SEPPTEMBER 2024

Alumni News

Newsletter

ROPES & GRAY
ALUMNI

Alumni @ RopesTalk

A Conversation on Board Service with Robert Shapiro and Jennifer Borggaard

In the latest installment of our Alumni @ RopesTalk podcast, private capital transactions M&A counsel **Sarah Davis** speaks with retired partner **Rob Shapiro**, who practiced in the firm's private client group and was also CEO of Ropes Wealth Advisors, and **Jenn Borggaard**, who began her career as an associate in the firm's investment management practice. Rob currently sits on the advisory boards of the Harvard Radcliffe Institute and the Harvard Art Museums and is chair of the Handel and Haydn Society; he is outgoing chair of the acclaimed Peabody Essex Museum (PEM). Jenn serves on a number of both corporate and nonprofit boards and is the new chair of PEM. We present an edited, abridged version of their conversation and invite you to listen to the full podcast here.

Sarah: Both of you serve on multiple boards. Could you talk a little bit about the decision to pursue these opportunities and how you chose the organizations to join?

Rob: In my very first year as an associate, a friend of mine who had recently become head of an elementary/middle school in Marblehead, Massachusetts, where I had grown up and gone to school, asked me to join the board because we had talked about educational interest together. Before I went to law school, I had been a high school English teacher and I knew that I wanted to continue my involvement in the world of education.



(left to right) Rob Shapiro, Sarah Davis and Jenn Borggaard

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On the Move

A quick update on the comings and goings of some of your fellow Ropes & Gray alumni.

- **Reid Adams** joins **Glazer Capital** as General Counsel & Chief Compliance Officer
- **Christopher Aitken** joins **Audax** as Compliance Officer
- **Jasmin Ali** joins **Global X ETFs** as General Counsel
- **Allison Ambrose** joins **Skyhawk Therapeutics** as General Counsel
- **Mike Barrett** was promoted to Managing Director, Risk Transformation & Execution at **Wells Fargo Securities**
- **Mike Baxter** joins **Marathon Asset Management** as Managing Director
- **Otis Carter** joins **KPI Solutions** as General Counsel
- **Maegan Deare** joins **Spero Therapeutics** as Vice President Legal
- **Chelsea Donenfeld** was promoted to Senior Counsel, Legal & Business Affairs at **Madison Square Garden Entertainment**
- **Julia Gonzalez Sanders** joins **Crosslink Capital** as General Counsel
- **Christina Gordon** joins **Vaxcyte** as Associate Director, Legal
- **Guylaine Hache** joins **Amgen** as Senior Patent Counsel, Biosimilars
- **Moussa Hassoun** joins the **Hospital for Special Surgery** as Associate General Counsel
- **Gene Hwang** was promoted to Director & Associate General Counsel at **Meta**
- **Shaw Kaneyasu-Speck** was promoted to General Counsel, Enel X Advisory Services at **Enel X**
- **David Kravitz** was promoted to State Solicitor at the **MA Attorney General's Office**
- **Sen Lin** was promoted to Managing Director, Regional Lead (Americas) at **GIC**

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Jenn: A college friend of mine was supporting a very young, important organization called My Life My Choice. It is an organization that's focused on commercial sexual exploitation of girls. It was an organization that was close to her heart, and it was actually building its first board. So that's how I got involved in my first nonprofit board.

Sarah: Maybe both of you could talk a little bit about PEM and how you got involved to begin with and eventually became chair.

Jenn: I had been an attendee of the museum since a young age. When I was working at Affiliated Managers Group, the CEO became involved on the board, was very active, and became chair, as well. I would say he recruited me back there by sitting on the corporate committee for a number of years before I joined the board.

Rob: The museum world—the arts world more generally—was not particularly on my radar screen for direct involvement, except that, like Jenn, I had gone to what was then the two museums, the Peabody Museum of Salem on one side of the street and the Essex Institute on the other. I think there is a statistic that, as a parent, if you take children to museums, the symphony, other music, anything in the arts, ballet, drama, there's at least a fourfold greater chance that they will continue to be involved as adults, either as members or regular visitors, but also as possible board members. The trigger was someone, in this case another lawyer in town at a smaller firm, who was very involved in nonprofit organizations and boards and specifically at the Essex Institute, which is now folded into the PEM. He called me I think three or four years into my time at Ropes and said, "It's time you joined the Essex Institute board."

Sarah: Rob, you've mentioned that you found that service on the board actually informed your legal career. Maybe you can talk a little bit about that.

Rob: I was doing, from the get-go, work in estate planning, wills, trusts, and as part of that, inevitably, advising clients on their charitable interests, how they might be donors, and how they might get involved in institutions—it's not necessarily on boards, but on committees, on donor groups, or being able to go to special events if they were able to devote more of their attention to the institution. So, in what I was doing professionally, that led me to be already talking with clients about their nonprofit interests.

Sarah: Jenn, you have now become an executive on the business side and maybe that has informed a little bit how your experience of being on a board has affected your professional career.

Jenn: In my professional career, I also sat on a lot of corporate boards. Taking on a chair role is a big undertaking, and I was in a big job at the same time. How am I going to balance these two things? I found it to be an opportunity to take on leadership that I hadn't yet taken on from a

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- **Ian Longacre** joins **Genezen** as General Counsel
- **David Pleynet** was promoted to Vice President, Head of Global IP, Associate General Counsel at **Deciphera Pharmaceuticals**
- **Elissa Port** joins **Super.com** as General Counsel
- **Brian Rooder** joins **Stone Point Capital** as Chief Compliance Officer & Counsel, Stone Point Credit
- **Andrew Thomases** joins **C3.ai** as Acting General Counsel
- **Levina Wong** joins **Nexthink** as Senior Vice President, General Counsel
- **Chad Yohn** joins **Fareportal** as General Counsel
- **Yilu Zhang** was promoted to Senior Licensing Counsel at **Dolby Laboratories**

Excellence by the Numbers

Year after year, Ropes & Gray continues to earn distinction as one of the top law firms in the world. Similarly, our lawyers are regularly recognized as top practitioners.

#2	Ranking on *The American Lawyer*'s 2024 A-List
14	Straight appearances on the prestigious list
8	Consecutive top-three rankings
#1	Ranking on the UK A-List for a second consecutive year
167	Chambers practice rankings
281	Chambers individual rankings
6	Partners named Best Lawyers® "Lawyer of the Year"
152	Best Lawyers® "Best Lawyer" recognitions
143	Best Lawyers® "Ones to Watch" recognitions

New *Women @ RopesTalk* Podcast

The latest episode of *Women @ RopesTalk*, the Women's Forum's podcast, features an interview with firm alum Laura Berner, chief operating officer of biotechology company TRex Bio. Laura shares her unique journey from practicing law at Ropes & Gray to embracing roles in business development and operations within the biotech sector. You can listen to the podcast here.

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corporate governance perspective. I think the corporate governance I've learned and been a part of at nonprofit boards really has helped inform the work I do on corporate boards.

Sarah: I'm sure that being an attorney on these boards sometimes might color the way other people on the board think of you and your role. Do you feel like maybe you're treated a little bit differently from other board members?

Jenn: I think it's different on corporate boards versus nonprofit boards. On nonprofit boards, they're often very happy to have someone with a law hat on around the table and often are looking for free legal advice. I think on corporate boards, it's slightly different—they have a little bit of an apprehension of getting lawyers on those boards because they worry that lawyers are too risk-averse or too risk-focused.

Rob: On the nonprofit side, I think the scale of the organization whose board you're on also is a big factor. There are many nonprofits, and some of them are really small and can't afford regular legal advice. Then, the temptation is always to say, "Couldn't you just advise us on this, so that we don't have to pay?" It's an important skill to develop to say, "No. My advice to you is you need advice. You need a lawyer, and we're going to have to fit it into the budget." For larger nonprofits, which probably have regular people at least on call, I think it is helpful to just have someone with legal instincts on the board just to say, "Here's an area where we need to be careful," or "These are the kind of questions that might come up that we don't want to have to refer to the lawyer, so let's try to head it off at the pass before this becomes a big deal."

Sarah: Is there any advice you might have for people looking to join boards?

Rob: Both for personal fulfillment and complementary to one's legal practice, follow your nose, and get involved in the things you want to be involved in. It doesn't have to be an initial commitment or a plan to say, "I want to be on that board," because there are a lot of graduated steps before you get to a board, usually. You can join an advisory group, or in the case of a museum, a particular area of collecting. I would say that's a terrific on-ramp—and then, let it be organic.

Jenn: I totally agree. I would say one piece of advice is say "yes" if it feels the mission is something you believe in. I think what will happen to most folks in this realm here is you will get invitations through friends, colleagues, former classmates to get involved in organizations—perhaps that they're involved in—and if it's something that you are passionate about, even if you don't feel like you have enough time, say "yes" to at least one of them. It's so enriching to your life, your career, your family—it has been for me.

Sarah: Rob, what is one key piece of advice you would pass along to Jenn about being chair?

Rob: I would say it's always a new day. This is actually very true of PEM in particular—there is a new strategic plan, which is really exciting. Thanks to good governance and Jenn's leadership, there's a new cohort of trustees.

Sarah: Jenn, what are you looking forward to most about your role as chair?

Jenn: I think it's going to be really a fun adventure. It's the first time we've had a female board chair and a female CEO, and so, a new time for the museum. I think our leadership together will be really strong—myself and Linda Hartigan, who's our current CEO. She had been at the museum for many years as a curator and then head curator, so has deep experience with the museum. She and I have known each other for a long time, so I'm really looking forward to partnering with her.

Sarah: What do you miss most about Ropes & Gray?

Rob: I was always in a department that was, by the firm's size, quite concentrated, and I had an opportunity to pretty much literally every day see all my colleagues. On a personal level, that was a boon, a pleasure, a bonus, and a delight. In addition, on a professional level and intellectual level, it was really a treasure to be able to stick your head in the door, the proverbial, "Do you have a minute?" and bounce ideas.

Jenn: I would agree. That ability to poke your head in somebody's office and ask them for advice is something I miss about Ropes. I would also say the people, 100 percent.

Sarah: There's a lot of bonding when you're in the trenches together. Thank you so much, Rob and Jenn, for joining me today and sharing insights. I really enjoyed our conversation—and from a Ropes & Gray perspective, it's always a treat to reconnect with our alums.

In Memoriam

We are saddened to report the loss of two members of the Ropes & Gray family.

Scott Taylor, a Boston-based senior attorney in the firm's IP litigation practice, died on June 11. He was 43. Scott joined Ropes & Gray as an associate in 2014 and became a senior attorney in 2020. His work as a patent litigator involved a wide range of technologies, and clients and colleagues alike valued Scott's ability to combine technical knowledge and the law. Among his many career accomplishments, Scott helped lead a team in litigating *Huot v. City of Lowell*, a landmark 2017 federal voting rights lawsuit. View a memorial page here.

Former partner **Richard Lettieri** passed away on May 4 at age 76. Rich joined Ropes & Gray in 1987 and was a partner from 1990 until his retirement in 2012. He focused his practice on the representation of airports and other public development projects and served as the outside counsel to Massport, an agency of which he was formerly chief legal counsel before joining Ropes & Gray. Rich was also committed to pro bono work and served on the board of the New England Center for Homeless Veterans. Learn more here.

Sports Corner

Several Ropes & Gray alums recently celebrated notable achievements in the world of sports:

- The U.S. Tennis Association recently named **Michael Beautyman** to the New England Tennis Hall of Fame. Michael earned his spot not only for his number-one ranking in the world for the 75-and-over division, but also for his work to establish and run the largest senior tennis event. You can read more about Michael's tennis accomplishments here. Congrats on this honor!
- **Sarah Willson**, Associate Counsel at the Boston Celtics, celebrated alongside the 2024 NBA champions when the Celtics won their league-record 18th title. Kudos to Sarah and everyone at this incredible organization!
- When the U.S. women's rugby team captured the bronze medal in Paris on July 30, there was plenty to celebrate. Not only was it the United States' first-ever Olympic medal in the sport, but former practice development assistant **Kristi Kirshe** was part of the historic achievement.

Seeking Words of Wisdom for First-Years

As veterans of the firm, our alumni have a unique perspective on lessons learned from their time at Ropes & Gray. We'd like to pass along the benefit of your knowledge and experience to our incoming class of 2024 first-year associates, who will be joining us this October. We invite you to share:

- A pearl of wisdom
- Something you wish you knew as a first-year
- A best practice for succeeding at Ropes & Gray

Please click here to convey your words of wisdom to our incoming cohort. We love hearing from you and know that our first-years will too!

Sign Up for Our LinkedIn Group

We're pleased to roll out our newly relaunched alumni LinkedIn group. Due to the vagaries of LinkedIn, even if you already think you're a member, we ask you to please reregister by clicking here. The group serves as a dynamic resource for networking and staying connected with your fellow firm alums. Joining allows you to:

- Expand your professional network
- Share and discover job opportunities
- Engage in discussions and stay up to date on community happenings

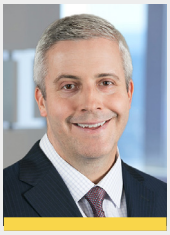
Notable News

Julie Jones Continues as Chair; Neill Jakobe Appointed Vice Chair

Julie Jones has been renewed for a second term as chair of the firm. **Neill Jakobe** has been appointed vice chair for a five-year term beginning in January 2025. David Djaha will complete his term as managing partner in December 2024 and is retiring next year. Neill, a member of the policy committee, was previously head of the Chicago office and co-head of the global private equity practice. He focuses on private equity buyouts and strategic M&A. As vice chair, Neill will focus on client growth initiatives. We congratulate Julie and Neill, and we wish David the best. David will leave an enduring legacy, and we will miss his signature warmth.



Julie Jones
Chair



Neill Jakobe
Vice Chair-Elect

Julie Jones Named to Forbes 50 Over 50

Forbes named firm chair **Julie Jones** to its 2024 50 Over 50 list, which honors women who are "winning life's second half." The recognition highlights accomplished leaders, scientists and creators. In 2020, Julie became the first female chair of the firm and joined only a few women leading elite global law firms. Regarded as an industry leader, Julie has represented clients in multibillion-dollar M&A transactions and IPOs throughout her distinguished career.

Lateral Partner Update



Christopher Roman joined Ropes & Gray in New York as a tax partner in July. He is highly regarded for his experience advising funds and real estate investors on complex tax matters. Chris counsels clients on the tax and legal aspects of alternative investment funds, as well as real estate and venture capital transactions. He also has significant experience with real estate investment trusts.

Alumni Events

Class Reunions

Class reunions were in full swing this summmer. In Boston, the classes of 2003–2006 kicked off summer in style in late June, and in July, the classes of 1996–1998 gathered to reconnect. Both cohorts enjoyed wood-fired pizza, ice cold taps and good times at the Night Shift Beer Garden on the Charles River Esplanade. In New York, the classes of 2012–2014 gathered at Darling Rooftop on July 31 to catch up over libations and snacks while taking in sweeping views of Central Park.







Bay Area Alumni Reception

San Francisco alums raised a glass to skyline sunset views and great company at hip rooftop spot Cavaña on June 20. It's always great to see our friends in the Bay Area!



New York Real Estate Alumni Reception

The real estate practice group held its inaugural New York-based alumni reception on July 10. A core group of friends, colleagues and clients beat the heat with island-inspired drinks and apps on the patio of SoHo hotspot Gilligan's.

Summer Program Alumni Panels

Back by popular demand, we hosted alumni panels for our summer associates in Boston and in New York, focused on how alums' experience at Ropes & Gray prepared them for long-term success.

In the Boston office, employment, exec comp and benefits partner **Jenny Rikoski Whitney** moderated an engaging discussion among panelists Dan Krockmalnic (Executive Vice President, New Media & General Counsel, *The Boston Globe*), Jessica Soto (Assistant U.S. Attorney, U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Massachusetts), Beibei Sun (Assistant General Counsel, Legal BD & Licensing Pharma and Sanofi Ventures, Sanofi) and **Phil Yao** (re-ttorney; associate, litigation & enforcement).

In New York, private equity partner **Gabby DiBernardi** moderated a lively discussion with panelists **Brian Blais** (re-ttorney; partner; litigation & enforcement), Rebecca Esteves (Vice President, Chief Legal Office, Blackstone), Bryan LaPlant (Chief Compliance Officer & Managing Director, Legal, Jadian Capital) and Paul White (Senior Director, Warner Music Group).

New York Legal Assistance Group Pro Bono Clinic

Firm alums, clients and lawyers gathered in the New York office in partnership with the New York Legal Assistance Group. Together they prepared the applications to put nine individuals on the road to citizenship.



Raising Over $200K in 2024 Pan-Mass Challenge

Continuing a longstanding tradition that showcases the firm's United in the Fight Against Cancer commitment, a team of Ropes & Gray attorneys and support team members participated in the Pan-Mass Challenge (PMC) on Aug. 3 and 4, raising money for cancer research and treatment. Cycling up to 186 miles across Massachusetts, the 29-person, cross-office team raised more than $200,000 to support the world-renowned Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, making Team Ropes one of this year's leading fundraisers. Over 20-plus years, Ropes & Gray has raised more than $3 milion to support Dana-Farber through the PMC, which has now raised over $1 billion for Dana-Farber over the PMC's 45-year history. This year, the team started a new tradition, carrying a Ropes & Gray banner on which colleagues had been invited to write the names of those in whose memory they would like the team to ride.



Oh, Baby!

Warning: precious baby content ahead. Check out some of the newest members of the Ropes & Gray community sporting their alumni onesies.

If you've recently welcomed a little one or know of another member of our community who has, please let us know!



Boyan Su (son of Beibei Sun)



Leo Djaha (grandson of David Djaha)



Nolan Grunseich (grandson of Jane Goldstein)



Cameron Case (son of Emma Case)



Adrian Levenfeld (grandson of Judy Slovin)

Job Board

If you're in the market for a new job opportunity or are looking to add to your team, click here to head over to our Ropes & Gray alumni website to answer a few questions. Knowing which alums are looking for new roles and which companies are looking to fill positions helps us help you. And if you're looking to make a career move, one of these opportunities might be right for you. For a full list of available positions, please see our alumni job board.

Deutsche Bank - Investment Banking Counsel (Mergers & Acquisitions and Capital Markets) - Vice President (New York, NY; hybrid)

Deutsche Bank is seeking an experienced mergers & acquisitions (M&A) and capital markets attorney to join the Legal Department in its New York City office. This role will join a team of attorneys responsible for providing legal support and legal risk management to Deutsche Bank's U.S. M&A and capital markets businesses. Deutsche is also hiring for two additional investment banking counsel, also based in New York.

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSK) – Assistant General Counsel I, Office of General Counsel and Early Drug Development Service (New York, NY; hybrid)

MSK's Office of General Counsel is seeking an experienced attorney to join its Research Contracting team. This role will negotiate contracts to provide MSK patients with the earliest opportunities to access the latest drugs against a specific cancer or cancer mutation and advise our investigators and clinical research leaders. Min. 4 years' experience.

Omega Funds – Deputy General Counsel (Boston, MA; hybrid)

Omega Funds is seeking a Deputy General Counsel to join its team. This role will collaborate closely with Omega's investment, operations and finance teams; oversee all financing transactions; assist the CCO with RIA and SEC compliance; and work with the General Counsel on a variety of issues. Min. 7 years' experience.

Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) – Senior Director – Law (Washington, D.C.; hybrid)

Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) is seeking a Sr. Director on its Law team who will serve as in-house legal counsel advising on state laws, legislation, and regulations that are of import to the biopharmaceutical industry, its members, and the patients it serves. Min. 3 years' experience.

Sprinklr - Vice President, Legal (Remote)

Sprinklr is seeking a Vice President, Legal to join its team. This role will be a trusted strategic partner to leaders of Sprinklr's various business and operational stakeholders and help the company navigate the many legal and strategic opportunities. Min. 12 years' experience.

Sony PlayStation – Corporate Counsel, Advertising and Licensing (Los Angeles, CA or San Mateo, CA; hybrid)

PlayStation is seeking a Corporate Counsel for Advertising and Licensing to join its team. This role will provide critical legal support to the Network Advertising team, driving the creation and sale of cutting-edge advertising products across PlayStation's dynamic platforms. Min. 5 years' experience.

Vertex - Legal Senior Counsel Commercial (Boston, MA; hybrid)

Vertex is seeking a Legal Senior Counsel to provide counseling to Vertex's North American business on a broad array of strategic and tactical projects. This role will report to the Executive Director & Head Therapeutics Counsel and will be responsible for providing legal support to business partners in various departments across the organization. Min. 8 years' experience.

CLE Highlights

Some of the most valuable resources we can offer our alums are trainings and CLE programs. Check out our two featured webinars below and visit our CLE page for a broader list of programs.

Rumpole and the Dissatisfied Client: Lessons on Justice from Four Case Studies in Client Objectives v. Lawyer Means

Retired partner **Tom Bulleit** led an hour-long CLE webinar for alums exploring all things ethics.

Webinar Replay

Slides

After the Backlash: ESG and state pension fund investments

Webinar Replay

To receive credit for these programs, please complete the Attorney Affirmation and return it to CLE.Team@ropesgray.com. Please note that this form is blank, and all spaces will need to be filled in manually, including program name.

*Ropes & Gray is an accredited CLE provider in CA and NY.

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