

James M. Brady

Partner

Financial Markets and Funds

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James Brady helps clients deal with a wide range of financial services regulatory matters. He advises clients across the financial markets ecosystem on securities and derivatives regulation, broker-dealer compliance and trading platform issues, and provides counsel on how emerging laws and regulatory developments related to cryptocurrencies and digital tokens may affect their businesses. Across his practice, James focuses on helping clients translate complex regulatory requirements into practical guidance that supports business objectives while managing regulatory risk.

Selling or buying, compliance is the best policy

James works with buy-side and sell-side clients, trading facilities and clearinghouses on regulatory obligations, registrations and related corporate and transactional issues. His practice includes advising broker-dealers and other market participants on securities and derivatives trading, supervision and compliance matters, as well as helping firms navigate the regulatory requirements applicable to new products, trading platforms and evolving market structures. He also advises on regulatory issues affecting trading venues and other market infrastructure, including considerations that arise as firms develop new products, expand their trading activities or enter new markets.

In addition to advising on ongoing regulatory compliance, James regularly assists clients with regulatory examinations, enforcement inquiries and cross-border regulatory management. His work frequently involves helping firms understand how rapidly evolving regulatory frameworks apply to their business models, particularly where new technologies or financial products challenge traditional regulatory categories.

James also advises clients on regulatory issues relating to digital assets, including the application of securities and derivatives laws to cryptocurrency-related products and trading activities. He works with firms seeking to develop or offer digital-asset-related products and services, and helps clients navigate the complex, evolving regulatory landscape affecting these markets.

Practices

- Broker-Dealer Regulation
- Cryptoassets and Blockchain Technology
- Financial Markets and Funds
- Futures and Derivatives
- Private Equity and Real Estate Fund Formation
- Proprietary Trading Firms

Industries

- Finance and Financial Markets

Education

- JD, University of Michigan Law School
- AB, Oberlin College, Economics

Bar Admissions

- Illinois
- Utah

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News

- James Brady Shares Insights With *The National Law Journal* on SEC Market Surveillance Tool (April 13, 2026)
- James Brady Advises Ripple in Meeting With SEC Crypto Task Force on Digital Asset Regulation (March 22, 2026)
- James Brady Shares Insights With *Law360* on Crypto ETP Listings (September 22, 2025)
- James Brady Comments on SEC and 24-Hour Equity Trading Prospects (September 3, 2025)
- *Bloomberg Law* Discusses the Future of CAT (August 18, 2025)
- James Brady Discusses SEC Openness to Crypto ETP Approvals (July 10, 2025)
- Katten Authors Receive Top Honor in Mondaq's Spring Thought Leadership Awards (May 13, 2025)
- *Law360* Talks With James Brady About Recent SEC Ether Approvals (June 24, 2024)
- Katten Names New Partners (July 26, 2022)
- First Independent and Cloud-Native Swap Data Repository — KOR SDR — Obtains CFTC Registration With Assistance of Katten (April 11, 2022)
- Coronavirus (COVID-19) Resource Center (November 10, 2021)
- Katten Represents LedgerX, First Federally Approved Exchange and Clearing Housing for Digital Currency Derivatives (July 24, 2017)

Publications

- Financial Markets and Funds *Quick Take* | Issue 52 (July 2026)
- Financial Markets and Funds *Quick Take* | Issue 51 (June 2026)
- The SEC is Through with the Trade-Through Rule (June 15, 2026)
- Financial Markets and Funds *Quick Take* | Issue 50 (May 2026)
- Financial Markets and Funds *Quick Take* | Issue 49 (April 2026)
- The SEC and CFTC Provide Crypto Clarity: Most Crypto Assets Are Not Securities (March 19, 2026)
- SEC Issues Guidance on Tokenized Securities (January 29, 2026)
- Financial Markets and Funds *Quick Take* | Issue 46 (January 2026)

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- Private Credit ETFs for Retail Investors: Yield Potential, Liquidity Risks and Regulatory Scrutiny (January 7, 2026)
- A Leaner CAT for 2026: SEC Mulls Proposed $55–$73 Million Cost Reduction (January 6, 2026)
- Financial Markets and Funds *Quick Take* | Issue 45 (December 2025)
- Pay Attention to Your Orphans (December 16, 2025)
- SEC Division of Examinations Releases Its 2026 Examination Priorities (November 25, 2025)
- So You Want to Apply to Become a CFTC-Registered Designated Contract Market (DCM)? Here's What You Should Know (November 20, 2025)
- Evaluating Nasdaq Tokenization Rule's Potential Impact (November 19, 2025)
- Financial Markets and Funds *Quick Take* | Issue 44 (November 2025)
- Financial Markets and Funds *Quick Take* | Issue 43 (October 30, 2025)
- SEC's Strategic Shift to Expand Retail Investors' Access to Private Assets Provides New Opportunities: An Overview and Key Considerations (October 24, 2025)
- Clear Skies Ahead? Predicting the Use of the Floor Trader Exemption in Event Contract Markets to Avoid Swap Dealer Registration (October 23, 2025)
- Financial Markets and Funds *Quick Take* | Issue 42 (September 2025)
- Financial Markets and Funds *Quick Take* | Issue 41 (August 2025)
- SEC Approves In-Kind Creation and Redemption for Crypto Exchange-Traded Products (August 11, 2025)
- Financial Markets and Funds *Quick Take* | Issue 40 (July 2025)
- Financial Markets and Funds *Quick Take* | Issue 39 (June 2025)
- Financial Markets and Funds *Quick Take* | Issue 38 (April 2025)
- Financial Markets and Funds *Quick Take* | Issue 36 (March 2025)
- Privacy, Data and Cybersecurity *Quick Clicks* | Issue 26 (February 2025)
- FINRA Publishes 2025 Annual Regulatory Oversight Report (January 30, 2025)

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- Foreign Listed Stock Index Futures and Options Approvals January 2025 (January 21, 2025)
- The CFTC Approves a Final Rule Regarding Investment of Customer Funds (December 23, 2024)
- Financial Markets and Funds *Quick Take* | Issue 33 (December 2024)
- Post-Election Shift: Securities Industry Anticipates Business-Friendly SEC Under Trump Administration (November 22, 2024)
- SEC Division of Examinations Publishes 2025 Priorities (October 30, 2024)
- Financial Markets and Funds *Quick Take* | Issue 30 (September 12, 2024)
- Financial Markets and Funds *Quick Take* | Issue 28 (July 2024)
- SEC Significantly Broadens "Dealer" Definition (February 23, 2024)
- *UK Financial Insights from Katten* | Issue 8 (February 2024)
- Financial Markets and Funds *Quick Take* | Issue 23 (February 2024)
- SEC Adopts Security-Based Swap Execution Facility Rules Similar to CFTC's | *The Journal on the Law of Investment & Risk Management, Futures & Derivatives Law Report* (December 2023)
- Foreign Listed Stock Index Futures and Options Approvals December 2023 (December 19, 2023)
- Copy and Paste: The SEC Adopts Security-Based Swap Execution Facility Rules that Closely Resemble Existing CFTC Swap Execution Facility Rules (November 14, 2023)
- Privacy, Data and Cybersecurity *Quick Clicks* | Issue 10 (October 2023)
- SEC Complaint Signals Aggressive Approach to Information Barriers Enforcement (September 29, 2023)
- Financial Markets and Funds *Quick Take* | Issue 18 (September 2023)
- FINRA Settles First Significant CAT Reporting Enforcement Action (September 7, 2023)
- FINRA Gains Greater Jurisdiction and Members: Amendments to SEC Rule 15b9-1 Will Require Most Proprietary Trading Broker-Dealers to Join FINRA (September 6, 2023)
- Recent DC Circuit Court of Appeals Case Brings FINRA to the Forefront of the SRO State Actor Controversy (July 17, 2023)

- *ESG Guidepost* | Issue 2 (May 2023)
- Privacy, Data and Cybersecurity *Quick Clicks* | Issue 3 (March 21, 2023)
- Financial Markets and Funds Quick Take | Issue 12 (March 17, 2023)
- SEC 2023 Examination Priorities (February 27, 2023)
- Foreign Listed Stock Index Futures and Options Approvals November 2022 (November 1, 2022)
- Financial Markets and Funds Quick Take | Issue 6 (September 15, 2022)
- Broker-Dealer Proprietary Trading Groups: FINRA May Be In Your Future (August 15, 2022)
- SEC Deals New Proposal to Expand Reach of Dealer Registration Requirements (April 5, 2022)
- Commentary – The Morphing US Treatment of the Kospi 200 Futures (March 8, 2022)
- Foreign Listed Stock Index Futures and Options Approval Chart March 2021 (March 25, 2021)
- The CFTC Adopts Comprehensive Amendments to Its Bankruptcy Rules (February 2, 2021)
- CFTC Adopts New Rules on Position Limits for Derivatives (November 16, 2020)
- Financial Markets Regulation COVID-19 Resource Center (October 22, 2020)
- CFTC Adopts New Position Limits Requirements (October 16, 2020)
- Time for a Change: The CFTC Adopts Extensive Amendments to Swap Reporting Regulations to Improve Data Quality (October 14, 2020)
- A Call to Internalize Greenhouse Gas Cost Externalities: CFTC Subcommittee Publishes First-of-Its-Kind Report Regarding Climate Change's Impact on Financial Markets (September 17, 2020)
- Foreign Listed Stock Index Futures and Options Approval Chart April 2020 (April 28, 2020)
- Business Not as Usual – COVID 19: US Securities and Derivatives Industry Regulators Provide Relief and Guidance (March 19, 2020)

- Have We Finally Reached Our Limits? CFTC Proposes New Position Limits Rules in Effort to End Decade-Long Saga (February 14, 2020)
- Foreign Listed Stock Index Futures and Options Approval Chart October 2019 (October 29, 2019)
- Foreign Listed Stock Index Futures and Options Approval Chart September 2019 (September 11, 2019)
- *Corporate & Financial Weekly Digest* (Weekly) | *Author*

Presentations and Events

- Katten's Annual Financial Markets and Regulation Crystal Ball — A Look Back at 2024 and a Look Forward to 2025 (February 11, 2025) | *Speaker*
- Regulatory Developments for Asset Managers and Broker-Dealers (July 10, 2024) | *Presenter*
- SEC Dealer Rule Roundtable | Presented by RSM (May 9, 2024) | *Panelist*
- Crypto With Katten: Is a Modern-Day Prometheus Lighting a Fire Among Traditional Derivatives Industry Participants? The Potential Implications of Labeling ETH as a Security (February 22, 2024)
- Katten's First Impressions on the SEC's Amendments to The "Dealer" Definition (February 13, 2024)
- Expect More FINRA in 2024 – Proprietary Trading Firms Becoming FINRA Members and Other Broker-Dealer Regulatory Developments (February 8, 2024) | *Speaker*
- Katten's Annual Financial Markets and Regulation Crystal Ball — A Look Back at 2023 and a Look Forward to 2024 (February 1, 2024)
- MFA Insights (January 9, 2024) | *Panelist* | *Are Bitcoin ETF Application Approvals Coming?*
- FIA Expo 2022 (November 14–15, 2022)
- Futures & Derivatives Law Seminar 2022: ESG, Black Swans, and Enforcement Trends (June 15, 2022) | *Speaker* | *What Does ESG Mean for Derivatives Markets?*
- New Developments and Issues in Swap Data Reporting — Crypto Derivatives, CFTC Rule Amendments, SEC Data Reporting and More (May 19, 2022)

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- Katten's Annual Financial Markets Regulation Crystal Ball — A Look Back at 2021 and a Look Forward to 2022 (March 8, 2022) | *Panelist*
- Katten's Annual Financial Markets Regulation Crystal Ball — A Look Back at 2020 and a Look Forward to 2021 (February 24, 2021) | *Panelist*
- Positioning for the CFTC's New Position Limits Rules (November 17, 2020) | *Speaker*
- A Brave New World: Effective Supervision and Compliance by CFTC and SEC Registrants in the New Business as Usual Environment (June 18, 2020) | *Panelist* | *Lessons Learned and the Status of Regulatory Relief*
- Have We Finally Reached Our Limits? CFTC Proposes New Position Limits Rules in Effort to End Decade-Long Saga (February 14, 2020) | *Speaker*
- The Evolution of the Application of Law to Blockchain Technology and Cryptoassets: Where Have We Come From and Where Are We Going? (June 26, 2019) | *Panelist*