

# **IOC SPACS | Recent Trends in Regulatory and Litigation Issues**

September 22, 2021

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## Biographies

**Tom Brown**, Partner, Morea Schwartz Bradham Friedman & Brown LLP has over 25 years of complex commercial, financial, employment and trusts & estates litigation experience. He has handled a broad range of commercial, financial and employment cases, involving allegations of fraud, breach of fiduciary duty, breach of contract, breach of employment covenants, theft of trade secrets, discrimination and more. Tom has also represented executors, trustees and beneficiaries in numerous trust disputes and will contests.

Tom has successfully litigated multiple cases to verdict before juries, judges and arbitrators. He has also argued appeals in both state and federal courts. He has handled all aspects of pre-trial strategy and discovery, including taking depositions throughout the United States and abroad.

Tom regularly advises corporations and individuals on litigation and litigation avoidance strategy. He has also conducted a Foreign Corrupt Practices Act investigation in Central America and the United States.

Tom received his law degree from Cornell University (magna cum laude) in 1994, where he was an Editor of the law review and a member of the Order of the Coif. He graduated from Colgate University (cum laude) in 1988 with a bachelor's degree in history. Tom has been named as a "New York Super Lawyer" every year since 2009 and has been recognized as an AV (Preeminent) peer rated attorney by Martindale-Hubbell.

**Richard Diorio** is an associate at Marco & Sitaras PLLC. His practice focuses on commercial litigation and arbitration, representing individuals and businesses. He has been an Inn member since 2017.

**Daniel Genossar, Esq.** is an appointed Assistant Law Clerk to the Hon. Alexander M. Tisch, Justice of the Supreme Court, New York County, Civil Term and a Notary Public. Prior to clerking for Justice Tisch, Mr. Genossar clerked for the Office of State Attorney and the Judiciary of Sarasota County, Florida. Mr. Genossar is licensed to practice law in New York State and the United States District Court Southern District of New York and aspires to practice in international and domestic commercial litigation and arbitration. Furthermore, Mr. Genossar seeks additional state and federal licensing in Washington, D.C., Texas and Florida. Mr. Genossar is also proficient in Mandarin Chinese.

Mr. Genossar participated in the 2017 national American Inns of Court's event which hosted The Honourable Society of the Middle Temple at the United States Department of State's Institute of Peace and the United Kingdom's Embassy (Washington, D.C.) along with prior American Inns of Court President Hon. Carl E. Stewart (United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit).

**Jeffrey Gross** is a partner at Reid Collins & Tsai LLP. His practice focuses representing plaintiffs in commercial litigation, including claims arising from commercial frauds and business torts. He litigates, among other things, professional malpractice claims and claims relating to insolvent companies brought by their fiduciaries.

**Sora J. Kim** is a tax associate at Duane Morris LLP who practices in the area of corporate law with a focus on international, corporate and partnership tax. Ms. Kim advises clients on strategic tax planning for domestic and cross border transactions. She provides advice on structuring, inbound and outbound tax planning, mergers and acquisitions, reorganizations, and U.S. tax reform. Previously, she was a senior associate at PwC and she also was a summer law clerk for the Honorable Judge Tamara W. Ashford with the U.S. Tax Court. Early on in her career, she was a legal aid lawyer.

Ms. Kim received an LL.M. in Taxation in 2017 from Georgetown University Law Center, where she was student note mentor for The Tax Lawyer. She is a graduate of Suffolk University Law School, where she was editor in chief of The Journal of High Technology Law. She is a graduate of The George Washington University.

Prior to becoming a New York Inn of Court member, she was also a member of the Boston Inn of Court in Massachusetts and the Bryant Inn of Court in Washington DC.

**Susan L. Meekins** is a solo practitioner whose practice is focused on commercial litigation and arbitration in New York State and federal courts, arbitration, and employment law matters. Ms. Meekins is a graduate of New York University School of Law (J.D. 1983), where she served as Articles Editor of the Review of Law & Social Change, and the University of Chicago (A.B. 1980 with Honors). Before she began practicing independently, Ms. Meekins was a member and co-founder of a commercial litigation boutique (Molton & Meekins) and a member of the litigation departments of the firms now known as Olshan Frome Wolosky LLP and Herrick, Feinstein LLP.

**Steven Perlstein** is an experienced trial lawyer who practices in the area of complex civil litigation, focusing on litigation related to complex commercial transactions (such as collateralized debt obligation and mortgage-backed securities transactions), business break up disputes and securities-related litigation. Mr. Perlstein also conducts litigation related to data security, particularly with regard to civil remedies available to prevent the widespread dissemination of proprietary information. In addition, Mr.

Perlstein regularly represents clients in white-collar criminal defense matters and regulatory investigations.

Mr. Perlstein has participated in a variety of civil and criminal proceedings including International Chamber of Commerce, Financial Industry Regulatory Authority and American Arbitration Association arbitrations, as well as litigations in state, federal and bankruptcy courts in New York and Delaware. Mr. Perlstein has also litigated patent disputes in the Eastern District of Texas.

Prior to joining Kobre & Kim, Mr. Perlstein practiced at Schulte Roth & Zabel LLP, where he focused on complex commercial and securities litigation and bankruptcy litigation.

Mr. Perlstein served as a judicial clerk to the Honorable John D. Butzner Jr. of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

**Walter Ricciardi** joined Paul Weiss as a partner in June 2008 and has extensive experience defending a broad variety of investigations conducted by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board and other regulatory authorities. Additionally, he has extensive experience defending litigation related to actions by the SEC, PCAOB and shareholder class actions. He has also conducted internal investigations for public companies and directors, including investigations related to accounting issues.

Prior to joining Paul, Weiss in June 2008, Walter was the Deputy Director of the SEC's Division of Enforcement, where he supervised many of the Commission's most significant investigations related to financial fraud, insider trading, and investment adviser, broker-dealer and mutual fund regulatory issues.

In April 2004, Walter was appointed to run the SEC's Boston office, which was responsible for enforcement and examination programs for the New England region. He was appointed as Deputy Director of the SEC's Division of Enforcement in October 2005, and his duties included supervising the Commission's enforcement efforts, including its eleven regional offices.

Prior to joining the SEC, Walter spent 20 years with PricewaterhouseCoopers ("PwC") and its predecessor, Coopers & Lybrand, where he was in charge of defending the firm's litigation and regulatory matters. While at PwC, he was elected by his partners to serve on the firm's board, which is responsible for overseeing the management of the firm. He was also elected to serve on the Global Oversight Board of the PwC global organization.

Since joining Paul, Weiss, Walter was appointed and served a three-year term from 2012 to 2014, on the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board's Standing Advisory Group ("SAG"). The role of the SAG is to assist the Board in reviewing existing auditing and related professional practice standards and evaluating proposed standards, and to recommend to the Board new or amended standards. Walter was a member of the Independent Standards Council of the Sustainability Accounting Standards Board ("SASB") which oversees the development of SASB's sustainability accounting standards from January 2015 to March 2016.

As an Adjunct Professor at New York University School of Law, Walter teaches a seminar on issues in SEC enforcement.

Walter is recognized as a leading individual for (Nationwide) Securities: Regulation: Enforcement in *Chambers USA* (2013-2021). He served as a note and comment editor of the *New York University Law Review*.