

Davis Polk

2024 Alumni Year in Review



Our dynamic alumni network is made up of more than 4,000 lawyers who live in over 50 countries and work across all sectors of business, government, law and academia.



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Highlights

A note from Managing Partner Neil Barr



All,

As we close out 2024 and look ahead to 2025, I want to take this opportunity to convey my gratitude for Davis Polk's fantastic alumni community. Our Alumni Network sets us apart from our peers across the legal industry. It enriches the experience of current lawyers, inspires law students to want to work here, and offers a lifelong sense of connection that spans the globe. Thank you for being a part of it.

2024 was an exciting year of growth for Davis Polk – we welcomed the largest first-year class in firm history (with nearly 200 individuals joining our offices around the world), ushered in a new chapter for our Northern California office with a relocation to Redwood City, bolstered the strength of our team across the firm with the promotion of 36 exceptional colleagues to partner and counsel and the addition of talented lateral hires, and enhanced the firm's capabilities through greater investment in business services. As always, we continue to take on consequential matters and strive to be the best in what we do.

In the year ahead, I invite you to join us for some of our alumni events and consider collaborating with us on the many pro bono matters in which the firm is engaged.

My best wishes for a healthy and prosperous 2025.

Warm regards,

Neil

Message to our alumni

Alumni in AI career panel – March 7 | Davis Polk New York office



Alumni events

Tokyo alumni reception – March 13 | Scarpetta in Tokyo



Alumni + Pro Bono panel – May 9 | Davis Polk New York office



Washington DC alumni reception – May 15 | The Hay-Adams in DC



Tax alumni reception – June 4 | Aretsky’s Patroon in NYC



Financial Institutions alumni reception – September 17 | The Library Hotel in NYC



Leading up to our biennial Alumni Reception in October, we encouraged alums around the world to get together with their former colleagues as part of a connectivity initiative called “Alumni Global Meet.”



Global Meet

2024 Alumni Reception

Cipriani 42nd Street | New York



Nearly 600 members of the Davis Polk community – partners, counsel and senior associates, senior counsel and alumni from class years 1961 to 2024 – gathered for our biennial alumni reception at Cipriani 42nd Street in New York on Wednesday, October 9, for a lively evening of good company, food and drink.

Davis Polk
Alumni







Among the many accomplishments and new developments of the past year, we thought these might interest you:

Continued expansion of Investment Management practice



Andrew Ahern



Alisa Waxman



Luke Eldridge

Over the past year, Davis Polk has focused on the growth of our platform supporting a broad universe of investment funds covering numerous sectors and strategies, including buyout, growth, venture, emerging markets, credit, energy, infrastructure and funds of funds. An exciting development is the arrival of a team of leading fund formation practitioners in our New York office – partners Andrew Ahern, Alisa Waxman and Luke Eldridge. Leor Landa, head of Davis Polk’s Investment Management practice, said “the additional bench strength and deep market knowledge and relationships with leading sponsors that this team brings is critical as we continue to grow our private funds team and transform our investment management practice broadly. I am delighted to have Andrew, Alisa and Luke on board.”

Among this practice’s highlights of 2024 was advising J.F. Lehman & Company in connection with the formation, fundraise and related matters for its sixth flagship buyout fund, JFL Equity Investors VI, L.P. JFLCO closed the fund with \$2.23 billion in commitments, exceeding its \$1.6 billion target. The closing of the oversubscribed fund marks the largest fundraise in the firm’s 33-year history and increases its total assets under management to \$7 billion as of November 30. We also advised GHK Capital Partners in connection with the formation, fundraise and related matters for GHK Fund II LP, which held its final closing in September with \$870 million in commitments, above both the firm’s \$650 million target and its original \$800 million upper limit. The sum is also more than double the size of GHK’s debut fund, which closed with \$410 million in 2022.



Davis Polk Veterans

In January 2024, we launched Davis Polk Veterans, a group that welcomes all firm employees who have served and their allies. Just as our affinity groups and business services resource groups are cornerstones of the many unique communities within the firm, this group for both lawyers and business services professionals serves to unite and enrich the community of veterans at Davis Polk. Since the announcement of this group, we have hosted several firmwide events featuring veterans in our community. Our launch panel featured four veterans: security director Manny Brito, Financial Institutions associate Kendall Howell, IP Litigation associate Pablo Lozano and Tax associate Nancy Regan. Antitrust & Competition partner Jarrett Arp gave opening remarks, and the panel was moderated by Financial Institutions partner Meg Tahyar, whose son is in the U.S. Army. Before a packed audience, the group discussed their experiences serving and how their professional careers have been shaped as a result.

New Redwood City office opens

After 25 years in Menlo Park, we relocated to a new, larger office in Redwood City in December 2024. With a 30% larger footprint, our 54,000-square-foot space is key to the firm's plans for continued growth in the Bay Area and expansion of our practice's reach. In collaboration with global architecture firm Gensler, we created a bright, state-of-the-art workspace with togetherness

at the core of its design that will support our firm's values of excellence, collaboration and client service. This new location in the center of Redwood City's vibrant downtown area is convenient to a Caltrain station and abundant options for dining and entertainment.



Four senior counsel reflect on their time at Davis Polk and life now.



Keith Kearney

Keith joined the firm as an associate in 1977. He became a partner in the Capital Markets practice in 1985 and has been a senior counsel since 2010.

'77
New York

What is your most memorable transaction?

My most memorable transaction at Davis Polk was the initial public offering of Apple Computer in late 1980, representing Morgan Stanley, Hambrecht & Quist and the other underwriters. It was a high-profile transaction, and I was also excited because, for about the first time, I would have a younger associate assigned to help me with logistics, including picking up dinner checks, handling tips and renting (and driving) the rental car. The younger associate assigned to me was John Ettinger, later managing partner of the firm (1999-2011). On the plane out to San Francisco for the first meeting, John regretfully informed me that he had left his wallet at home and that, in any event, his driver's license had expired. I knew right away that John was destined for greatness.

The organizational meeting included the Apple team (led by Steve Jobs) and both Bill Hambrecht and George Quist, who were already legendary in Silicon Valley. Apple was represented by Larry Sonsini and the Wilson Sonsini firm. We went effective on Friday, December 12, with gross proceeds of \$110 million – a huge IPO at the time – and closed on Monday, December 22. Just before the closing, we had a deal celebration at a restaurant in San Francisco. The evening concluded with Morgan Stanley managing director Jack Wadsworth dancing a soft-shoe on top of the bar to music provided by the harmonica-playing Steve Jobs – 25 years old and, at \$22 a share, holding about \$165 million worth of Apple stock.

What has occupied your time since you became a senior counsel?

This question had me stumped, so I asked a friend to follow me around for a bit and help me figure out what to say. After three days, he said "I can't help you – I don't know what you're doing either." So instead, I'll give three little bits of retirement advice:

1. Spend as much time with your kids and grandkids as you can,
2. Naps are fine, and
3. When you get involved with community organizations, never, ever tell them you're a retired lawyer unless you want to be told "Great!!! You can be secretary and keep the minutes."



Linda Chatman Thomsen

Linda joined the firm as an associate in New York in 1979 and transferred to the Washington DC office the next year. From 1983 to 1985, she was an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the District of Maryland, after which she returned to the firm. In 1995, she moved to the Enforcement Division of the SEC and served as that division's Director from 2005 to 2009. She returned to Davis Polk as a partner in the White Collar Defense & Investigations practice in 2009 and has been a senior counsel since 2019.

'79
New York
DC

Do you have a particular memory from your first day at the firm?

I arrived at the firm in the fall of 1979. The offices were downtown at 1 Chase Plaza, which also housed Cravath and Millbank – we were warned NEVER talk business in the elevator. On my desk the day I arrived was a black rotary dial phone, a beige Dictaphone and a very intimidating “face book” – essentially a book of photos of all the firm's lawyers with biographies. The partners were included in the book in order of their admission to the partnership, and I remember turning many pages before I came to Lydia Kess, the first (and at the time, the only) female partner at Davis Polk. She had been admitted to the partnership in 1971 – one of the first women partners at any major New York firm. I felt intimidated, awed and inspired – feelings I often had throughout my career at the firm.

What has occupied your time since you became a senior counsel?

My husband and I have been very fortunate to be able to enjoy lots of travel. Not exactly adventure travel but very active travel. Last year we did a 10-week cross-country drive focusing on national parks, baseball, and lots of friends and family. We have now been to every continent, with more highlights than I can mention. Our hiking boots are wearing out, and our bucket list keeps growing.



Nora Jordan

Nora joined the firm as an associate in 1983. She became a partner in 1995 and headed the firm's Investment Management practice for over 20 years until becoming a senior counsel in 2020. She is currently on the board of a large asset management company, is vice chair of the board of the American Skin Association and is on the board of the Hotchkiss Library of Sharon (Connecticut).

'83
New York

What is your most memorable transaction?

As a young associate I was assigned to a deal for Church's Fried Chicken with partner Jack McAtee, who had a reputation as a raconteur. What I did not know is that in addition to being a good storyteller (which indeed he was), he created good stories. On a trip to a board meeting in Atlanta we flagged a cab at the airport, and on the way to the hotel Jack asked the driver to name his favorite fried chicken place. The driver responded that it was KFC. Jack expressed outrage and told the driver to take us to a Church's Fried Chicken, which Jack said clearly had the best chicken. (Jack had actually never been to one at that point.) When we arrived at Church's, Jack told the driver that we would buy him dinner and also pay for his time. The driver looked a bit wary, but agreed. We went in, ate dinner together, talked about how great Church's was and had a grand time. The Church's board loved this story (of course as told by Jack with embellishments).

What has occupied your time since you became a senior counsel?

Since retiring I have joined two corporate boards and two nonprofit boards. The board work has caused me to learn a lot about, among other things, China, the hospitality business and investing, and the work has brought me to, among other places, Beijing and Singapore. The board work has been very engaging, and I love leaving meetings with others being responsible for all follow-up and drafting! I also have been traveling for pleasure (everywhere from New Orleans to Hong Kong), doing a lot of reading (I am in two book clubs), playing tennis, pickleball and paddle (depending on the season and weather), and spending as much time as possible with my children and grandchildren. I have been a guest lecturer a number of times at Duke Law School and also have spoken at other law schools. I highly recommend retirement when the time comes!



Eugene Gregor

Eugene joined the firm as a corporate associate in the New York office in 1987. He later transferred to the Tokyo office and spent approximately 15 years there and seven years in the Hong Kong office. He became a partner in 1996 and has been a senior counsel since 2017.

'87
New York
Tokyo
Hong Kong

What is your most memorable transaction?

Over decades in the firm's Tokyo and Hong Kong offices, I particularly enjoyed working on novel legal issues and clashing business and cultural expectations arising in connection with first-time global securities offerings from Asian markets. Securities offering procedures in local markets can involve practices which differ from expectations in global securities distributions. The lawyers on these deals need to tease out the problems and solve them in advance. I always found this exciting.

We also played an important role in setting standards designed to facilitate regular capital market access for issuers across Asia. Some of the large, first-time global offerings that I remember include Korea Development Bank, Korea Electric Power, CITIC, China National Petroleum, Sinopec, Bank of Ceylon and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

[Read more spotlights →](#)

What has occupied your time since you became a senior counsel?

Since returning to Northern California in 2017 as a senior counsel, I have been expanding my range of activities to take better advantage of the favorable Bay Area climate and natural setting. At present I am prioritizing saltwater fishing, birding, reading, opera and symphony, Left Coast traveling, masters swimming, nonprofit board work, gardening and socializing with friends and extended family.

To connect with fellow Davis Polk alumni, visit our alumni directory available on the Alumni Network, our exclusive online community platform.

[Visit the directory →](#)

Community updates

Alumni on the move



Bonnie Chan

Promoted to Chief Executive Officer of Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited (HKEX)

Bonnie was a partner based in Davis Polk’s Hong Kong office from 2010 to 2019. Read more about her career and work at HKEX on page 22.



Catherine Lifeso

Promoted to Head of Enforcement at the New York Stock Exchange

Catherine was an associate based in Davis Polk’s New York office from 2001 to 2007.



Kahlil Williams

Appointed General Counsel & Corporate Secretary of the W.K. Kellogg Foundation

Kahlil was an associate based in Davis Polk’s New York office from 2011 to 2018, and was most recently a partner at Ballard Spahr in Philadelphia.

Alumni publications



Stuart Banner
(’89)

The Most Powerful Court in the World: A History of the Supreme Court of the United States

November 4

An authoritative history of the United States Supreme Court from its founding era to the present.



Adam Kolber
(’02)

Punishment for the Greater Good

June 14

An examination of punishment (especially incarceration) and the justification for it through a real-world lens.



Elyssa Friedland
(’07)

Jackpot Summer

June 11

A laugh-out-loud novel about family and a life-changing fortune.



Tom Seeman
(’85)

Animals I Want To See

May 14

A memoir about growing up in the projects and defying the odds. President Bill Clinton called it “a terrific and moving memoir about dreaming big and making great things happen,” and Deepak Chopra said “read it and be inspired.”



Charles Moxley
(’70)

Nuclear Weapons and International Law: Existential Risks of Nuclear War and Deterrence Through a Legal Lens

March 14

An analysis of the lawfulness of nuclear weapons use based on existing international law with a focus on the United States.



A conversation with Bonnie Chan, CEO of HKEX

Before leading Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Limited (HKEX), Bonnie Chan spent nine years as a Davis Polk partner in Hong Kong spearheading the office's growth and shaping how the firm's lawyers in the region are trained. Read on for Bonnie's reflections from her varied career, her thoughts on the flow of capital in China and the habits that keep her operating at peak performance.

You've had a varied and fascinating career path: law firm associate, investment banker, then in-house counsel at a securities firm, then HKEX, then nine years as a Davis Polk partner before returning to the HKEX. Looking back, which of these transitions seem most pivotal?

There were actually two pivotal transitions in my career. The first was when I first left the legal profession and moved to investment banking. I had trained as a lawyer and assumed that would be my lifelong career. But then the opportunity to take on the challenge of being a banker came along and I let my curiosity lead me. Looking back, I didn't really know what I had signed up for. I was curious about the lifestyle and nature of the job, traveling around the region and doing deals – all of that appealed to me. It was an important point in my life because it stretched me in a way that I hadn't imagined would be in the cards when I started my career as a lawyer. I got to learn about how things are done in an investment bank, which became extremely helpful because it gave me a well-rounded understanding of the financial services sector and capital markets. This continued to help me in the latter part of my career as a partner at Davis Polk serving investment banking clients and as a regulator.

The second pivotal transition was when I joined HKEX to become a regulator in 2007. This was something very new to me because for the first time in my career I didn't have a 'client.' In many ways, having a client makes life simple. As a regulator, for example, if you want to write a new listing chapter, say allowing mining companies to get listed in Hong Kong, how should you set the eligibility requirements? There are many stakeholders. And if you ask 100 stakeholders, you'll get 100 different answers. What I learned most during this transition was the ability to take a

more comprehensive view of issues, be conscious of conflicting interests and balance them to solve problems in collaboration with a wider range of stakeholders.

What drew you to Davis Polk and back to law firm work in 2010?

Bill Barron, who was the head of Davis Polk's Hong Kong office at that time, approached me to discuss expanding into Hong Kong law. Eventually, his requests for advice evolved into an invitation to join the firm as partner. I think most people who go to law school harbor, at some point, the dream of becoming a partner at a respected firm. So, I was very flattered to be offered partnership at Davis Polk, a highly respected name in the legal community. I also thought at the time, after being HKEX's Head of IPO Transactions for three years, it would be nice to return to the front lines and understand the latest market developments and trends.

You played an integral role in the growth of our Hong Kong office. Can you tell us more about that?

It was fascinating. I joined the firm to establish its Hong Kong law practice – I had never done anything like that before. I recruited what was essentially the practice's founding team and helped design our trainee program. That was a lot of fun. My proudest moment was nine years later when I left and felt I could pass the torch to the next generation, many of whom were trained in-house, from associates all the way up to partners.

Do you have a favorite memory of your time at Davis Polk?

In Hong Kong we have a trainee system through which law graduates complete two years as a trainee solicitor before being admitted as full-fledged lawyers. When we were designing Davis Polk's trainee program, Paul Chow, who was a partner at the time (and is currently HKEX's Group General Counsel) proposed that trainees follow an apprenticeship model and sit with their supervising partner in the same room. You can imagine that there would naturally be some awkwardness at first and it would take some getting used to, but I actually think this was a great learning experience for all. During my time at Davis Polk, around 10 trainees sat next to me, observing my work (and occasionally overhearing my personal calls). I got to learn more about the younger generation's take on things and become even more connected to the office, while the trainees also learned what it was like to be at a senior level. It dawned on me that a lot of the training I've had in my own career has really been about exposure to more experienced people and observing how they do things. I think that experience sparked my passion for developing talent. It's a very rewarding feeling when you take good care of a business, groom the next generation and, when it's time to move on, you can pass it on knowing that it'll be in good hands.



Although you have spent a majority of your career working in Hong Kong, you did also work in New York – were those experiences to be different in terms of legal work?

I was much younger when I was a lawyer in New York. I would say that my time in New York really gave me the experience of working within a very established legal framework for businesses and companies. When I moved back to Hong Kong in the mid-90s, Hong Kong's lawyers were just starting to do a lot more work in mainland China. Back then, the legal frameworks of the mainland were quite nascent, so we had the liberty to be more creative in negotiating with clients. So, it was great to have the experience with New York's highly established system, and then be able to adapt and apply that when I returned to an environment in Asia that was still taking shape.

You are the first internally promoted CEO of HKEX. What do you see as the biggest challenges and opportunities facing the Exchange? What do you most hope to achieve as CEO?

It means a lot to me that I am the first internally promoted CEO, and I'm quite proud of the fact that at HKEX talent can grow and rise all the way to the top job.

In the face of changing world orders, we do have challenges. We work in a very dynamic environment, surrounded by geopolitical and technological changes, and the way capital is formed is very different now than in years past. Nowadays, people have many avenues through which they can invest, so we constantly strive to stay relevant and competitive. We also have many more competitors. But I personally believe that there are a lot of opportunities in front of us because of our unique role in connecting capital between mainland China and the world. The rest of the world is still very much underinvested in mainland China, and mainland China is still very much underinvested in the rest of the world. There is huge potential for two-way flows and Hong Kong is best positioned to facilitate that growth.

What sort of mantra drives you in your career?

I think the key mindset that I live by is to be curious about everything. It's a mindset that has helped me over the years. If not for curiosity, I would not have left the legal profession to become a banker, and again to be a regulator. I wouldn't have built up a legal practice in Hong Kong. Everything ties back to me being curious and hungry for new experiences. And now, I know what it's like to be a CEO! So, curiosity has definitely served me well.



Courtesy of HKEX

We understand you have a very robust exercise routine. Take us through a day in the life of HKEX's CEO.

As a CEO, I need to have a very disciplined routine because consistency drives results. I take inspiration from athletes who are known to follow very strict regimens.

My typical day starts at 4:45 a.m., and I go to the gym to do my morning workout, which consists mostly of weightlifting. Then, I'm in the office around 6:30 a.m., and I break my day down into 10 to 15 tasks, which could include meetings, interviews and other engagements. I try to finish work at 7:00 p.m. and cook dinner at home for my husband and me, then I conclude my day with an hour on the exercise bike. I use this time to reflect on the day and think about the next one. Then I go to bed and the routine repeats.

Awards and accomplishments

This year six lawyers were elected partners of the firm:

Aaron Ferner (Finance), **Zachary Frimet** (Finance), **David Kennedy** (Finance), **Brett McMahon** (Civil Litigation), **Michael Senders** (Mergers & Acquisitions) and **Aliza Slansky** (Tax).

We were also delighted to welcome partners **Andrew Ahern** (Investment Management), **Nick Caro** (Sponsor Finance), **Luke Eldridge** (Investment Management), **Chris Healey** (Investment Management), **Rory Leraris** (Civil Litigation), **Luke McDougall** (Finance), **Elena Millerman** (Finance), **Gordon Milne** (Mergers & Acquisitions) and **Alisa Waxman** (Investment Management), and to welcome back partner **Raul Yanos** (White Collar Defense & Investigations) to the firm this year. In addition, we announced that two partners will join us in January 2025: **Jifree Cader** (Restructuring) and **Mark Knight** (Restructuring).

This year 30 lawyers were promoted to counsel:

Michele Babkine (Finance), **Vincent Barredo** (Civil Litigation), **Christina Bell** (Finance), **Mikaela Dealissia** (IP & Commercial Transactions), **Christopher Diel** (Corporate), **Jarret Erickson** (Restructuring), **David Feinstein** (White Collar Defense & Investigations), **Esam Ibrahim** (Finance), **James Jiang** (Finance), **Tyson Dean Kennedy** (White Collar Defense & Investigations), **Malik Khalil** (Mergers & Acquisitions), **Meredith Manning** (White Collar Defense & Investigations), **Greg Marchesini** (Derivatives & Structured Products), **Dmitriy Molchanov** (Mergers & Acquisitions), **Chautney Oluwole** (White Collar Defense & Investigations), **Timothy Oyen** (Restructuring), **James Park** (IP Litigation), **Anthony Pitruzzello** (Finance), **Danielle Rapaccioli** (Tax), **Freddie Schwier** (Tax), **Tyler Senackerib** (Financial Institutions), **Brian Sieben** (Trusts & Estates), **Arisa Akashi Sin** (Capital Markets), **Yuko Sin** (Sponsor Finance), **Nick Soilleux** (Real Estate), **Michael Stenbring** (Investment Management), **Lucy McKinstry Taylor** (Trusts & Estates), **Roxanne Walton** (Finance), **Heather Weigel** (Mergers & Acquisitions) and **Mark Xiong** (Sponsor Finance).

We were also delighted to welcome counsel **Andrew Braid** (Executive Compensation), **Avelina Burbridge** (Real Estate), **Angelica Lopez Campos** (Investment Management), **Elise Dolan** (Investment Management), **Carl Emigholz** (Financial Institutions), **Kailash Gupta** (Finance), **Brian Hecht** (Restructuring), **William Hochul** (White Collar Defense & Investigations), **Wendy Kan** (Corporate), **Sabrina Ma** (Corporate), **Alison Miller** (Civil Litigation), **Katarina Molnarova** (Sponsor Finance), **Gil Ohana** (Antitrust & Competition), **Maya Peleg** (Finance), **Amy Thomas Ross** (Investment Management), **Bari Steinberg** (Investment Management), **Michael Taufner** (Finance) and **Bobby Yeh** (Finance), and to welcome back counsel **Vincent Chang** (Civil Litigation) and **Rebecca Winters** (Civil Litigation) to the firm this year.

Some of the numerous honors the firm and our practices were recognized with this year include:

Corporate Practice of the Year (Highly Commended) – *The American Lawyer* Industry Awards
Best Foreign Law Firm – *Asia Business Law Journal*
Patriot Award – Department of Defense
M&A Team of the Year – *IFLR* Europe Awards
Practice Group of the Year: Banking; Bankruptcy; Energy; Fintech; Media & Entertainment; and M&A – *Law360*
International Law Firm of the Year – *IFLR* Americas Awards
Debt and Equity-Linked, Financial Services Regulatory and Restructuring Teams of the Year – *IFLR* Americas Awards

We were also honored for our continued leadership in DEI and pro bono:

Compass Award – Leadership Council on Legal Diversity
Mansfield Rule Certification
Best Firm for U.S.: North East – Women in Business Law Americas Awards
Work-Life Balance International Firm of the Year – Women in Business Law Americas Awards
Pro Bono Partner Award – New York County Defender Services
International Pro Bono Excellence – Cyrus R. Vance Center for International Justice

Davis Polk Revisited is a year-long reentry program for former Davis Polk lawyers who have taken a break from the legal profession and wish to return to full-time legal careers.



A conversation with Natalie Thomas

Natalie Thomas first joined the firm in 2012 and worked in our Intellectual Property practice until 2016. She participated in the Revisited program as part of the class of 2023-2024 and, upon completing the program, permanently joined our Washington DC office as a manager in Client & Practice Development.

What has been most surprising about returning to the firm?

I was pleasantly surprised at how familiar it still felt, like a return home, even though I had relocated from New York to Washington DC during my time away from the firm. From day one, I encountered familiar, friendly faces during my information systems training. The qualities that drew me to Davis Polk in the first place – the collegiality, talent and dedication of the business professionals and lawyers – remained unchanged. I also found – much to my relief – that it was easier than I expected to adapt to changes that had occurred in my time away.

How did working as a lawyer at Davis Polk prepare you for your client and practice development role now?

My training as a Davis Polk associate provided me with a skill set and understanding of the firm's matters and operations that I believe have helped me better anticipate and respond to the needs of the teams I work with. An attention to detail and the ability to issue spot and look around corners are skills that translate to almost any context. Similarly, I believe that the adaptability, resourcefulness and communication skills necessary to work as a lawyer enabled my transition into my current role.

What do you enjoy about your work?

First and foremost, I like the people who I work with. It has been a true pleasure to get to know my Davis Polk colleagues in a new-to-me office and to reacquaint myself with those I knew from my prior time with the firm. Since returning to Davis Polk in a different

role, I have enjoyed the exposure that I have had to other aspects of the client relationship and business development activities that were less visible to me as an associate. I appreciate that my days involve a variety of tasks, some of which require research and writing and others which involve more number-crunching and analytical skills.

How have the resources provided through the Revisited program helped facilitate your transition back to the firm?

There is a lot of thought behind the resources offered to Revisited participants. Beyond the standard orientation sessions required for all new hires, the Alumni team created a customized training program to ensure that I was sufficiently equipped to successfully transition into a new role. I appreciated the check-ins with the Alumni team and was happy to take advantage of the offers of additional training and information gathering sessions over the course of the year. Coaching sessions with Alison Hornstein have also provided a valuable means for assessing my progress and setting forward-looking goals.

What guidance would you offer to someone considering the Revisited program or a return to the legal field, whether in a legal or business capacity?

Listen to that voice asking “what if?” and believe in yourself. If you feel at all called to return to the legal field, make the effort to explore your options. If you are curious about Revisited, dedicate the time to learn more about the program. I found speaking with various contacts at the firm about Revisited to be extremely beneficial. I was able to get a better sense of the program and realistically assess whether I felt ready to make the transition back to the legal field. While of course I had some nervousness about

the transition, having faith in my underlying skills and ability to adapt to new challenges (which I largely developed while working as an associate at Davis Polk) was key to deciding to take the leap.

Is there any part of your time between leaving and rejoining Davis Polk that you would be open to sharing?

During my time away from Davis Polk, my husband and I relocated from New York to the DC area and welcomed our second daughter. I enjoyed the time home with my children and embraced the opportunity to spend significant time volunteering in my daughter’s school. One of the volunteer projects I participated in was helping coordinate and lead small group sessions to bring a Junior Great Books program to the second-grade class at her school. It was a challenging and worthwhile experience, which reinforced my appreciation of and gratitude for teachers. Organizing the program and planning and delivering the lessons also reminded me that I enjoy challenging myself and learning new things, which helped me appreciate the opportunity that Revisited presented. In addition, I realized that if you can hold the attention of a class of second graders for a close reading discussion, you can do pretty much anything.

Tell us about yourself outside of work.

I enjoy spending time with my family and continuing to explore Virginia and Washington DC. Depending on the time of year, this might look like a long bike ride on the Washington and Old Dominion bike trail, or a weekend spent cheering for my children and their teammates from the sidelines of a soccer field or basketball court. During college basketball season, I am an avid Duke Blue Devils fan.

Welcome to the 2024-2025 Revisited class!



Alex Parra Bodel
Associate, Litigation
[New York](#)



Rustin Brown
Associate, Finance
[Washington DC](#)



David Ling
Associate, Executive
Compensation
[New York](#)



Kathy Strobos
Associate, White Collar Defense
& Investigations
[New York](#)

Career coaching

Strategic coaching for every stage in your career

In the year ahead, we encourage you to take advantage of the career coaching services available to all Davis Polk alumni. Coaching is provided by Alison Hornstein, a certified professional coach who offers confidential one-on-one support, feedback and advice to our lawyers and alumni as they think through, chart and pursue their career trajectories. Alison was previously Director & Senior Career Counselor at Yale Law School's Career Development Office, where she oversaw all alumni career counseling and directly advised thousands of alums and students on job searches and career transitions in both the private and public sectors. Her legal background includes working as a litigation associate at Simpson Thacher and as a federal law clerk.

Career coaching conversations cover an array of topics, including:

- Gaining clarity on what you value, enjoy and want in a career going forward
- Strategizing about how to best position yourself for a role you'd like to work toward in the future
- Identifying your key skills and how they may transfer across industries or roles
- Exploring potential career, industry, practice area and geographic pivots (including into and out of law firm, government, in-house, academic and nonprofit settings)
- Customizing a focused job search and networking strategy
- Learning how to utilize Davis Polk's many resources for alumni as well as job search and networking tools
- Discussing whether, how and when to work with recruiters and executive search firms
- Practicing pitching yourself in a compelling manner
- Feedback on your resume, cover letter and other application materials
- Interview preparation, practice interviews and feedback, and support navigating the "offer stage"



If you would like to schedule a session with Alison or learn more about these services, please email her at alison.hornstein@davispolk.com.

Recent alumni testimonials

“The help I received from Alison Hornstein, between resume help, interview prep/mock interviews as well as general strategy for how to approach my professional future and development, was incredibly helpful. I found it to be substantially more helpful than other pay-for-services available.”

“This service is amazing and I’d highly encourage current and former Davis Polk lawyers to reach out and develop a relationship even if they do not currently have any specific questions or near-term interest in a career change!”

“Alison was very helpful and thoughtful in providing guidance in how to negotiate a pay raise.”

“[My career coach] helped me think about my priorities, what I do and don’t like, gave me a list of resources to follow and connected me with a few other alums. She also helped clean up my resume and cover letter, which I think helped me stand out as an applicant. I landed multiple offers much more quickly than I expected and transitioned [from law firm practice] to a government agency role this summer.”

“Career coaching provided a great, safe, non-judgmental space to openly discuss career options. Alison really helped me identify what is important to me and figure out what I could do to get out of the rut I was in.”

Alumni Network jobs board

If you are interested in making a change in your legal career or hiring Davis Polk alums, the Alumni Network offers a [curated jobs board](#) tailored to connect our talented community with exceptional career opportunities. Opportunities range from junior to chief-level positions covering a range of industries, legal practices and global locations.

Below is a sampling of job opportunities posted on the board in 2024:

- Head of Legal Operations at Meta
Menlo Park, CA
- Commercial Broker Dealer Chief Compliance Officer at Capital One
New York, NY | other locations
- Assistant Attorney General at the New York State Office of the Attorney General
New York, NY
- Assistant General Counsel at the Gates Foundation
Washington DC | Seattle, WA

We encourage you to explore postings on the Alumni Network website “[Job Opportunities](#)” page and to email job openings to us at alumninetwork.jobs@davispolk.com.

CLE offerings

We offer free CLE credit to alumni. In addition to segments created by Davis Polk, we offer content from the Practising Law Institute (PLI) featuring Davis Polk partners. Segments and other CLE resources are available on the [Alumni Network website's CLE/CPD offerings page](#) and through PLI's website for free using the code **MEM4 DPA24** at checkout.

Our most recent offerings:

- How generative AI is impacting the legal industry (NY: 0.5 Cybersecurity Ethics; CA: 0.5 Ethics)
- Intellectual property and intangible asset-backed financing (NY 1.0 Professional Practice; CA 1.0 General)
- It's a hostile world: Takeover defense and hostile deals (NY 1.5 Professional Practice; CA 1.5 General)

New material becomes available regularly, so be sure to check in on our updated offerings throughout the year. We would also be happy to create Davis Polk partner-led CLE programming on the topics most useful to your team or company. For more information, please reach out to us at alumni@davispolk.com.

Alumni discounts and memberships

Visit the [Alumni Network website](#) to explore all of the valuable benefits available to Davis Polk alumni.

Alumni benefits

Banking



Cultural

CARNEGIE HALL

The
Morgan
Library &
Museum

Real Estate

corcoran

Recreation/ Entertainment

plumbenefits



Shopping

Brooks Brothers

ESTÉE LAUDER



Travel

AVIS



Hertz

Please stay in touch!

To keep your information up-to-date and stay connected to all of our resources and happenings, please visit our website or email us at alumni@davispolk.com.

We also invite you to join us on LinkedIn in the Davis Polk Alumni group.

[Join the LinkedIn group →](#)

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