

# Cryptocurrency and Blockchain

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Operating businesses, market participants, asset managers, trading platforms and investors need to understand the rapidly evolving area of digital assets, including cryptocurrencies and blockchain technology. Previously largely unregulated, the growing interest in this asset class and in the use of peer-to-peer networks is resulting in increased scrutiny by regulators globally.

BLG is at the forefront of this movement. Our Cryptocurrency and Blockchain Group is comprised of lawyers across the country whose practices are based in a variety of legal areas, including corporate finance, investment management, derivatives, registration and regulatory compliance, FinTech, anti-money laundering and intellectual property and technology. Together, we are well positioned to assist companies with their coin or token offerings, to help launch investment funds focused on digital assets and to advise custodians, dealers, clearing systems, exchanges, marketplaces and other service providers on the unique legal and regulatory issues that they face in connection with the trading of digital assets. We also work with our clients and their service providers to address the legal issues surrounding the use of blockchain technology for information management, regulatory compliance, intellectual property rights management and the development of smart contracts solutions.

## PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

### Client Bulletins

- "[Decoding the Legal Grey Zones Around Cryptocurrencies](#)," January 2019.
- "[Top Innovative Industries Shaping the Canadian Economy](#)," January 2019.
- "[New Streamlined Report of Exempt Distribution: January 30, 2019 Deadline For Funds](#)," November 2018.
- "[Dealing with Digital](#)," September 2018.
- "[Cryptocurrency and Blockchain — Charting Recent News and Developments](#)," September 2018.
- "[SEC Settlement Decision Disrupts the Rise of Free Tokens and Bounty Programs](#)," August 2018.
- "[Will the Coffey Class Action Have a Ripple Effect?](#)," July 2018.
- "[BLG Podcast](#)," July 2018.
- "[Simple Agreements for Tokens \("SAFTs"\) and the Regulatory Risk of ICOs and Token Sales](#)," February 2018.
- "[SEC Order and Chairman's Statement Provide Further Guidance for Token Offerings](#)," December 2017.
- "[Bitcoin Futures Expected to Begin Trading on Two Major U.S. Exchanges this Month](#)," December 2017.
- "[BLG Represents First Bitcoin Market Participant to be approved by Canadian Securities Administrators](#)," September 2017.
- "[CSA Increases Regulatory Clarity in the Cryptic World of Digital Currencies](#)," August 2017.
- "[To Be or Not To Be \(a Security\)!: Regulatory Oversight of Crypto-Assets](#)," August 2017.

## REPRESENTATIVE WORK

- Advising on transactions in cryptocurrency investments and digital assets
- Obtained the first investment fund manager and exempt market dealer registrations in Canada for our client First Block Capital, an investment fund manager offering products focused solely on cryptocurrency investments
- Launched the first investment fund in Canada that invests in bitcoin
- Advising the first investment dealer in Canada to offer bitcoin futures, providing regulatory framework and developing policies and procedures
- Assisting with the establishment and launch of investment funds and venture capital funds focused on cryptocurrencies, coin and token offerings and players in the blockchain space
- Advising Canadian and offshore issuers on initial coin offerings
- Advising on going public transactions of cryptocurrency-focused businesses
- Structuring derivatives to provide exposure to digital assets
- Advising investment managers and registered dealers on the trading of bitcoin futures
- Advising on bitcoin and other blockchain payment options and structures
- Attending to the private placement of foreign cryptocurrency funds to Canadian investors