

# FSN | ONE STOP SHOP

APRIL 15, 2026



**ACC** Association of  
Corporate Counsel  
Financial Services Network

## UPCOMING PROGRAMMING

### MANAGING TRADE SECRET RISK IN FINTECH PARTNERSHIPS AND AI USE

This session will explore the intersection of trade secret law and financial technology, with a focus on the practical implications for banks, fintech vendors, and their legal departments. Panelists will discuss how to identify and protect proprietary assets—such as risk models, algorithms, and API architecture—while navigating the unique risks of software licensing deals, regulatory agency disclosures (FOIA), and the use of public AI tools. Attendees will leave with best practices and key takeaways for in-house counsel to actively maintain secrecy and avoid trade secret claims during the sales and development process.

MONTHLY  
LEGAL UPDATE

PRESENTED BY



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**April 22, 2026**

3:00 PM ET

(12:00 PM PT / 7:00 PM GMT)



**REGISTER NOW**

## REGULATORY CORNER

Recent developments highlight the growing intersection of artificial intelligence and legal risk, particularly around trade secret protection. As generative AI tools become more embedded in business operations, organizations face increased exposure to inadvertent data disclosure, accelerated reverse engineering, and evolving litigation risks. At the same time, foundational principles in project finance—such as limited recourse structures, robust legal due diligence, and the use of special purpose vehicles—continue to shape how risk is allocated and managed in complex transactions. Together, these resources underscore the importance of strengthening both technology governance and legal structuring to mitigate emerging regulatory and commercial risks.

### Resources

- [Navigating Recent Developments in Generative AI and Trade Secret Protection](#) | *IP Watchdog*
- [AI shockwave to come in trade secret disputes](#) | *DLA PIPER*
- [Reverse engineering in the age of AI: Are your trade secrets still safe?](#) | *Lawyers Weekly*
- [The Role of Legal Due Diligence in Project Finance](#) | *GSI*
- Check out the [ACC Resource Library](#) for additional resources!

## TIMELY RESOURCES

- 1** [Novel Issues in the Crypto Bankruptcy Cluster](#)  
*Harvard Law School*
- 2** [The Treatment of Digital Assets in Insolvency Proceedings](#)  
*Oxford Business Law Blog*
- 3** [Cryptocurrency Fraud and Insolvency: Implications for Financial Institutions and In-House Counsel](#)  
*FSN Legal Update*
- 4** [Access all 2026 FSN Legal Update Recordings!](#)  
*Register for the Bundle!*

## MEET THE FSN LEADERSHIP TEAM!



**Lavern Garcia**  
General Counsel  
Ford Credit Canada  
*FSN Program Chair (Annual Meeting)*

1

### WHAT DO YOU DO?

I am the General Counsel for Ford Credit Canada, the captive financial services arm of Ford Motor Company in Canada. Its primary business is to support the sale of Ford and Lincoln vehicles by providing specialized financial products and services.

2

### WHAT IS ONE UNIQUE THING ABOUT YOU? (FUN FACT!)

Outside of the office, I am an avid cook. I spend most weekends in my personal test kitchen, where I enjoy experimenting with new dishes – and the challenge of keeping three teenaged food critics well-fed.

3

### HOW HAS ACC HELPED YOUR CAREER?

Beyond its exceptional programming and resources, the ACC has empowered me to form a robust network of colleagues and friends within the in-house community. Having a sounding board of peers who understand the nuances of our profession has had a profound and positive impact on my career path.

# From Concept to Construction: The In-House Counsel's Playbook for Bankable Projects in Africa



**Register Now!**

## DESCRIPTION

This presentation introduces project finance, covering its core principles (such as limited-recourse lending, SPV structures, and cashflow-dependent financing) along with the key stakeholders involved (sponsors, lenders, governments, and contractors).

It then examines the principal project documents in detail, including concession agreements, power purchase agreements (PPAs), and EPC contracts, with a focus on risk allocation, revenue mechanisms, termination provisions, and the contractual structures that underpin bankability in both infrastructure and energy projects.

## PRESENTED BY

# Ashurst



23 April 2026



10:00 AM ET / 2:00 PM GMT



**Matthew Wood**  
*Partner*  
Ashurst



**Cédric Gamambaye Dionmou**  
*Counsel*  
Ashurst



**Olufemi Omosuyi**  
*Senior Associate*  
Ashurst



**Theresa Chikwendu**  
*Corporate Lawyer*  
Chair, International  
Programming, FSN  
*Moderator*

**\*Not eligible for CLE/CPD**

Ask Me  
Anything

What areas of your work are you most passionate about?

FINRA's mission is to protect investors and safeguard market integrity. I'm honored to advance this mission daily alongside dedicated colleagues committed to ensuring everyone can invest with confidence.



**One habit that improves your effectiveness:**

I look for what's not in the room, not in the presentation, not being discussed. Actively listening for missing information has helped me uncover critical details, leading to better decision-making and risk management.

**Advice for professionals entering in-house financial services roles:**

Before scheduling or attending a meeting, I ask myself: What is the purpose of this meeting? Who is this meeting for? Which direction is information flowing? Sometimes I am there to learn, but more often, I seek to advance the conversation and contribute meaningfully.

# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

**N. Tien Pham**

Assistant General Counsel  
The Financial Industry Regulatory  
Authority, FINRA

## Career Path

*I build enterprise risk management programs focused on artificial intelligence, data privacy, and financial regulation. Currently, I support responsible AI innovation and privacy strategy at FINRA, a self-regulatory organization responsible for overseeing our member broker-dealer firms. Previously, I managed a privacy program at a US agency. Before that, I was in private practice for seven years advising global corporations on complex compliance matters and regulatory investigations. I am a CPA, CIPP/US, and AIGP. As an adjunct professor, I have taught fraud investigation courses over 20 semesters across several DC-area universities*

## Resource Recommendation

ACC inConversation Series