

Blockchain Symposium Speaker Biographies

John Burton

John Burton is President of Stormseye Associates LLC, an advanced technology consulting firm in South Burlington, Vermont. John holds a Bachelor's Degree and a Master's Degree from the University of Vermont.

John is the founder of NPI Technology Management, a Vermont technology services firm. He has 30 years of experience providing advanced technology consulting services for executives. Previously, he served as a computer security instructor at Champlain College and Senior Analyst at National Life Insurance.

John's recent engagements include helping establish the Distributed Ledger Governance Association, a Vermont-based trade association for the blockchain industry, and working with the Vermont Futures Project to foster business growth through innovation and entrepreneurship.

Frank Canovatchel

Frank Canovatchel is an Associate Professor at Champlain College, teaching courses in economics, finance, data analytics and database systems. He received his PhD in Economics from Fordham University in 2015. He also holds two Masters of Arts Degrees (in Economics and International Political Economy & Development) and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science, also from Fordham University.

Frank began a career as a financial analyst on Wall Street in the 1980s. There he developed financial models using the first IBM AT and XT computers. After leaving Wall Street, Frank began teaching Economics, Computer Applications and Web Programming. His interests in Web technology includes Systems Analysis, XML, PHP, JavaScript, database development and the business of technological innovation. In economics, his interests include economic development, speculation in the commodities market as well as international finance and trade.

In 2006, Frank co-authored his first book, [New Perspectives on JavaScript Programming](#), with noted author Patrick Carey. Frank is currently working on a series of economics books for students not majoring in economics as well books on database design, statistical analysis of big data and the financial analysis of technological innovation.

Alex Daley

Alex Daley is a finance executive with a background in information technology. Alex holds a Bachelor of Sciences Degree in Computer Science and Economics from Rutgers University.

Alex is currently the Senior Vice President, Retail for GBI, LLC, which runs a secure global platform for buying, selling, and storing digital currencies, crypto assets and precious metals, as well as developing custom technology solutions to increase the efficiency of financial companies.

Alex began his career by providing IT services, including overhauling organizational data structures. He managed product and marketing strategies for Microsoft, directed investment strategy at Casey Research and advised venture capital and private equity firms on new technology for investment purposes. Alex also taught Computer Science and Information Technology courses at Rutgers University, and co-invented a transient network architecture patented by Microsoft.

Don Laackman

Don Laackman is the President of Champlain College, a role he has filled since July 2014. Champlain College has established itself as a leader in financial and technology higher education under Don's leadership, and the college continues to focus on educating students to prepare for careers, including those in new and evolving fields. Don also currently serves on the Board of the Vermont Center for Emerging Technologies (VCET).

Don's career spans the education, consulting, technology, and nonprofit industries. He worked at Accenture for 23 years, including as a partner and managing director leading information technology, strategy, sales, planning, and change management for the financial services and insurance industries. Before joining Champlain College, Don was the President of Harold Washington College, one of the City Colleges of Chicago. Don also previously managed workforce and education programs for Civic Consulting Alliance, a non-profit partnership working to make Chicago more livable, affordable and globally competitive.

Don holds a Master's Degree in Public Policy and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Economics, Politics, Rhetoric, and Law, both from the University of Chicago.

Michael Ly

Michael Ly is the CEO and Co-Founder of Reconciled, an online bookkeeping service that specializes in Quickbooks Online and cloud-based accounting tools. Michael is also a Co-Founder of BlockchainVT, an online publication connecting Vermont blockchain businesses.

Michael's background is in accounting and financial management. He leverages his past work as a CFO, finance executive, and controller to provide virtual CFO and management consulting services and to create and manage accounting and finance systems for companies nationwide.

Michael received his MBA from Babson College and his Bachelor of Sciences Degree in Business Administration from Arizona State University. Michael also holds a Blockchain Expert Certification from the Blockchain Council.

Lisa Rabbe

Lisa Rabbe is the founder and CEO of Stratosphere Advisors LLC, a public policy and political risk consultancy, and of Stratosphere Analytics LLC, a RegTech startup. She is also currently an Instructor on RegTech at the Saïd Business School at the University of Oxford.

Lisa is an expert on financial and anti-trust regulation, and currently focuses on public policy and regulatory issues at the juncture of tech and financial services, including data privacy, the

impact of blockchain and AI on the job markets, cloud-based financial services, FinTech and RegTech.

Lisa holds a Bachelor of Arts from Dartmouth College. Her prior experience includes positions at Credit Suisse and Goldman Sachs International, where she served as Managing Director of Public Policy for Europe, Middle East and Africa and Managing Director and Head of Government Affairs, EMEA. respectively.

Paul J. Swider

Paul J. Swider is an international speaker, author, and Co-Founder and CTO of RealActivity, an organization focused on streamlining healthcare using the Microsoft Cloud and proprietary healthcare technology.

Paul has over 25 years of computer science and healthcare technology experience. He is an accomplished author and co-author of several developer books (including Professional SharePoint 2013 Development), speaks at conferences around the world, and is viewed as an international expert in modern business software, data intelligence and blockchain.

Paul was first certified as a Microsoft engineer and trainer in 1996, and has held certifications since that time. Paul received his Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies in Computer Programming from Hawai'i Pacific University. While in college, he started his first technology company, building and selling laptops.

Paul is currently based out of the Boston area, and occasionally gets to chase the tides and winds as an avid sailor in Puerto Rico.