



ALUMNI

# Crowell Connect

2025 Winter Issue

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## Welcome to our Winter Issue!

The last few months have been busy at Crowell, and we were thrilled to kick off the new year celebrating our colleagues who were elected to partner and promoted to senior counsel and counsel.

Also included in this issue are recaps of some recent client successes, Q&As with an alumna and a boomerang partner, a spotlight on the Crowell & Moring Foundation, and more.

We hope you enjoy this issue. Should you have any suggestions for future content or ideas for engaging with our alumni network please don't hesitate to drop us a line at [alumni@crowell.com](mailto:alumni@crowell.com).



**Phil Inglima**  
Chair, Management Board



**Chahira Solh**  
Chair, Executive Committee

## FIRM HIGHLIGHTS

# Newest Partners, Senior Counsel, and Counsel

On January 1, 2025, we announced that the firm elected 12 new partners and promoted five lawyers to senior counsel and 26 lawyers to counsel. Each of these exceptional individuals has demonstrated professional excellence and sustained commitment to our clients and our firm.

### Partners



**Jay DeSanto**  
Washington, D.C.  
Health Care



**Lyndsay Gorton**  
Washington, D.C.  
Government Contracts



**Michael Gruden**  
Washington, D.C.  
Privacy and Cybersecurity



**Alice Hall-Partyka**  
Los Angeles  
Health Care



**Raija Horstman**  
Los Angeles  
Litigation



**Nkechi Kanu**  
Washington, D.C.  
Government Contracts



**Jared Levine**  
New York  
Litigation



**Matt McBurney**  
Washington, D.C.  
Antitrust and Competition



**Tiana Russell**  
Washington, D.C.  
Public Service



**Michael Samuels**  
Washington, D.C.  
Government Contracts



**Ali Tehrani**  
Washington, D.C.  
Patents



**Lisa Umans**  
New York  
White Collar and Regulatory Enforcement

## FIRM HIGHLIGHTS

### Newest Partners, Senior Counsel, and Counsel (continued)

#### Senior Counsel



**Christine Hawes**  
Washington, D.C.  
Labor and Employment



**Yi Huang**  
Shanghai  
International Trade



**Aaron Marx**  
Washington, D.C.  
International Trade



**Jackson Pai**  
Los Angeles  
International Trade



**James Peyster**  
Washington, D.C.  
Government Contracts

#### Counsel

- **Fan Cheng**, Chicago, Advertising and Brand Protection
- **Sophie Davis**, London, International Trade
- **Kathryn Douglass**, Denver, Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources
- **Lauren Fleming**, Washington, D.C., Antitrust and Competition
- **Rina Gashaw**, Washington, D.C., Government Contracts
- **Suzanne Giammalva**, New York, Advertising and Brand Protection
- **Chantel Greene**, Washington, D.C., Litigation
- **David Griffith**, Orange County, Antitrust and Competition
- **Chris Gurley**, Los Angeles, Tax
- **Gage Javier**, Washington, D.C., Privacy and Cybersecurity
- **Kimberley Johnson**, San Francisco, Labor and Employment
- **Ashleigh Kaspari**, Denver, Litigation
- **Amanda Kwagala**, London, Corporate and Transactional
- **Mary LaFleur**, Chicago, Patents
- **Shawn Layman**, Washington, D.C., Litigation
- **Laura Martinez**, Denver, Corporate, Health Care
- **Donna Reuter**, Washington, D.C., Health Care
- **Anna Saber**, San Francisco, Litigation
- **Mariam Sarwar**, Los Angeles, Litigation
- **Issac Schabes**, Washington, D.C., Government Contracts
- **Ian Schuler**, Washington, D.C., E-Discovery and Information Management
- **Catherine Shames**, Washington, D.C., Government Contracts
- **Charlene Sun**, Orange County, Antitrust and Competition
- **Evelien Van Espen**, Brussels, International Dispute Resolution
- **Charis Zimmick**, Washington, D.C., Health Care

## FIRM HIGHLIGHTS

### Recent News

#### Crowell represents Lumin Digital in \$160 million Series A

In December, we successfully advised Lumin Digital, a leading cloud-native digital banking provider, in its \$160 million growth equity financing. The round was led by Light Street Capital, NewView Capital, and Partners Group. Lumin Digital plans to use the capital to expand product offerings while delivering exceptional value to its clients and members.

Founded in 2016, Lumin Digital combines innovation, data, and speed in a disruption-proof platform to serve financial institutions and retail and business banking users. Lumin Digital has experienced exceptional and intentional growth since its founding, seeing revenue growth rise by more than 60% in the past year alone.

The Crowell team advising Lumin included partners **Jon O'Connell**, **Mark Kass**, counsel **Justin Lurie**, and associate **Justin Meltzer**.

#### Crowell & Moring Represents Flex in JetCool Technologies Acquisition

A Crowell team recently successfully advised Flex (NASDAQ: Flex), a multinational end-to-end manufacturing company, on its recent acquisition of JetCool Technologies, a prominent liquid cooling company for data centers based in Littleton, Massachusetts.

The acquisition, which builds on a partnership established between the two companies at the 2024 OCP Global Summit, combines JetCool Technologies' advanced cooling technologies with Flex's expertise in IT and power infrastructure, global manufacturing, and vertical integration. This collaboration is expected to facilitate the deployment of AI servers at scale, improving performance, efficiency, and sustainability across AI workloads and high-performance computing.

The deal team included Crowell partners **Jon O'Connell** and **Katy Raffensperger**, counsel **Melissa Moravec**, associate **Jonathan Camello**, and many others.

#### Crowell & Moring Helps Microsoft and LF Projects Seize Illicit Websites and Combat Cybercrime

Crowell represented Microsoft and LF Projects in seizing 240 fraudulent websites linked to an Egypt-based criminal organization. On November 21, 2024, the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia unsealed a temporary restraining order against Abanoub Nady and John Doe Defendants, who developed, sold, and implemented "do it yourself" phishing kits under the predominant brand names "ONNX" and "Caffeine," among several others. In selling these kits under the ONNX name, the cybercriminals misappropriated and misused the "ONNX" trademark, which is owned by LF Projects. LF Projects uses the ONNX name and logo in connection with the Open Neural Network Exchange, a platform that enables interoperability between AI models throughout the tech industry. Numerous cybercriminal and online threat actors purchased these kits and used them in widespread phishing campaigns to bypass additional security measures and break into Microsoft customer accounts.

Microsoft's Digital Crimes Unit will continue to look for creative ways to protect its customers online and work with others across public and private sectors globally to meaningfully disrupt and deter cybercrime. As part of those efforts, Microsoft will publicly post the court filings associated with this matter so that other interested businesses may access them.

Earlier last year, Crowell's digital enforcement team successfully represented Microsoft and NGO-ISAC in a civil action to seize 66 website domains controlled by Russian-based cyber-criminals (Star Blizzard), in coordination with a concurrently filed action from the Department of Justice to seize 41 domains from the same Star Blizzard group. Microsoft and ISAC seized an additional 75 domains in a supplemental filing against Star Blizzard.

The Crowell Privacy and Cybersecurity Group team included partner **Jeff Poston**, counsel **Garylene (Gage) Javier**, and associate **Anna Z. Saber**.

## FIRM HIGHLIGHTS

# Celebrating 25 Years of the Crowell & Moring Foundation

The Crowell & Moring Foundation was created in 1999 to mark our firm's 20th anniversary and our commitment to giving back to our communities. This separate, tax-exempt organization focuses broadly on education, particularly at-risk youth and those in under-resourced areas. We believe that investing in education is the key to breaking the cycle of poverty. Our grants support a range of educational initiatives, from preschools to college programs.

The Foundation has two main missions:

- Funding Equal Justice Works (EJW) Fellows to inspire young attorneys to pursue public service and equal justice. Our latest Art Lerner EJW fellow, Sierra Campbell, promotes healthy housing for D.C. families through direct legal services, systemic, data-driven advocacy, and local policy change that ensures quality, long-lasting repairs of poor housing conditions.
- Supporting nonprofits that advance education for under-served youth in our office communities. For example, [CollegeTracks](#) helps first-generation college students and those from low-income or immigrant families navigate the college application and funding process.

The Foundation is funded by attorneys' fees from pro bono cases, firm gifts, and donations from the Crowell family, including staff and attorneys. Over the past 25 years, we have granted over **\$3 million dollars** to nonprofits.

Our Board, which includes some of our Crowell alumni, carefully selects efficient and effective organizations to ensure every dollar is well-spent. We have no staff or overhead, so all donations go directly to deserving nonprofits. Past beneficiaries include [SisterMentors](#), [Washington Jesuit Academy](#), [Thurgood Marshall Academy](#), [Cool Culture](#), and [Legal Prep Charter Academy](#).

Our fundraising target for 2024 was \$100,000, and we are thrilled to announce we surpassed this goal! Please consider donating to help us continue supporting these incredible organizations by clicking [here](#).

“As a first-generation college graduate from a low-income background, I’m honored to help make the legal system work for families with low incomes.”

*Sierra Campbell, 2024 Equal Justice Works Fellow*

## C&M International Rebrands as Crowell Global Advisors



In October 2024, C&M International, the global policy consulting firm affiliated with Crowell, rebranded to Crowell Global Advisors (CGA) to reflect its growth and continued commitment to helping clients navigate the complex geopolitical landscape and develop the business and advocacy strategies they need to succeed and grow. With an expanded, seasoned team of former C-suite executives, senior government officials, and industry veterans, CGA will continue to provide world-class strategic counsel and international trade consulting to clients across industries, including healthcare, digital technology, manufacturing, and more.

Earlier in 2024, CGA brought on GERALYN Ritter as President and CEO and has added a dozen new senior, mid-level, and junior advisors and professionals. Most recently, they welcomed Dr. Monica Gorman, a senior White House official under former President Joe Biden, as a managing director. CGA has developed an aggressive growth strategy built on the firm's unique areas of focus and a consultative approach to bringing together clients with government agencies and advocacy groups to drive meaningful policy change. Learn more about them at [crowellglobaladvisors.com](https://crowellglobaladvisors.com).

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

### Adeoye (Ade) Johnson

Ade Johnson, an associate in Crowell's Washington, D.C. office from 2015-2019, is Associate Principal Counsel at The Walt Disney Company. He is also an owner and producer at Runtime Studio, a production studio that focuses on amplifying the voices of the marginalized by showcasing the untold stories of Black people. Ade received his B.A. from Washington University in St. Louis and his J.D. from Howard University School of Law. He now resides in Los Angeles and is working on some fascinating projects, both at Disney and Runtime. Get to know Ade below!



#### Tell us about your time at Crowell, and what you have been up to since.

I began my legal career at Crowell as a summer associate in 2014. At the time, I was interested in both International Trade and Intellectual Property. When I joined as a full-time associate in the fall of 2015, I was fully committed to the International Trade practice group, one of only two associates dedicated to a single practice. I started my practice by working with partners on both the import and export side of International Trade, but eventually I began to focus on Export Controls and Sanctions, working primarily with Jeff Snyder, Cari Stinebower, Chris Monahan, and

Dj Wolff. I received significant opportunities as a junior associate, even participating in a secondment with Amazon for several months.

In addition to my practice, I was heavily involved in DEI recruitment and retention efforts and helped build a network at Crowell of fellow alums from Howard University School of Law. After about four years at Crowell, an opportunity arose to follow two partners from the International Trade group to Winston & Strawn. With that opportunity, I was able to expand my corporate practice in terms of transactional work and move back to my hometown of Chicago.

Then the pandemic hit in 2020. Like most people, I was able to use that time to internally reflect on my true interests and passions. Ultimately, I decided to revisit my initial interest in Intellectual Property as a summer associate and shift my industry of focus to entertainment. Accordingly, in March of 2022 I transitioned in-house to the Walt Disney Company. Currently, I support the Consumer Products division, focusing on licensed merchandising and copyright clearances.

#### What skills or experiences from your time at Crowell have proven most valuable in your current role at Disney?

My experience as a regulatory attorney in the International Trade practice group was invaluable to my current role. As a junior associate I was given significant client exposure very early on in my career in a group where it is fairly common to be working on 5, 10, even 15 matters at once. It was not unusual to walk into the office with very little insight into what I would be working on that day; new questions and issues arose constantly. As a result, I not only developed significant time management skills, but I learned how to be concise and straightforward in the guidance I provided to clients, whether written or oral. That skill has been incredibly valuable in my current role at Disney. As an in-house attorney, the various business teams at the company are my "clients." My day is very similar to that when I was an International Trade associate at Crowell in that I am constantly managing the various questions, demands, and issues of multiple clients each day, and each requiring a timely yet concise response.



“I’ve spent a significant amount of time over the past few years doing just that, learning by being inquisitive. My approach to solving this particular problem is being honest when I don’t know the answer and being comfortable to seek help from my managers and other more senior attorneys. I learned early in my days as part of the International Trade practice group at Crowell that much can be lost and/or missed by simply not asking the question or seeking guidance.”

### **How has your background in international trade, regulatory compliance, and policy issues helped as you have transitioned into media and entertainment space at Disney?**

I spoke above about multitasking skills I developed as an International Trade associate that have been valuable in transitioning to Disney. Another aspect of my International Trade experience is the way the practice requires constant monitoring of legal news that is valuable to the client and informs our guidance. Like most regulatory groups, the International Trade practice is fairly difficult to navigate as a junior associate given the ever-changing landscape of the laws, statutes, and regulations that form the basis of knowledge for the practice. As an associate, we constantly had to read and watch the news, review regulatory updates, and draft client alerts that summarized any changes that would impact our clients’ operations. Although my practice is no longer international trade, that background knowledge has proven valuable when advising my current clients on trade-related issues that impact Disney’s licensing business (e.g., sales to Ukraine, engaging consultants in non-U.S. jurisdictions, due diligence on non-U.S. customers).

### **What are the most significant challenges you face in your current role, and how do you approach problem-solving?**

One of the more significant challenges I face currently stems from transitioning into a new practice, from International Trade to primarily Intellectual Property. Although I had some background knowledge from courses I took in law school and a working on several various matters partially involving IP early in my legal career, I still had much to learn when I took on this new role. I’ve spent a significant amount of time over the past few years doing just that, learning by being inquisitive. My approach to solving this particular problem is being honest when I don’t know the answer and being comfortable seeking help from my managers and other more senior attorneys. I learned early in my days as part of the International Trade practice group at Crowell that much can be lost and/or missed by simply not asking the question or seeking guidance.

### **What keeps you busy outside of work?**

I have always had a passion for film and TV and recently launched The Runtime Studio (Runtime), a production company committed to showcasing and amplifying the untold stories of Black people. Under this banner I produced the short film “Good Day” which was featured on Revolt’s Short & Fresh HBCU segment, went on to win Best Short Film at the BitterSweet Story Invitational Festival in Washington, D.C., and received official selections for numerous additional film festivals. Currently, I am producing another short film, “She Loves Me Not”, a dramatic romcom that follows a young Black woman podcaster, Xosha, as she uses the philosophies of historic Black women to guide her love life.

## RETURNING LAWYER SPOTLIGHT

### Jason Crawford

We are proud that our alumni often return to Crowell, seeking to rejoin our unique culture. [Jason](#) began his legal career at Crowell as an associate fresh out of Georgetown University Law School, working his way to co-leader of the firm's FCA working group before leaving the firm for the Justice Department. We were thrilled to welcome him back to the firm in 2023 as partner in our Washington, D.C. office and a member of the firm's Investigation practice.



#### What were the circumstances that led to your opportunity at DOJ?

As an associate and counsel at Crowell, much of my practice involved defending companies in False Claims Act investigations. These investigations are led by DOJ attorneys, and I found their work to be very interesting. When the DOJ hiring freeze ended, and there were openings in the relevant office, I decided to answer the call of public service for a few years. I'm glad I did because I found the work fulfilling and it was a great opportunity to grow as a lawyer.

#### Why did you decide to return to Crowell?

When it was time to return to private practice, it was a natural decision to come back to Crowell because I had forged strong relationships with both colleagues and clients during my prior time at the firm. I knew that Crowell would put me in a position to succeed as partner and the firm offers a great platform for my particular practice.

#### What's your best career advice for our new first years?

I would recommend taking the necessary time to discern what practice areas best align with their interests, skill sets, and client needs. This discernment process takes longer for some than others, but once they have found their interests, they should be entrepreneurial in building their practice. Writing articles or engaging in other thought leadership activities is one way for young lawyers to start building their brand both inside the firm and beyond.

## Alumni on the Move

Below is a short collection of updates on some of our alumni, but we would love to include more! Have you recently changed jobs, started a business or been promoted? Drop us a line at [alumni@crowell.com](mailto:alumni@crowell.com) to let us know what you are up to, so that we can share with this community!

- **Chalana Damron** (Washington, D.C., 2019-2021) was recently promoted to Lead Counsel, Sam's Club at Walmart.
- **Alexis DeBernardis** (Washington, D.C., 2011-2023) was recently promoted to General Counsel, Strategy at Honeywell.
- **Jini Koh** (New York, 2011-2017) recently joined CargoSprint as Chief Legal and Corporate Officer.
- **Belinda Liu** (San Francisco, 2014-2018) is now Associate Counsel, Data Privacy at Sephora.
- **Marisa Potter** (San Francisco, 2012-2017) recently joined Centene Corporation as Associate General Counsel.
- **Puja Satiani** (Washington, D.C., 2007-2012) is now Senior Counsel at GE.
- **Ashley Southerland** (Washington, D.C., 2013-2018) recently joined Pearl Health as Deputy General Counsel.
- **Michele St. Mary** (Washington, D.C., 1995-2000) was recently named Chief Legal Officer and General Counsel at Amentum.

## CONGRATULATIONS

### Retired Partners and Senior Counsel

Congratulations to the partners and senior counsel who have retired since October 2024. Each of these lawyers made significant impacts on Crowell and the legal community, and we are proud they chose to practice with us. We look forward to keeping in touch with them and we wish them well in their retirement!



**John T. Brennan**  
Washington, D.C.



**Janet A. Pioli**  
Chicago



**Randy Smith**  
Washington, D.C.

## CLE RESOURCES

We are pleased to offer our alumni the CLE resources listed below. For questions about these benefits, contact our [CLE Team](#).

### Hotshot Legal (CLE and Learning Content)

Hotshot is a learning platform that offers 300+ short, practical videos and related resources across corporate, litigation, and business topics. They also offer CLE in nearly all MCLE jurisdictions. The firm has a limited number of subscriptions available for firm alumni. If you are interested in a subscription, please email our [CLE Team](#).

### Crowell & Moring On Demand CLE Resource

We recently rolled out a CLE resource for our firm alumni and clients, which we are adding to on a rolling basis. Credit is available in a limited number of MCLE jurisdictions including CA, CO, FL, IL, NY, PA, and VA, and reciprocal credit in CT and NJ. Please visit [this website](#) and refer back as we continue to add new programs.

We regularly host educational, informative, and social events, both in-person and virtually. Make sure you are [subscribed](#) to stay in the loop and check out our website to learn more about upcoming [events](#).



### CAREERS@CROWELL

We love introductions to great talent, and we love when alumni return to Crowell. Check out our latest job postings [here](#).

## NEW FACES

# Recent Lateral Partners

We are thrilled to welcome the lateral partners who have joined the firm since October 2024:



Earlier this month, [Alexander Kramer](#), a former assistant chief in the Department of Justice Criminal Division's Foreign Corrupt Practices Act Unit, joined Crowell as partner in the our Washington, D.C. office.

Alex brings more than 15 years of experience as a federal prosecutor and in private practice to our White Collar and Regulatory Enforcement Group. His practice will focus on white collar defense, internal investigations, compliance counseling, and due diligence reviews of third parties and mergers, acquisitions, and other transactions. He will advise clients on a range of issues, including FCPA, health care fraud, and financial fraud.



In January, [Jon Welner](#) joined Crowell as a partner in the Environment, Energy, and Natural Resources Group in San Francisco. Jon brings more than 25 years of experience addressing environmental regulatory challenges and resolving land development

disputes for businesses and local governments in California.

Jon's practice focuses on all areas of environmental law, including the regulation of air, water, hazardous materials and waste, consumer products, traditional and renewable energy, and natural resources. He has significant experience helping clients navigate the California Environmental Quality Act, Proposition 65, and brownfield redevelopment. Jon helps clients obtain land use entitlements, and he has significant experience with coastal development and the permitting of industrial and energy facilities.



In December, [Kenneth Dintzer](#), a leading Department of Justice litigator for more than 30 years, joined Crowell as a partner in the firm's Antitrust and Competition, Government Contracts, and Litigation groups. Handling some of DOJ's most high-profile and

complex cases, Kenneth most recently served as deputy branch director in the National Courts Section of DOJ's Civil Division and as senior trial counsel in DOJ's Antitrust Division.



In November, [Erik Woodhouse](#), formerly the deputy assistant secretary for the Division for Counter Threat Finance and Sanctions at the U.S. Department of State, returned to the firm as a partner in our International

Trade and Financial Services groups.

Erik works with U.S. and foreign clients operating across borders on all aspects of these regimes, including developing and assessing compliance programs, advising on complex statutory and regulatory requirements, and leading companies through internal and government investigations. He has worked with major manufacturing and tech companies with global operations, multinational banks, investment funds and other financial services firms, and digital assets and virtual currency companies, collaborating with Crowell's cross-disciplinary team that comprises former senior regulators, federal prosecutors, and in-house counsel.



In October, [Arinze Ike](#) joined Crowell's Corporate Group in as a partner in the firm's New York office, expanding the firm's transactional depth in securities and capital market transactions.

Arinze's practice focuses on capital market transactions, including structuring and leading offerings of high-yield and convertible debt, secondary equity offerings, secured and unsecured credit facilities, asset-based loans, Regulation D (private securities) offerings, exchange offers, consent solicitations, and other public and private equity and debt offerings, crypto offerings, as well as seed investments in hedge fund, venture capital fund, and private equity investment managers.

## RESOURCES

### Recent Publications, Upcoming Events and More

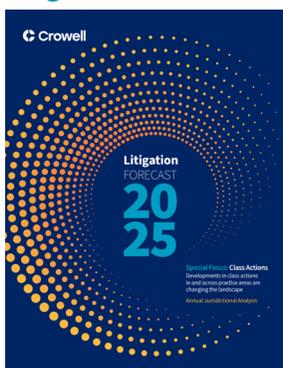
#### Trump First 100 Days: Business Impact

The Crowell team is focused on providing clients with timely and actionable insights related to the Trump Administration and the 119th Congress.

We are sharing our analysis and guidance in the form of alerts, articles, blogs, podcasts, and webinars and encourage you to visit our [resource center](#) and our [Executive Order Updates and Analysis](#) page.



#### Litigation Forecast



We recently published our 13th-annual [Litigation Forecast: What Corporate Counsel Need to Know for the Coming Year](#). Given the recent proliferation of class action lawsuits - with increasingly higher stakes, larger class sizes, and greater exposure for companies—the entire 2025 issue focuses on

class action developments. In the cover story, [Jennifer Romano](#) and [Sarah Gilbert](#) provide in-depth insights on importance of rethinking typical class action defense strategies, including how to approach discovery and witness lists. Within the publication’s 13 articles, topics range from artificial intelligence to antitrust to consumer products to health care. The importance of this topic was summarized by firm chair Phil Inglima “Today, class action litigation is being driven by unprecedented advances in technology, regulatory changes, and shifting consumer expectations that are rendering many tried-and-true defense playbooks ineffective. Our attorneys discuss these developments and offer new insights for how in-house counsel can meet the moment and achieve their business and litigation goals.”

#### Privacy and Cybersecurity Outlook



We recently published our second edition of the year-end publication from our renowned Privacy and Cybersecurity Group. [The Privacy and Cybersecurity Outlook: The 2025 Landscape](#) offers clients forward-looking insights on the most significant trends impacting organizations worldwide, including

developments in artificial intelligence (AI), critical infrastructure, the Asia-Pacific region, the Cybersecurity Maturity Model Certification process, and more.

We hope you find the 2025 Outlook to be a valuable tool as you assess, plan, and respond to cybersecurity and privacy matters in the coming year.



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## STAY CONNECTED

Join our alumni network as we celebrate achievements, reminisce about shared experiences, and forge new connections. If you have ideas about what you would like to see in future editions of this newsletter, please don't hesitate to get in touch at [alumni@crowell.com](mailto:alumni@crowell.com).



Crowell's Private  
LinkedIn Alumni Group



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Email [alumni@crowell.com](mailto:alumni@crowell.com)  
with questions, comments,  
and career updates.

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A decorative graphic in the bottom right corner consisting of several overlapping triangles in various colors: dark blue, light blue, purple, red, yellow, and green.