoin Policy Institute. Before founding BPI, Grant built an education startup dedicated to reducing inequity in college admissions, worked at a fintech startup focused on democratizing investment access in the US, and led policy efforts at BTC Inc -- the largest media company in the Bitcoin industry. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Alabama and his MBA from Johns Hopkins University.



## Michael Enright

Michael Enright is the Senior Vice President of External Affairs at Beowulf E&D and Terawulf, where he oversees all regulatory, government and community relations. He has nearly 20 years of experience in various government roles, including First Deputy Mayor in Baltimore (1999-2007) and Chief of Staff and Senior Advisor to the Governor of Maryland (2007-2010). He also served as Legislative Director for then-Congressman Benjamin Cardin before he was elected to the US Senate, and as executive assistant to the Maryland Attorney General. Mr. Enright holds a B.A. in English from Tulane University and an M.P.A. from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.



## Seth Hertlein

Seth is VP and Global Head of Policy at Ledger, the world's leading platform to secure cryptocurrency and digital assets. Seth also serves on the Board of Directors of the Blockchain Association. Prior to joining Ledger, Seth was the Head of Policy & Government Relations at the Stellar Development Foundation, where he oversaw all aspects of SDF's engagement on digital asset policy. Before launching the policy practice at SDF, Seth was part of the founding team that opened the Washington office of FS Investments, a leading alternative investment manager. Seth earned a law degree from The Ohio State University and a MBA in finance from Wright State University.



## Janessa Lopez

Janessa Lopez is the Digital Assets, AI & Emerging Tech Policy Lead @ Block (a global technology company with a focus on financial services, parent company of Square and Cash App). Prior to this role, she was the Senior Associate of Public Policy for Gemini. Before entering the fintech space, Janessa built her career in Washington, DC, serving in both the U.S. House and U.S. Senate. She was a Senior Policy Advisor on Capitol Hill for U.S. Senator Rob Portman (OH) and U.S. Congressman Ken Buck (CO). Prior to serving on the Hill, she worked as a policy professional at a think tank. A native of Denver, Colorado, she attended Regis University and currently resides in Brooklyn, New York.



## Jerry Brito

Jerry Brito is executive director of Coin Center, a non-profit research and advocacy group focused on the public policy issues facing cryptocurrency technologies like Bitcoin. Jerry has testified several times before Congress and state legislatures about cryptocurrencies, and regularly holds briefings for and consultations with policy makers. He has presented on cryptocurrencies at the the CFTC, SEC, Treasury Department, State Department, and the White House, as well as the Council on Foreign Relations and the Brookings Institution. He is the coauthor of Bitcoin: A Primer for Policymakers, as well as other scholarly work on the regulation of cryptocurrencies.

# Bitcoin & Nuclear Energy: A Fireside Chat with Benton Arnett, NEI



## Tom Mapes

Tom Mapes is Founder and President of the Digital Energy Council, the first advocacy group solely focused on digital energy. Prior to establishing the Digital Energy Council, Tom developed and led the first mining focused government advocacy campaign at the federal level in the United States.

He also previously served at the Department of Energy as the Chief of Staff for International Affairs. In this role Tom was responsible for international energy coordination throughout the United States government. Prior to DOE, he spent several years on Capitol Hill serving several energy-focused members of congress.

Tom graduated from the University of Colorado with a degree in economics.



## Benton Arnett

Benton Arnett serves as the Senior Director of Markets and Policy at the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), where he is instrumental in formulating and implementing advocacy strategies that propel the interests of the nuclear energy sector. With over a decade of experience in government affairs, issue management, and the development of strategic partnerships, Benton has demonstrated a consistent ability to influence policy outcomes, cultivate coalitions, and communicate effectively with a wide array of stakeholders.

He holds a Master's of Public Administration (MPA) from Texas A&M University, with a specialization in energy, transportation, and technology policy. Benton is deeply committed to advancing energy policies that support national security, foster economic growth, and promote environmental sustainability.



# Protecting Bitcoin Innovation: A Fireside Chat with Senator Marsha Blackburn



## Stephen Pollock

Stephen comes to BPI with extensive experience in business development, campaigns, and public affairs. Pollock has developed and executed overall campaign strategy for dozens of state, regional, and national issues while working directly alongside business owners, local leaders, congressional offices, Governor teams, and the White House. Based in Nashville, Pollock also previously served as a state lobbyist for a multi-state government affairs division. He's also a skilled multimedia producer, overseeing large scale projects and campaign-specific video content.

Pollock has a strong background in FinTech, angel efforts, fundraising and has led sales and marketing for an established SaaS company in the logistics space. Stephen spends his free time writing bad country songs, studying Bitcoin, and growing a huge garden with his wife and kids.



## Senator Marsha Blackburn

U.S. Senator Marsha Blackburn was sworn into the Senate in January 2019, representing Tennessee. Before her tenure in the Senate, Blackburn served Tennessee's 7th Congressional District, leveraging her private sector experience as a small business owner and author, along with her roles as a mother and grandmother, to inform her leadership philosophy. Her commitment to public service is driven by a desire to enhance opportunities for women and contribute to America's prosperity.

Blackburn's journey in public service began in 1995 as the executive director of the Tennessee Film, Entertainment, and Music Commission. By 1998, she secured a seat in the Tennessee State Senate, where she was recognized for her fiscal discipline and solutions to budgetary challenges. Notably, Blackburn spearheaded a successful campaign against a proposed state income tax, culminating in a constitutional amendment in 2014 to ban it.

Elected to Congress in 2002, Blackburn was known for her advocacy of small, efficient government and her role in protecting the rights of songwriters and performers. She chaired the Energy and Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, demonstrating a bipartisan approach to legislation.

An active participant in charitable organizations and her church, Christ Presbyterian, Marsha lives in Williamson County, Tennessee, with her husband Chuck. They have two children, Mary Morgan and Chad, along with three grandsons and a granddaughter. Originally from Laurel, Mississippi, Blackburn is a Mississippi State University alumna, reflecting her deep-rooted southern values and commitment to public service.

# Using Bitcoin To Power Underground Education In Afghanistan: A Fireside Chat with Roya Mahboob



## Arsh Molu

Arsh Molu (@arshmolu) promotes financial freedom at the Human Rights Foundation (@HRF), an organization focused on defending human rights in Authoritarian regimes. The Human Rights Foundation uses Bitcoin as a tool to promote financial freedom globally.



## Roya Mahboob

Roya Mahboob is an Afghan tech entrepreneur and the founder of Citadel Software, a software development company based in Herat. In addition to being one of Afghanistan's first female tech CEOs, Mahboob founded the Digital Citizen Fund, a nonprofit that aims to increase women's technological literacy and provide employment and educational opportunities for girls in Afghanistan. Mahboob was named one of TIME's 100 Most Influential People in the World in 2013 for her innovative initiatives to expand computer education. She has created nine IT centers for girls in high schools across Afghanistan and plans to expand her programs to 40 schools, ultimately reaching more than 160,000 female students. Mahboob has also taken her model beyond Afghanistan to schools in Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, and Nepal. After facing death threats from the Taliban and others for her work, Mahboob left the country in 2013 and spent two years working remotely before returning to Afghanistan in 2016. She founded the Afghan Girls Robotics Team, also known as the Afghan Dreamers, an all-girl robotics team.

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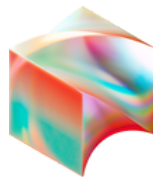
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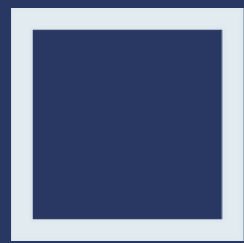
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