

THE REVIEW OF BANKING & FINANCIAL LAW'S SYMPOSIUM:

**INNOVATION TODAY:
THE LEGAL CHALLENGES OF FUNDING STARTUPS**

The *Review of Banking & Financial Law* held its Symposium, Innovation Today: The Legal Challenges of Funding Startups on February 27, 2015 at Boston University School of Law. The symposium brought together academics, practitioners, regulators, and students to explore the regulation of funding methods that startups face.

A major focus of the Symposium was the Jumpstart Our Business Startups Act and its mandate to the Securities and Exchange Commission to promulgate rules on crowdfunding. Scholars discussed the potential impact of the SEC's proposed crowdfunding rules and the feasibility of using them to capital raise.

Symposium panels covered many facets of startup financing, from the nonpecuniary benefits of securities crowdfunding, to financing alternatives such as SAFEs and peer-to-peer lending. Many panelists commented on the complex regulatory burden that the Crowdfunding Act will provide to startup entrepreneurs, while others focused on the opportunities that the act provides.

The Keynote Address was provided by Jeremy Halpern, Partner at Nutter McClennen & Fish. Mr. Halpern provided a practical perspective on the rise of angel capital to fund startups. Mr. Halpern's Keynote Address is available online in audio format at www.bu.edu/rbfl/issues/volume-34-fall-2014/.

This issue of the *Review* includes scholarly work presented at the symposium. Articles are authored by panel speakers Kristen Young, Thomas Halket, Theodore Weitz, and Andrew Schwartz.

Jennifer Gardner¹

¹ Executive Editor of Symposium, *Review of Banking & Financial Law*.

SYMPOSIUM CONTRIBUTORS

The *Review* would like to offer its sincere thanks to all of the symposium participants for contributing their time and intellect to a thoughtful discussion on startup financing.²

KEYNOTE ADDRESS:**JEREMY HALPERN***PARTNER, NUTTER MCCLENNEN & FISH LLP***SPEAKERS:****MIRIAM ALBERT***HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY MAURICE A. DEANE SCHOOL OF LAW***DORI BAILEY***SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF LAW***CARL BARNES***MEMBER, MORSE, BARNES-BROWN & PENDLETON PC***J. SCOTT COLESANTI***HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY MAURICE A. DEANE SCHOOL OF LAW***CONWAY DODGE***U.S. SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION DIVISION OF
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² The *Review* thanks Executive Editors Jennifer Gardner and Deniz Aktas, as well as Editor-in-Chief Christopher Mercurio for making this symposium a reality. The *Review* also thanks Dean Maureen O'Rourke, Professors Fred Tung and Eric Roiter, Jill Collins, Erin Lee, as well as Jim Scott and Lorraine Kaplan of the Boston University Graduate Program in Banking & Financial Law. Their dedication and support were essential to the symposium's success.

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