



## F M L G | F I N A N C I A L M A R K E T S L A W Y E R S G R O U P

### **2021 Quadrilateral Conference Minutes – Second Session**

*by video conference*

Thursday, June 3, 2021

8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. (New York time)

On June 3, 2021, the Financial Markets Lawyers Group (“FMLG”) hosted the second session of the 2021 Quadrilateral Conference (“Quadrilateral”), an annual meeting of the FMLG, the Financial Markets Law Committee (“FMLC”), the Financial Law Board (“FLB”), and the European Financial Markets Lawyers Group (“EFMLG”). An agenda, panelist profiles, and conference materials are available on the FMLG’s public website.

FMLG Chair James Bergin welcomed participants to the Quadrilateral and introduced Brian Gray, the new chair of the FMLC. FMLG Secretary Thomas Noone reviewed conference procedures.

The first panel concerned the transitions from Inter-Bank Offered Rates (“IBORs”) and was moderated by FMLG member James Wallin. Presentations covered the Alternative Reference Rate Committee’s (“ARRC”) work and proposed New York State legislation for the IBOR transition; the London transition away from IBOR rates, including designation of synthetic Sterling and Yen LIBORs for legacy products; and developments relating to the European Union IBOR transition. Copies of written materials for each of these topics are available on the FMLG’s public website. A brief question-and-answer session followed.

The second panel addressed environmental, social, and governance issues. It was moderated by FMLG member Frank Weigand. Panelists presented on developing a European taxonomy for “green” products; ways to identify sustainable products suitable for retail investors; bespoke voluntary climate commitments by companies and financial institutions to become carbon neutral; the work of the Network of central Banks and Supervisors for Greening the Financial System (“NGFS”), which the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System recently joined; and the impact of President Biden’s May 20, 2021 [Executive Order on Climate-Related Financial Risk](#).

The third panel addressed the evolution and future of regulation. It was moderated by FMLG member Lisa Shemie. Two of the panelists—Barney Reynolds and Christina Skinner—

presented summaries of arguments raised in two papers: Ms. Skinner’s “Central Bank Activism,” to be published in the *Duke Law Review*, and Mr. Reynolds’s “Restoring UK Law: Freeing the UK’s Global Financial Market.” Both papers are available on the FMLG’s public website. The discussion among panelists covered the different goals, priorities, and motivations of regulators; the continuum of regulatory action options available to central banks; the FX Global Code; and the potential role of industry to shape international standards that, depending on the jurisdiction, may be incorporated into a regulatory program—the FX Global Code being a possible model for future efforts. During a question-and-answer session, panelists addressed the tension between harmonization of international standards with the institution-specific goals of different regulators.

Mr. Noone concluded the second session of the 2021 Quadrilateral by thanking presenters and other participants for joining. The next session of the Quadrilateral will take place on Thursday, September 8 at 8 a.m. (New York time).

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