

# TLA BLOCKCHAIN NEWSLETTER



ISSUE 01 • NOVEMBER 2020

Welcome to the new TLA Blockchain newsletter

2020 has been a whirlwind with a number of challenges that have touched us all. Nevertheless, there has also been a lot to celebrate - extraordinary efforts, achievements and milestones that we ought to be very proud of.

This first TLA Blockchain newsletter - which will be a monthly occurrence moving forward - highlights some of the amazing work performed by our members. We have a spotlight on two our members, Brian McNulty and Amber Ghaddar, celebrate the guidance to legal practitioners we published alongside The Law Society of England & Wales, and whet your appetite for some events planned in 2021. We've also included a link to a presentation our steering group chair Tom Grogan gave last month setting out the legal updates effecting blockchain this year.

Tech London Advocates is the UK's largest networking group for technology professionals. To join, please contact [Alex Turner](#), our Community Manager, who will make the introductions to Russ Shaw (Founder of TLA) and handle onboarding.

Membership is free and we'd love to have you - you'll get access to our exclusive events, communications and offers through 2021 and beyond. If you would like to feature in future newsletters, please get in touch with [Tom Grogan](#)

## STEERING GROUP COMMITTEE



**TOM GROGAN**  
**HEAD OF MDRX**  
**TECH PART OF**  
**THE MISHCON DE**  
**REYA GROUP**

[EMAIL](#)



**SCOTT TROWBRIDGE**  
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**SIDDHI TRIVEDI**  
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**ALEX TURNER**  
**STRATEGIC**  
**ADVISORY**  
**CONSULTANT,**  
**CBRE**

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# MEMBER FEATURE

AMBER GHADDAR

## How did you get into blockchain?

I originally read the Bitcoin white paper in 2009. I was still at university then and we were in the midst of the Global Financial Crisis. This paper was for me a justified reaction to the lack of regulations and transparency in the banking sector at that time. Funny enough, a year later I started my career at Goldman Sachs and later at JP Morgan in both Trading and Structuring; during these years banking was -justifiably- heavily hit by regulatory compliance. It took me almost 8 years to decide that the time was ripe and that blockchain technology was mature enough to start having some relevant applications in the financial sector.



## What does AllianceBlock do?

AllianceBlock is bridging traditional finance and DeFi. We leverage blockchain technology to build the world's first globally compliant decentralized capital market, with our layer two blockchain agnostic protocol. By delivering infrastructure to enable the legal, safe, and secure trade of all types of digital assets, AllianceBlock seeks to provide global financial institutions the opportunity to benefit from the increased efficiencies and lower costs offered by DeFi. My current focus is on the trading arm of the business. We are building a suite of tradable index products (Beta and Smart Beta) and algorithmic strategies. These indices allow easy and safe access to the DeFi boom to crypto and traditional investors alike. The index performance will be wrapped in a certificate and should be a welcome addition to any "traditional" portfolio.

## FOUNDER, ALLIANCEBLOCK

[WWW.ALLIANCEBLOCK.IO](http://WWW.ALLIANCEBLOCK.IO)

## How can people get in contact with you and AllianceBlock?

[www.allianceblock.io](http://www.allianceblock.io)  
[amber@allianceblock.iot.me](mailto:amber@allianceblock.iot.me)  
> [allianceblockt.me](https://allianceblockt.me)  
> [AllianceBlockAnn](https://AllianceBlockAnn)

# MEMBER FEATURE

BRIAN MCNULTY

## How did you get into blockchain?

In 2015 I was the chair of the CISI FinTech Committee, and a few members put forward 'blockchain' as a potential discussion topic. I was immediately hopeful that if indeed we had a new way of sharing information between parties in transactions, we could leverage that to revolutionise our industry. I had just sold the FinTech consultancy I co-owned, and decided to set up the Post Trade Distributed Ledger group in conjunction with LSEG to further explore blockchain's possible application. I then spent time as a Managing Director at R3 which deepened my knowledge of the ecosystem.



## What does FAC do?

The funds industry is bloated and inefficient – there's an opportunity for an independent initiative to deploy blockchain and address some of the industry's issues. FAC provides a platform upon which digital funds can be launched, traded and atomically settled. We use distributed ledger technology (DLT) to give us a clear future state with a single decentralised, immutable record of truth. FAC offers a win-win for fund managers by giving them immediate positional data, no-longer containing errors or requiring oversight, while also significantly reducing their fund serving fees. It also benefits fund service providers (e.g. transfer agents or distributors) who can use the platform's insights and simplified processes to offer preferential fees. FAC cuts right through a number of the traditionally inefficient and expensive processes and facilitates self-maintained records.

## CEO, FAC (FUNDADMINCHAIN)

FUNDADMINCHAIN.COM

## How can people get in contact with you and FAC?

Our current pilot has over 10 leading fund managers and 4 fund service providers and we are moving to a broader pilot in the New Year that will increase this number.

Reach out at [brian.mcnulty@fundadminchain.com](mailto:brian.mcnulty@fundadminchain.com) for further information.

# LEGAL UPDATE 2020

In October our Chair, [Tom Grogan](#), gave an overview of blockchain technology and the legal developments over the last 12 months.

Tom leads [MDRxTECH](#), [The Mishcon de Reya Group's](#) digital transformation and engineering business. He's also an English qualified lawyer. The session formed part of Mishcon de Reya's [Academy](#) programme and included an overview of the technology and the latest guidance from the LawTech Delivery Panel, FCA, HMRC, and the Law Society, amongst others.

The full recording can be viewed [here](#).



The full Guidance can be found [here](#). To join the Legal & Regulatory Group, please contact our Community Manager [Alex Turner](#) who will handle onboarding.

Anne Rose  
[anne.rose@mishcon.com](mailto:anne.rose@mishcon.com)

## SMART CONTRACTS: PUBLISHING GUIDANCE TO LEGAL PRACTITIONERS WITH THE LAW SOCIETY OF ENGLAND & WALES

### ANNA ROSE

On 7 September our Legal & Regulatory Group, led by [Anne Rose](#), published guidance to legal practitioners who are instructed to advise on blockchain-based smart contracts.

Over the past year, the Legal and Regulatory sub-working group has considered a variety of technical, legal and practical issues with support from academics and technologists, businesses and individuals, and lawyers and non-lawyers from a number of different industries. They have held a number of seminars, presentations and meetings to consider these issues, including presentations given by a number of experts.

We are delighted that Sir Geoffrey Vos, Chancellor of the High Court, provided a foreword to our publication. In it, he says: "This sudden acceleration in use [of blockchain] has only emphasised our need to understand the ways in which technology is affecting our professional lives and lawyers face a steep learning curve. They will need to become familiar with DLT, smart legal contracts and cryptoassets - conceptually and functionally. This Guidance is an important step on that path."



## OUR OBJECTIVES

- To promote understanding of distributed ledger technologies and their capabilities;
- To become a hub of talented multi-disciplinary blockchain experts;
- To promote the active involvement of all stakeholders in the development and proliferation of distributed ledger technologies; and
- To provide a platform for active learning, knowledge sharing, debate and engagement, leading to more impactful and useful blockchain initiatives and solutions.

## CONTACT US

To stay up to date with the latest developments, please follow us on [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#).

To join our community, contact our Community Manager [Alex Turner](#).

Membership is free and provides you access to our exclusive events (details in next issue) and communications.

To feature in future editions of this monthly newsletter, please contact [Tom Grogan](#).