

Jeffrey Alberts

Partner

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Jeffrey Alberts is a partner and co-chair of the firm's Financial Institutions and FinTech Practices.

For more information on Jeffrey's work in these areas, follow the links below:

- Jeffrey's White Collar Defense + Investigations Practice Biography
- Jeffrey's Financial Institutions Practice Biography
- Jeffrey's FinTech Practice Biography

Services

- White Collar + Regulatory Enforcement
- Financial Institutions
- FinTech
- Litigation
- Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs)

Education

- New York University School of Law (J.D., *cum laude*, 2001)
- University of Chicago (M.A., 1997)
- University of Washington (B.A., *magna cum laude*, 1996)

Recognition

- Recognized by *Chambers USA* as a top attorney in FinTech Legal: Blockchain & Cryptocurrencies (2025-26)
- Named to the *Super Lawyers – New York Metro* list in Criminal Defense: White Collar (2024-25)
- Named to the Top 25 Financial Technology Attorneys of 2025 by *Attorney Intel*

Admissions

- New York, 2002

Academic Achievements

- Jeffrey is a 2001 *cum laude* graduate of New York University School of Law, where he was the Associate Editor of the New York University Law Review. He has a Masters degree in Philosophy from the University of

Chicago and graduated Phi Beta Kappa and *magna cum laude* from the University of Washington, where he was awarded the Arts and Sciences Dean's Medal as the top scholar in the college.

Clerkships

- U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York, Law Clerk to Judge Charles P. Sifton (2001-02)

White Collar Bio

Jeffrey Alberts is a member of the White Collar + Regulatory Enforcement Practice. He represents clients in government investigations, prosecutions and related regulatory proceedings, asset forfeiture litigation, victims' rights representation, and complex civil litigation. Jeffrey is an experienced trial lawyer who has served as lead counsel in numerous civil and criminal trials.

Jeffrey has a reputation as a forceful advocate. His notable criminal representations include the defense of the former CEO of a bank in a 29-day criminal trial in federal court. After a hard-fought legal battle, all 27 charges against this client were dismissed. Another example of Jeffrey's advocacy involved an enforcement action brought by a federal banking regulator in which Jeffrey served as lead trial counsel. After a trial that included aggressive cross-examinations of FDIC examiners, fact witnesses, and expert witnesses, the client was vindicated, paid no penalty, and the bank regulator agreed to pay over \$1.5 million to Jeffrey's client to resolve the matter.

Before joining Pryor Cashman in 2013, Jeffrey spent six years as a federal prosecutor in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York where he led grand jury investigations and prosecuted a wide variety of white-collar criminal offenses. His cases included money laundering, bank fraud, securities fraud, mail and wire fraud, bankruptcy fraud and civil and criminal asset-forfeiture actions.

While in the U.S. Attorney's Office, Jeffrey played an instrumental role in several high-profile cases, including asset forfeiture proceedings involving proceeds of the securities fraud that Marc Dreier executed using the law firm Dreier LLP, the fraud scheme at the financial services company Refco, Inc., and the securities fraud committed by Samuel Israel at the hedge fund known as the Bayou Funds. He also received international recognition for successfully litigating an asset forfeiture jury trial concerning stolen artwork created by the renowned artist Camille Pissarro and returning the artwork to the French Government.

For his work as a federal prosecutor, Jeffrey received the John Marshall Award, the U.S. Department of Justice's highest honor for legal excellence. He also received the Department of Justice National Asset Forfeiture Award for his role in the forfeiture of over \$500 million in proceeds of the fraud at Refco, Inc.

FinTech Bio

Jeffrey Alberts co-heads the firm's FinTech Group. In this role, he represents blockchain, digital currency, payments, and FinTech companies on a wide variety of regulatory issues. Jeffrey regularly advises clients concerning money transmission, securities offering, anti-money laundering, prepaid access, consumer credit, privacy and data security, and payment processing regimes. He also represents FinTech clients in responding to regulatory inquiries and enforcement actions.

Jeffrey has particularly extensive experience in the application of law to blockchain technology and has represented the global leaders of the blockchain industry since 2014. His groundbreaking legal work representing blockchain pioneers has been discussed in several histories of the blockchain industry, including *Beyond Bitcoin: Decentralised Finance and the End of Banks* (2022), *The Cryptopians* (2022), and *Out of Ether* (2020).

In 2023, *Chambers and Partners* ranked him in its FinTech guide. A thought leader in the field, Jeffrey is regularly featured in prestige legal and trade publications, such as the *Wall Street Journal*, *Time*, and *Coin Desk*, among others. He co-authored the seminal law review article, "Is Bitcoin a Security?," which was published in the Winter 2015 issue of the Boston University School of Law *Journal of Science & Technology Law*, and has been widely cited in treatises such as *Regulating Blockchain*, published by Oxford University Press. In 2018, the *National Law*

Journal named Jeffrey to its inaugural list of Cryptocurrency, Blockchain and FinTech Trailblazers. He continues to work on cutting-edge legal issues related to the use of blockchain technology, including developments in the use of non-fungible tokens (NFTs) and decentralized finance (DeFi) platforms.

Financial Institutions Bio

Jeffrey Alberts co-heads the firm's Financial Institutions Group. In this role, Jeffrey advises banks and other financial institutions on regulatory matters. He also represents banks, their boards of directors, and senior management in regulatory inquiries and enforcement actions, internal investigations, and criminal proceedings.

Jeffrey represents clients before a variety of regulators of financial institutions, including the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC), and the Federal Reserve Board (FRB), as well as state agencies such as the New York State Department of Financial Services (DFS). He also negotiates on behalf of clients with other federal agencies, such as the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN), the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC).

Jeffrey is known as a forceful advocate for clients in responding to regulatory actions. Unlike most regulatory attorneys, he is an experienced trial lawyer and has specific experience in regulatory enforcement proceedings. Jeffrey's ability to demonstrate shortcomings in the positions taken by bank regulators was evident, for example, when he represented a client in an enforcement action in which a federal bank regulator sought to impose a financial penalty on Jeffrey's client based in part on allegedly unsafe and unsound practices. Rather than settle on the regulator's proposed terms, Jeffrey took the case to trial. At trial, the client was vindicated, paid no penalty, and the bank regulator agreed to pay over \$1.5 million to the client to resolve the matter.

Jeffrey is particularly interested in the intersection between traditional banking and advances in financial technology. For example, he successfully represented a bank before a federal regulator in a proposal to offer bank customers a service that made use of cryptocurrency. Jeffrey also advises financial institutions and FinTech companies on how regulations such as Bank Secrecy Act apply to new and cutting-edge FinTech applications and platforms.

Publications

March 12, 2026

Reading the Tea Leaves: Forthcoming Regulatory Scrutiny of Prediction Markets

New York Law Journal

March 2, 2026

Alberts Discusses Stablecoins and M&A Trends in Financial Services

FinTech Law Report

December 10, 2025

OCC Greenlights "Riskless Principal" Crypto Trades for National Banks

November 6, 2025

No Trouble for DoubleZero: SEC Clears the Way for 2Z Token

New York Law Journal

August 11, 2025

Alberts Quoted in Law360 on Ripple Injunction and Long-Term Enforcement Risks

Law360

July 30, 2025

Alberts Shares Legal Insights on Crypto Regulation in 2025

Databird Business Journal

July 21, 2025

Alberts Quoted in Law360 on Compliance Challenges for Stablecoin Issuers Under the Genius Act
Law360

July 3, 2025

Genius Moves Only: How Stablecoin Execs Can Avoid Compliance Catastrophe
New York Law Journal

May 13, 2025

CFTC Memos Clarify When 'Sorry' Still Gets You Subpoenaed
Law360

March 27, 2025

OCC Clears the Path: Rescinding Regulatory Hurdles to Empower Bank Crypto Innovation
New York Law Journal

March 26, 2025

Alberts and Wiltse Examine U.S. Prosecutions Based on Foreign Violations
Anti-Corruption Report

March 14, 2025

Considerations As Trump Admin Continues To Curtail CFPB
Law360

February 18, 2025

FCPA Enforcement on Hold: Navigating the New Compliance Landscape

February 14, 2025

Meme Coins Unchained: Peirce Draws a Line on SEC Oversight

February 4, 2025

Trump Administration Moves to Rein in the CFPB

January 3, 2025

Federal Judge Slaps Down the SEC's Attempt to Regulate Crypto Liquidity Providers
New York Law Journal

October 8, 2024

The FTC and G7 Competition Authorities Take Aim at AI Market Power and Deception

July 9, 2024

Navigating the CFPB's Nonbank Order Registry: What Fintechs Need to Know

February 29, 2024

The CFPB Limits Intra-Agency Appeal Rights
New York Law Journal

November 27, 2023

Navigating the FTC's New AI Oversight: What Your Company Needs to Know

November 21, 2023

Navigating FCPA Challenges: How Lifecore's Self-Reporting Avoided DOJ Prosecution

November 15, 2023

A Million-Dollar Lesson in Sanctions Compliance: The Payoneer Case

November 9, 2023

Regulating the Future: CFPB Proposes Oversight of Digital Payment Giants

September 11, 2023

The SEC Sows Confusion With NFT Enforcement Action

New York Law Journal

August 11, 2023

Alberts Comments on SEC's Ripple-XRP Cryptocurrency Appeal

Blockworks; Crowdfund Insider

August 4, 2023

The SEC's Materially False Statements on Crypto

New York Law Journal

July 13, 2023

Alberts Discusses Ripple Cryptocurrency Ruling

Law360; Crowdfund Insider; Fortune

June 28, 2023

Alberts Comments on Criminal Forfeiture of VC Investments

Crain's Chicago Business

June 5, 2023

Alberts Comments on CFTC Bitcoin Fraud Penalties

All Rise

March 29, 2023

New York AG as Global Crypto Cop

New York Law Journal

January 2, 2023

Alberts Comments on Banking Regulation Changes in 2023

Law360

December 28, 2022

The CFPB Seeks Power Through Proposed Registry

New York Law Journal

October 27, 2022

Alberts Comments on Tornado Cash Lawsuits

Wall Street Journal

October 4, 2022

Alberts Comments on SEC's Kardashian Crypto Fine

Crowdfund Insider

September 29, 2022

Sanctioning Code: What's Next for Crypto Sanctions?

New York Law Journal

July 25, 2022

Alberts Discusses SEC's Crypto Insider Trading Case

Law360

June 29, 2022

The CFPB's Fintech Power Grab

New York Law Journal

March 30, 2022

Is the SEC's Regulation of Crypto Lenders Self-Defeating?

Published by The New York Law Journal

October 25, 2021

Fall Blockchain Update Episode 5: China's Crypto Crackdown

October 21, 2021

Fall Blockchain Update Episode 4: DOJ Crypto Team

October 15, 2021

Fall Blockchain Update Episode 3: SEC vs Coinbase

October 11, 2021

Fall Blockchain Update Episode 2: Kraken Fine

September 15, 2021

Fall Blockchain Update Episode 1: DEX Regulation

July 21, 2021

Surge in Cybersecurity Enforcement Actions

May 2021

U.S. Extraterritorial Discovery Considerations for Foreign Banking Organizations

May 25, 2021

FDIC Significantly Revises Intra-Agency Appeals Guidelines

Published by The Banking Law Journal

April 12, 2021

Banking & Cannabis: An Analysis of Banking Laws as It Relates to the Legalization of Marijuana

April 7, 2021

FinCEN Moves Toward Beneficial Ownership Registry

February 8, 2021

OCC Permits National Banks to Enter Stablecoin Arena

Published in Bloomberg Law

October 5, 2020

OCC OK's Banks Taking Stablecoin Reserve Deposits

July 13, 2020

Raice, Alberts, and Nofziger Analyze Federal Reserve Board Intra-Agency Appeals Process in The Banking Law Journal

July 13, 2020

The Federal Reserve Board Significantly Revises Intra-Agency Appeals Procedures

The Banking Law Journal

May 5, 2020

The OCC Keeps Fighting New York Over FinTech Charters

April 27, 2020

Libra Creates Opportunities for Banks and FinTechs

April 6, 2020

New FRB Rule Facilitates Bank Holding Company Investments in FinTechs

March 26, 2020

SEC Wins Preliminary Injunction Barring Distribution of Telegram's Cryptocurrency

March 25, 2020

Considerations for Mortgage Servicers During COVID-19

January 7, 2020

Funds Travel Rule: A Headache for Cryptocurrency Transmitters

September 6, 2019

Remittance Transfer Rule Enforcement Heats Up

September 5, 2019

Supreme Court's Reimagining of Auer Deference Weakens Case for Deference to FFIEC Manual

September 4, 2019

The Supreme Court May Have Undermined the U.S. Government's Ability to Enforce the Bank Secrecy Act

August 12, 2019

The Fed's Jump into Real Time Payments Appears to be Good News for Community Banks and FinTechs

April 9, 2019

Supreme Court's Reconsideration of "Seminole Rock" & "Auer" Deference Could Significantly Impact Bank Secrecy Act Enforcement

September 24, 2018

Foreign Governments Investigate Banks' Refusal to Offer Accounts to Crypto Companies

September 18, 2018

New York DFS Approves Stablecoins

September 14, 2018

New York Federal Court Rules Initial Coin Offerings May Have Been Illegal Securities Offerings

September 5, 2018

Blog Editor Jeff Alberts Named on NLJ's Cryptocurrency, Blockchain and FinTech Trailblazer List!

August 22, 2018

Feds Arrest Man Who Allegedly Operated Unlicensed Bitcoin Exchange as a Teen

August 17, 2018

Trading Bitcoin Illegal in Saudi Arabia

August 15, 2018

How to Apply for an OCC FinTech Charter

August 8, 2018

DFS Announces "Fierce" Opposition to Federal FinTech Plans

August 6, 2018

OCC Will Issue National Charters to FinTech Companies

May 15, 2018

SEC Commissioner Discusses Beaches and Bitcoin

March 12, 2018

FinCEN Letter Suggests Doing an ICO Generally Makes Company a Money Transmitter

October 5, 2017

The SEC Is Watching Cryptocurrencies, So Beware — But Don't Overreact

September 7, 2017

Judge Punishes CFPB for Misconduct Toward Payment Processors

August 11, 2017

OCC Continues to Pursue FinTech, Despite State Opposition

July 19, 2017

OCC & NYDFS Battle to Regulate FinTech

July 18, 2017

OCC and DFS Battle for the Future of FinTech

June 13, 2017

When Confidential Supervisory Information Hinders Attorney-Client Relationships

February 7, 2017

Alberts Explains How Trump Policy Will Affect Payments Industry

February 1, 2017

Alberts & Weiner Explore the Implications of Remaining Silent Before Banking Regulators

January 18, 2017

What Can FinTech Expect from Trump?

December 6, 2016

OCC's New Fintech Charter is Laudable, But Value is Not Yet Clear

October 11, 2016

Ross Ulbricht Conviction Unlikely To Be Reversed

May 3, 2016

Colony Wins Blockchain Funding at Consensus 2016!

April 19, 2016

FinTech Monitor Editor to Speak at "Power of Prepaid" Conference

February 26, 2016

Signing Consent Orders in Regulatory Disputes

February 24, 2016

FinTech Monitor Editor to Speak At Bitcoin Conference

February 24, 2016

Alberts and Fry Author "Is Bitcoin a Security?" Article for Boston University School of Law Journal of Science & Technology Law

August 18, 2015

Alberts Pens Article on Bank Secrecy Act and Cryptocurrency Revolution

July 27, 2015

Prosecutors Charge Another Bitcoin Exchange Operator

July 27, 2015

Bank Secrecy Act and the Cryptocurrency Revolution

July 10, 2015

Alberts Co-Authors Article on State Virtual Currency Law

June 24, 2015

DFS Adopts BitLicense: 45-Day Countdown Begins!

June 12, 2015

Will Bitcoin Terrorist Plea Increase Terror of Bitcoin?

June 3, 2015

Scrutiny of Credit Unions Threatens FinTech

June 1, 2015

Ross Ulbricht's Life Sentence

January 15, 2015

When the Whistle Blows

December 1, 2014

Compliance Officers as Whistleblowers: How Firms Can Adapt

November 10, 2014

Enforcement Trends Change the Dynamics of Internal Investigations

February 10, 2014

The Rise of the Civil Money Laundering Prosecution