

Trump Tapped A Lawyer Who Argued In Favor Of Crypto Deregulation That Would Benefit The President's Own Personal Finances For A Ninth Circuit Position Overseeing Silicon Valley

SUMMARY: During his first term, Trump frequently criticized the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, calling it a “disgrace” as the famously liberal court stymied his agenda. He began reshaping the court and [nominated](#) ten of its 29 judges. For his first Ninth Circuit pick of his second term, Trump selected Eric Tung, a Jones Day partner.

Tung has built his career representing crypto firms seeking to avoid government regulation. He served as counsel for a stablecoin provider in a [brief](#) arguing standalone sales of stablecoins are not securities. He [represented](#) the Blockchain Association in a brief opposing regulation of immutable smart contracts. While representing an investment firm backing crypto companies, he [argued](#) for looser liability on a crypto tool. He [represented](#) a cryptocurrency derivative trading platform and authored a [note](#) about a crypto exchange listing win.

The Ninth Circuit [covers](#) Silicon Valley and has heard a series of crypto-related court cases in recent years. Trump's estimated [\\$2.9 billion](#) crypto fortune, nearly 40% of his net worth, establishes a clear interest in crypto-friendly judicial appointments. The arguments made by Tung, calling for less regulation, would benefit the Trump family as they push for decentralized financial entities and crypto ETFs. Tung is poised to push back against the court's liberal reputation, and was likely expected by the Trump administration to provide a vote for crypto deregulation in cases that come before him—a move that could have a measurable impact on the Trump family's financial position.

Trump Announced The Nomination Of Eric Tung To The Ninth Circuit Court Of Appeals, A Court Which Hears Many Crypto Cases

July 2025: Trump Announced The Nomination Of Eric Tung To The Ninth Circuit Court Of Appeals

July 2, 2025: Trump Announced The Nomination Of Eric Tung To The Ninth Circuit Court Of Appeals.



Donald J. Trump 
@realDonaldTrump

I am very pleased to announce the nomination of Eric Tung to serve as Judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Eric worked for two of our Country's Greatest Supreme Court Justices, Antonin Scalia and Neil Gorsuch, before working at the Department of Justice, and serving as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Central District of California. Eric is a Tough Patriot, who will uphold the Rule of Law in the most RADICAL, Leftist States like California, Oregon, and Washington. It is critical now, more than ever before, that we have LAW AND ORDER. Good luck and congratulations Eric!

1.1k ReTruths 4.49k Likes

Jul 02, 2025, 5:51 PM

[Truth Social, @realDonaldTrump, [7/2/25](#)]

Tung Is A Partner At Jones Day, Focused On Appeals And Motions Practice In Commercial Litigation For Clients, Including Digital Currency Companies. “Eric Tung Partner [...] Eric Tung focuses on appeals and motions practice in commercial litigation. He has drafted briefs and motions in federal and state courts,

before administrative agencies, and in arbitrations and mediations. He has argued on numerous occasions in federal and state courts around the country at the trial and appellate levels, including the California Court of Appeal, Ninth Circuit, D.C. Circuit, Seventh Circuit, and Florida Supreme Court. His clients include telecommunications, energy, banking, real estate, construction, entertainment, and digital currency companies.” [Jones Day, accessed [7/2/25](#)]

During His First Administration, Trump Lambasted The Ninth Circuit After It Stymied His Agenda

During Trump’s First Term, The Ninth Circuit Stymied His Agenda. “On Monday, President-elect Donald J. Trump will return to the White House with a raft of boundary-pushing executive orders expected to curtail immigration, hasten deportations, and unleash oil and gas drilling, among other efforts. On the opposite side of the country, an old adversary awaits him: the famously liberal U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit, where progressive lawyers repeatedly persuaded a court dominated by judges nominated by Democratic presidents to stymie much of his agenda during his first term.” [New York Times, [1/17/25](#)]

- **2018: Trump Called The Ninth Circuit A “Disgrace” And Claimed He Wanted To “Put In A Major Complaint.”** “In lengthy and fiery comments to reporters outside the White House on Tuesday, President Trump excoriated the liberal-leaning Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals as a ‘disgrace’ hours after an Obama-appointed federal judge there issued a nationwide injunction against his newly announced emergency restrictions on asylum claims. The president vowed immediate action and said he was ‘going to put in a major complaint’ about the appellate court, based in San Francisco, without elaborating.” [Fox News, [12/8/18](#)]

Trump Has Also Reshaped The Ninth Circuit, Nominating Ten Of The 29 Judges And Bringing Its Balance To 16 Democratic Appointees And 13 Republican. “Trump in 2018 described the 9th Circuit as a ‘disgrace’ as it issued a series of decisions rejecting key parts of his first-term agenda. But he also reshaped it during those four years, naming 10 conservative judges to the 9th Circuit, helping shift it to the right and reduce the liberal judges’ dominance. Today, it has 16 Democratic appointees and 13 named by Republican presidents.” [Reuters, [3/18/25](#)]

During His Second Term, Fewer Cases Challenging His Administration Have Been Brought In The Ninth Circuit. “Experts say the filings reflect a seismic shift in the U.S. appellate courts. The 9th Circuit, once the left flank of the federal appellate system and the president’s self-proclaimed adversary, is no longer a bastion of legal resistance.” [Los Angeles Times, [2/7/25](#)]

The Court Covers Silicon Valley And Hears Major Cases Involving Crypto

The Ninth Circuit Is The Largest Appeals Court And Covers The Tech Hub of Silicon Valley. “The Ninth Circuit is the largest of the country’s 12 regional appeals courts in terms of judges, population and square miles. Its sprawling jurisdiction covers nine Western states, including the technology hub of Silicon Valley and more than 500 miles of the southwestern border, areas where Mr. Trump’s policy plans could loom large.” [New York Times, [1/17/25](#)]

September 2024: The Ninth Circuit Allowed A Crypto Investor To Pursue A Claim Against AT&T Over The Hack Of His Phone By A Teenager Who Stole \$24 Million. “A Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals panel says a well-known cryptocurrency investor can pursue one of his claims against AT&T over the hack of his mobile phone in 2018 by a teenager who stole \$24 million. The appellate panel on Monday upheld the dismissal of most of Michael Terpin’s fraud and negligence claims as well as the summary judgment a trial judge in Los Angeles had issued in favor of AT&T except for one related to the Federal Communications Act.” [Courthouse News Service, [9/30/24](#)]

August 2024: The Ninth Circuit Partially Reversed The Dismissal Of A Proposed Class-Action Lawsuit Against Binance.US Which Alleged The Exchange Unlawfully Manipulated The Price Of The Hex Token. “A United States appeals court has partially reversed the dismissal of a proposed class-action lawsuit against Binance.US, which alleges the exchange unlawfully manipulated the price of the Hex (HEX) token. A panel of three judges in the US Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit reversed a district court’s previous dismissal of the class-action suit, and stated that the plaintiff, Ryan Cox, had made justifiable claims against Binance.US and CoinMarketCap.” [Coin Telegraph, [8/13/24](#)]

The Ninth Circuit Ruled Against Coinbase In A Case Involving A Contracts Dispute. “In David Suski v. Coinbase, Inc., et al., the Ninth Circuit affirmed a district court order denying defendant Coinbase, Inc.’s (Coinbase) motion to compel arbitration, concluding that issues surrounding a forum selection clause were not delegated to the arbitrator and were for the court to decide. The court further found that the forum selection clause in Coinbase’s official rules superseded the user agreement’s arbitration clause.” [JD Supra, [1/20/23](#)]

Trump Has Developed A Personal Business In Crypto, And Thus A Vested Interest In Crypto-Friendly Litigation

Crypto Has Turbocharged The Trumps’ Monetization of Their Name, Adding An Estimated \$2.9 Billion To Trump’s Fortune. “President Trump’s venture into crypto products has increased his family’s wealth by billions in the last six months, according to a new report, as his administration continues to loosen the federal government’s regulatory approach to the digital currency industry as a whole. The group State Democracy Defenders Action estimated in a new report that the president’s crypto holdings now represent nearly 40% of his net worth — or approximately \$2.9 billion.” [CBS News, [5/2/25](#)]

July 2025: Trump Media Sought The SEC’s Approval To Launch A Crypto Exchange-Traded Fund. “Trump Media & Technology Group (DJT.O), is looking to launch an exchange-traded fund that will invest in multiple crypto tokens, including bitcoin, ether, solana and ripple, a filing with the U.S. markets regulator showed on Tuesday.” [Reuters, [7/8/25](#)]

Eric Tung Has Built A Career Representing Crypto Firms Seeking To Avoid Regulation

2023: Tung Represented A Stablecoin Issuer In A Brief Arguing Standalone Sales Of Stablecoins Are Not Securities, A Position That, If Adopted, Would Benefit A Trump Family-Backed Stablecoin

Tung Represented A Stablecoin Issuer Arguing That Standalone Stablecoin Sales Are Not Securities

June 2023: The SEC Brought A Complaint Against Binance, Accusing The Crypto Exchange Of Illegally Serving U.S. Users, Inflating Trading Volumes, And Commingling Customer Funds. “In a Thursday filing in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, lawyers for the SEC and Binance jointly moved to dismiss the case, which was first brought in June 2023. The original complaint accused the crypto exchange of violations including illegally serving U.S. users, inflating trading volumes, and commingling customer funds. The agency also claimed that Binance unlawfully enabled trading in crypto assets it viewed as unregistered securities, an argument that was also used against Coinbase, Kraken, and others under prior SEC leadership.” [CNBC, [5/29/25](#)]

Tung Represented Circle Internet Financial In An Amicus Brief.

CONCLUSION

For these reasons, Circle respectfully requests that it be granted leave to file the attached

amicus curiae brief.

Dated: September 28, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

Heath P. Tarbert (D.C. Bar No. 468065)**
Daniel Kaleba**
Jeremy Gray**
CIRCLE INTERNET FINANCIAL, LLC
99 High Street, Suite 1801
Boston, MA 02110
Telephone: 617.326.8326
heath.tarbert@circle.com

/s/ Jacob ("Yaakov") M. Roth
Yaakov M. Roth (D.C. Bar No. 995090)
Alexis Zhang (D.C. Bar No. 90008032)*
JONES DAY
51 Louisiana Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001
Telephone: 202.879.3939
yroth@jonesday.com

Mark W. Rasmussen**
JONES DAY
2727 North Harwood Street, Suite 500
Dallas, TX 75201
Telephone: 214.220.3939
mrasmussen@jonesday.com

Eric Tung**
JONES DAY
555 South Flower Street, Fiftieth Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90071
Telephone: 213.489.3939
etung@jonesday.com

**admission pending*

***pro hac forthcoming*

Counsel for Amicus Curiae

[District of Columbia, SEC v. Binance, Motion to File An Amicus Curiae, filed [9/28/23](#)]

- **Circle Internet Financial, Is A Global Financial Technology Company That Issues USDC, A Popular Stablecoin.** "Circle Internet Financial, LLC is a global financial technology company that works to increase economic opportunity and prosperity through the power of digital currency. Circle is the issuer of USDC, one of the world's most popular payment stablecoins. Like other U.S. dollarbacked payment stablecoins, USDC is a digital asset designed to be used to make payments or settlements, whose redemption value is pegged to the U.S. dollar at a 1:1 ratio." [District of Columbia, SEC v. Binance, Amicus Curiae, filed [9/28/23](#)]

The Brief Argued That Standalone Sales Of Payment Stablecoins Are Not Securities. "Jones Day filed an amicus brief on behalf of Circle Internet Financial LLC, in the SEC's lawsuit against the crypto asset exchange Binance. The brief argues that standalone sales of payment stablecoins, like Circle's USDC, are not securities. The court dismissed the portion of the SEC's lawsuit that alleged that sales of Binance's stablecoin were securities transactions." [Jones Day, [June 2023](#)]

May 2025: The SEC Dismissed A Civil Enforcement Action Against Binance Entities. "SEC Announces Dismissal of Civil Enforcement Action Against Binance Entities and Founder Changpeng Zhao The Securities and Exchange Commission today filed a joint stipulation with Defendants Binance Holdings Limited, BAM Trading Services Inc., BAM Management US Holdings Inc., and Changpeng Zhao to dismiss, with prejudice, the Commission's ongoing civil enforcement action against them. In the exercise of its discretion and as a policy matter, the Commission determined that the dismissal of this action is appropriate." [SEC, [5/29/25](#)]

Circle And Binance Were Tied To The Trump Administration And His Family's Crypto Projects

Circle International Financial Also Donated \$1 Million In USD Coin To Trump's 2025 Inauguration. "Circle Internet Financial has donated \$1 million to President-elect Donald Trump's inaugural committee, the crypto industry's latest show of financial support to the incoming president. The company made the donation in USD Coin, a type of cryptocurrency that seeks to maintain a value of \$1, Circle's chief executive Jeremy Allaire said in a post on the social-media platform X on Thursday. "We are excited to be building a great American

Accountable^{.US}

company, and the fact that the Committee took payment in USDC is an indicator of how far we have come, and the potential and power of digital dollars,” he said.” [Wall Street Journal, [1/10/25](#)]

March 2025: The Wall Street Journal Reported That The Trump Family “Held Talks To Take A Financial Stake In The U.S. Arm Of Crypto Exchange Binance,” While Its Billionaire Founder Changpeng Zhao Sought A Pardon For Money Laundering Violations That Resulted In A Prison Sentence For Zhao And \$4.3 Billion In Fines For Binance. “Representatives of President Trump’s family have held talks to take a financial stake in the U.S. arm of crypto exchange Binance, according to people familiar with the matter, a move that would put Trump in business with the firm that pleaded guilty in 2023 to violating anti-money-laundering requirements. At the same time, Binance’s billionaire founder, Changpeng Zhao—who served four months in prison after pleading guilty to a related charge—has been pushing for the Trump administration to grant him a pardon, people familiar with the matter said. Zhao, widely known as CZ, remains Binance’s largest shareholder.” [The Wall Street Journal, [3/13/25](#)]

- **Reportedly, The Trump Family May Acquire A Stake In Binance Through World Liberty Financial.** “It is unclear what form the Trump family stake would take if the deal comes together or whether it would be contingent on a pardon. The possibilities include the Trumps taking the stake or the deal going through World Liberty Financial, a cryptocurrency venture backed by the Trumps that launched in September, the people said.” [The Wall Street Journal, [3/13/25](#)]

The Trump Family-Backed Crypto Company World Liberty Financial Launched A Stablecoin In March 2025

March 25, 2025: World Liberty Financial Announced That It Had Launched A Stablecoin Tied To The U.S. Dollar. “World Liberty Financial Inc. (“WLFI”), the developer of a pioneering DeFi protocol and governance platform inspired by President Donald J. Trump, today announced its plans to launch USD1, a stablecoin redeemable 1:1 for the US dollar (USD).” [BusinessWire, World Liberty Financial, [3/25/25](#)]

- **World Liberty Financial Is Backed By The Trump Family.** “Since its October launch, World Liberty Financial has raised \$550 million through two token sales, including \$250 million announced last week. The Trump family-backed project, which describes itself as a crypto banking platform, disclosed that entities connected to the family could receive up to 75% of the venture’s net revenue.” [CNBC, [3/25/25](#)]

2023: Tung Represented The Blockchain Association In An Amicus Brief In A Case Involving Regulation Of Immutable Smart Contracts

The Case *Van Loon et al. v. Department of the Treasury* Centered On Whether Immutable Smart Contracts Could Be Considered “Property” Under The International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA). “The case, *Van Loon et al. v. Department of the Treasury*, centered on whether Tornado Cash’s immutable smart contracts could be considered ‘property’ under the IEEPA. Relying on the Supreme Court’s decision in *Loper Bright Enterprises v. Raimondo*, the Fifth Circuit held that OFAC was no longer entitled to ‘heightened deference’ in its interpretation of the terms relevant to the case, and concluded that immutable smart contracts cannot be ‘property’ under the IEEPA because they are not capable of being owned, controlled, or altered by any individual or entity. They are not ‘owned’ by anyone, the court reasoned, in large part because possession and control typically inheres the right to exclude, and no one has the ability to exclude anyone else from using the smart contracts.” [Mayer Brown, [12/3/24](#)]

- **Smart Contracts Are Digital Contracts Stored On A Blockchain.** “Smart contracts are digital contracts stored on a blockchain that are automatically executed when predetermined terms and conditions are met. Smart contracts are typically used to automate the execution of an agreement so that all participants can be immediately certain of the outcome, without any intermediary’s involvement or time loss. They can also automate a workflow, triggering the next action when predetermined conditions are met.” [IBM, accessed [7/7/25](#)]

- **November 2024: The Fifth Circuit Ruled That The Treasury Department Exceeded Its Statutory Authority By Sanctioning Immutable Smart Contracts.** “On November 26, 2024, the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit issued a landmark decision holding that the Treasury Department’s Office of Foreign Assets Control (‘OFAC’) exceeded its statutory authority by sanctioning immutable smart contracts created by Tornado Cash. While the decision leaves several legal issues open and is still subject to appeal by the Treasury Department, it has significant implications for the use of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (‘IEEPA’) to regulate certain decentralized finance (DeFi) technologies.” [Mayer Brown, [12/3/24](#)]

2023: Tung Served As Counsel For The Blockchain Association In An Amicus Brief.

BRIEF FOR AMICUS CURIAE BLOCKCHAIN ASSOCIATION IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS-APPELLANTS

Eric Tung
JONES DAY
555 South Flower Street,
Fiftieth Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90071
(213) 489-3939

Mark R. Rasmussen
JONES DAY
2727 North Harwood Street
Suite 500
Dallas, TX 75201
(214) 220-3939
mrasmussen@jonesday.com

Alexis Zhang
JONES DAY
51 Louisiana Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20001
(202) 879-3939

Counsel for Amicus Curiae

[Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, Van Loon et al. v. Department of the Treasury, Amicus Curiae, filed [11/20/23](#)]

- **The Amicus Brief Claimed The Sanctioning Raised “Serious Regulatory And Constitutional Questions With Important Implications For The Blockchain Ecosystem.”** “The Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) decision to sanction Tornado Cash—privacy-protecting software used on the Ethereum blockchain—raises serious regulatory and constitutional questions with important implications for the blockchain ecosystem and the digital asset economy. Amicus submits this brief to assist the Court in understanding blockchain technology and the serious legal problems posed by the Tornado Cash sanctions.” [Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals, Van Loon et al. v. Department of the Treasury, Amicus Curiae, filed [11/20/23](#)]

2023: Tung Wrote A Note For Jones Day About A Crypto Company’s Successful Petition To Vacate The SEC’s Order Denying The Company’s Request To Approve The Listing Of Its Bitcoin ETP

2023: Tung Wrote A Note About The Listing Of A Bitcoin Exchange-Traded Product

2023: Tung Wrote An Alert About An Appeals Court Decision Granting Grayscale Investment’s Petition To Vacate The SEC’s Order Denying Grayscale’s Request To Approve The Exchange Listing Of Its Bitcoin ETP. “On August 29, 2023, the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit granted a petition from Grayscale Investments, LLC, vacating the SEC’s order denying Grayscale’s request to approve the exchange listing of its bitcoin ETP. The case represents a win for Grayscale on an administrative law challenge. According to the ruling, the proposed bitcoin ETP was substantially similar to two bitcoin futures ETPs that the SEC previously approved, and the SEC failed to treat like cases alike when it denied the listing

Accountable^{.US}

of Grayscale's proposed bitcoin ETP while having approved the two bitcoin futures ETPs. Because the SEC did not adequately explain the disparate regulatory treatment of the Grayscale product as compared to similar products, the court held that the SEC's order was arbitrary and capricious." [Eric Tung et al., Jones Day, [9/5/23](#)]

2025: The New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) Asked The Trump Securities And Exchange Commission (SEC) To Change A Rule To Allow Trump Media's New Bitcoin And Ethereum ETF To Be Listed On The NYSE

June 24, 2025: The New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) Filed A Proposed Rule Change To The Trump Administration's U.S. Securities And Exchange Commission Requesting A Rule Change To Allow The NYSE To List Trump Media's Bitcoin And Ethereum Exchange Traded Fund (ETF). "On Tuesday, the New York Stock Exchange filed a proposed rule change to allow the listing of an ETF from Trump Media & Technology Group, which would track Bitcoin and Ethereum, according to an SEC filing. The application comes just eight days after Trump Media, through a partnership with Yorkville America, filed a prospectus for the Truth Social Bitcoin and Ethereum ETF, which would feature a 75% Bitcoin and 25% Ethereum holdings ratio." [Decrypt, [6/24/25](#)]

2022: Tung Represented A Crypto Investment Firm In A Case Arguing Against Regulatory Scrutiny On Decentralized Finance Actors, A Position Also Advanced By The Trump Family

Tung Represented A Crypto Investment Firm In A Case Arguing Against Regulation On Decentralized Finance Actors

June 2023: A Federal Judge Sided With The U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) In A Lawsuit Alleging That The Decentralized Autonomous Organization (DAO) Ooki DAO Offered Unregistered Commodities, Ending An Industry-Wide Perception That Decentralized Finance Actors Were Immune To Regulatory Scrutiny. "A federal judge has sided with the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) in a lawsuit alleging decentralized autonomous organization (DAO) Ooki DAO offered unregistered commodities, quashing an industry-wide perception that decentralized finance (DeFi) actors are immune to regulatory scrutiny. U.S. District Judge William H. Orrick ruled on Thursday that Ooki DAO operated an illegal trading platform and unlawfully acted as an unregistered futures commission merchant (FCM), granting the CFTC a default judgment. He ordered the organization to pay \$643,542 in penalty, to permanently cease its operations and shut down its website." [CoinDesk, [6/9/23](#)]

2022: Tung Served As Counsel For Paradigm In An Amicus Brief In The Case.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Paradigm respectfully requests leave from the Court to file the attached brief as an *amicus curiae*, to participate in the Court's briefing schedule for the *amici*, and to participate in the hearing scheduled for November 30, 2022.

Dated: October 17, 2022

Rodrigo Seira (*pro hac vice* forthcoming)
PARADIGM OPERATIONS LP
548 Market Street
San Francisco, CA 94104
Phone: (415) 986-9283
rodrigo@paradigm.xyz

By: /s/ Eric Tung

Eric Tung (SBN 275063)
JONES DAY
555 South Flower Street
Fiftieth Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90071
Phone: (213) 489-3939
Facsimile: (213) 243-2539
etung@jonesday.com

[Northern District of California, CFTC v. Ooki DAO, Motion to File An Amicus Curiae, filed [10/17/22](#)]

- **Paradigm Is An Investment Firm That Backs Crypto Companies.** “Paradigm is an investment firm that backs innovative crypto/web3 companies and protocols. To help these projects achieve their full potential, Paradigm offers them a range of services, from the technical (mechanism design, smart contract security, engineering) to the operational (recruiting and regulatory strategy). In doing so, Paradigm has developed a deep understanding of DAO technology and governance.” [Northern District of California, CFTC v. Ooki DAO, Motion to File An Amicus Curiae, filed [10/17/22](#)]

The Brief Argued That DAOs Would Develop Into “Crucial Tools” In The Future, And The Commission’s Theory Of Liability Would “Stifle That Development.” “Paradigm believes that, with time, DAOs will develop into crucial tools for empowering the communities of the future. Paradigm seeks leave to participate in this case because it is concerned that the Commission’s theory of liability would stifle that development.” [Northern District of California, CFTC v. Ooki DAO, Motion to File An Amicus Curiae, filed [10/17/22](#)]

Donald Trump, Jr. And Eric Trump Have Announced Plans For Expanded Decentralized Finance

Donald Trump, Jr. And Eric Trump Announced In 2024 That Their Plans For World Liberty Financial Included Making “DeFi More Broadly Accessible” And “User-Friendly”. “Eric and Donald Trump Jr., the sons of former president Donald Trump, have pledged to ‘make finance great again’ with a new family-run crypto endeavor called World Liberty Financial. In a meandering livestream on X on Monday, the Trump family and their associates described World Liberty Financial as a crypto platform that would let users conduct transactions without a bank sitting in the middle and extracting fees—a concept known as decentralized finance, or DeFi. While short on details, Donald Trump Jr. and Eric Trump both stressed repeatedly that World Liberty Financial’s primary goal was to make DeFi more broadly accessible. “It’s truly our job to make it understandable,” said Eric Trump during the livestream. “We have to make it intuitive, we have to make it user-friendly, and we will. Former president Donald Trump joined the call as well, stressing his pro-crypto stance. “I do believe in it,” said Trump of cryptocurrency generally. “It has a chance to really be something special.” [Wired, [09/16/24](#)]

- **Donald Trump, Jr. Spoke At The DeFi World 2025 Conference In Denver In February Alongside Several Crypto And DeFi CEOs.** “Donald Trump Jr will speak at the DeFi World 2025 Conference on February 26 in Denver about the future of blockchain, DeFi, and the US’s role in shaping it. He believes crypto is the future of American hegemony in terms of the country’s economic status and might. The event brings founders, C-level executives, visionaries, dApp innovators, and passionate crypto fans together to explore the latest trends, reveal game-changing breakthroughs, and tackle real-world challenges. It features value-driven speaker sessions, riveting panel talks, and more. Other special speakers include Kevin O’Leary, a Canadian businessman and advocate of cryptocurrency investments; Michael Kong, Cofounder of Sonic Labs; Marek Olszewski, Cofounder of Celo; and Daniel Oon, Head of DeFi at Polygon Labs. The US’s burgeoning influence in the crypto and DeFi space is due in part to SEC’s evolving stance on blockchain. With a pro-crypto commissioner leading the Crypto Task Force, the market expects clearer regulatory pathways for DeFi and token classification and friendlier policies to protect investors. It also anticipates that the US government will recognize Bitcoin as a strategic reserve asset. Within DeFi, tokenized real-world assets (RWAs) are expanding collateral options and creating new opportunities for borrowing, lending, and other financial services that were previously limited to traditional markets. The RWA market is projected to reach \$30 trillion in the next decade. Rising inflows have attracted institutional investors, which indicates the inevitable bridging of DeFi and traditional finance.” [Defiant, [2/25/25](#)]

2021: Tung Represented The Operator Of A Cryptocurrency Derivative Trading Platform In A Lawsuit

Accountable^{.US}

Jones Day Celebrated Dismissal Of A 33-Count Lawsuit Against HDR, The Operator Of The BitMEX Cryptocurrency Derivatives Trading Platform. “Jones Day client HDR Global Trading Limited (‘HDR’), the Seychelles-incorporated owner and operator of the BitMEX cryptocurrency derivatives trading platform, obtained dismissal with prejudice of a 33-count lawsuit alleging violations of the Commodity Exchange Act, RICO, and various California statutory and common law claims.” [Jones Day, September [2021](#)]

Tung Represented HDR Global Trading Limited In The Case.

Respectfully submitted,

JONES DAY

By: /s/ Eric Tung
Eric Tung

Counsel for Defendants
HDR GLOBAL TRADING LIMITED and
ABS GLOBAL TRADING LIMITED

[Northern District of California, Sorokin v. HDR Global Trading Limited, Notice of Appearance, filed [12/17/21](#)]

###