Proskauer

New York PIF In-House Alumni Spring Network Event

July 25, 2025

In the first of its bi-annual gatherings for New York-based in-house alumni and current Proskauer attorneys, our Private Investment Funds (PIF) group came together in late June to network over cocktails and participate in a discussion about key matters impacting the industry.

At the gathering, Evandro Gigante, a partner in the Firm's labor and employment practice, led a presentation and discussion with insights into how in-house professionals and organizations can effectively approach and navigate the evolving regulations and restrictions around establishing inclusive workplaces. Drawing from his extensive experience advising employers across a broad spectrum of industries, especially those within the financial sector, Gigante spoke to the growing and shifting expectations organizations must navigate as they continue their commitment to welcoming and inclusive workplaces.

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John Kostelnak, Vice President, Blackstone

In addition, Gigante unpacked the shifting frameworks companies are adopting and considering to meet these challenges. The discussion sparked thoughtful reflection and engaged questions from in-house alumni and attorneys alike, many of whom touched on how their companies' values often help to shape their business and legal strategies.

The event was attended by a dynamic group of in-house alumni from Blackstone, First Eagle Investments and Onex Credit, among others.

Following the presentation, attendees enjoyed food and drink as they caught up with each other, reminiscing about their days at Proskauer and sharing milestones from their evolving careers and professional journeys.

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Daniel Huang, Principal, Associate General Counsel, Ares

“I’ve attended two PIF in-house alumni events since their debut in June 2024,” said John Kostelnak, vice president at Blackstone. “It means a great deal to reconnect with other in-house alumni, many of whom are still good friends of mine and hold similar positions across the financial industry. We each face similar challenges and share common goals, which makes these intimate and focused events ideal forums for exchanging ideas and learning from one another. I’m already looking forward to the next one.”

“Evandro’s presentation was thorough, thoughtful and well-balanced,” said Daniel Huang , principal, associate general counsel at Ares. “It provided insights into key topics which we all need to think through, including the impact on a company’s culture, marketing efforts, messaging, teams and hiring. I appreciated Evandro’s ability and willingness to navigate these tough conversations.”

Related Professionals

- **Ash Ilkhani**
  Partner
- **Cameron M. Clark**
  Partner
- **Evandro C. Gigante**

Partner

- **Monica Arora**
  Partner