



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 27
2026

Upcoming Regulatory Deadlines

• FEBRUARY 17, 2026 | FORM 13F QUARTERLY | FORM 13H ANNUAL

Upcoming Events

The Future Funds

JANUARY 28, 2026, 8:30 AM GST

Join Optima Partners in Abu Dhabi on January 28th at The EDITION Hotel. The Future Funds event offers a unique blend of content and networking, moving beyond impersonal, large-scale events. You will connect with an exclusive audience of peers, including Partners, CEOs, CIOs, COO's, General Managers, Fund Heads, Heads of IR and key decision makers, in an environment built for candid, peer-to-peer discussion. With curated roundtables, focused masterclasses, and targeted networking, this is your opportunity to gain the strategic foresight and build the relationships needed to succeed in the Middle East. [Register here](#).

Optima Webinar: DIFC - Managing the Path to Licensing in 2026

JANUARY 30, 2026, 12:00 PM GST

Optima will be hosting a focused 45-minute webinar exploring what global managers should consider when launching in the DIFC in 2026. Our panel will walk through the key drivers behind current UAE momentum, the practical realities of the licensing journey, and the common evidence and role-holder pitfalls that can lead to avoidable delays. Featuring speakers from the DFSA, DIFC, White & Case, and Optima, this session will offer clear, experience-led guidance for firms assessing their route into the region. If DIFC is on your 2026 roadmap, join us for a practical discussion on how to prepare, plan backwards, and set your application up for success. [RSVP](#)

Investment Advisor Compliance Conference

MARCH 18, 2026, 11:15 AM ET

Optima is pleased to share that Jennifer Duggins, IACCP®, CRCP®, will be speaking at the IAA Compliance Conference on 18th March in Washington, DC. Jennifer will join industry leaders from the SEC, Guggenheim Investments, and Weil, Gotshal & Manges for a panel discussion on Private Fund Advisers: Navigating the Evolving Compliance Landscape.

Regulatory Updates

SEC Publishes Updates to Marketing Compliance FAQs

SOURCE | [SEC.GOV](#)

On January 15th, 2026, the SEC Division of Investment Management provided key updates to the Marketing Compliance FAQs which provide further clarity on the use of model fees when calculating net performance and the eligibility of persons providing Testimonials and Endorsements to receive compensation from an investment adviser. Read more [here](#).

- The Division provided new guidance regarding the presentation of actual net performance when the advertisement's intended audience is expected to pay higher fees than the ones used to calculate actual performance. Per the updated guidance, "whether the use of actual fees violates the general prohibitions depends on all of the facts and circumstances of a specific advertisement," including sufficient disclosure.
- The Division provided further clarification regarding actions which disqualify persons from receiving compensation for Testimonials and Endorsements. The Division took the view that if a person subject to a final order was not prohibited from acting in any capacity in relation to federal securities laws, they are permitted to receive compensation for Testimonials and Endorsements and engage in related activities.

Keith E. Cassidy Named Director of the Division of Examinations

SOURCE | [SEC.GOV](#)

On January 20, 2026, the SEC announced that Keith E. Cassidy has been appointed Director of the Division of Examinations. Mr. Cassidy has served as Acting Director since May 2024 and previously was the division's Deputy Director, Acting Co-Director, and National Associate Director of the Technology Controls Program. Read more [here](#).

SEC Seeks Candidates for Membership on the Investor Advisory Committee

SOURCE | [SEC.GOV](#)

On January 22, 2026, the SEC announced it is seeking candidates for appointment as members of the SEC's Investor Advisory Committee, established pursuant to Section 39 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to help protect investors and improve securities regulation. Candidates will be considered for open at-large membership positions on the committee, as well as for a position as the member who is representative of the interests of senior citizens, as provided in the statute. Read more [here](#).

Regulatory Updates

J. Russell McGranahan Named SEC General Counsel

SOURCE | [SEC.GOV](https://www.sec.gov)

On January 15, 2026, the SEC announced that J. Russell “Rusty” McGranahan was named SEC General Counsel. As the SEC’s chief legal officer, Mr. McGranahan will oversee the provision of legal expertise and advice to the Office of the Chairman, Commissioners, and agency staff. Read more [here](#).

Paul Tzur and David Morrell Named Deputy Directors of the Division of Enforcement

SOURCE | [SEC.GOV](https://www.sec.gov)

On January 12, 2026, the SEC announced that Paul H. Tzur and David M. Morrell were named as Deputy Directors of the Division of Enforcement. Mr. Tzur joined the Commission on January 6, 2026, as the Deputy Director overseeing the agency’s enforcement program in the Chicago, Atlanta, and Miami Regional Offices. Mr. Morrell joined the Commission on January 12, 2026, as the Deputy Director overseeing the agency’s enforcement program in the New York, Boston, and Philadelphia Regional Offices. Read more [here](#).

UK and EU Regulators Sign Memorandum of Understanding to Strengthen Oversight of Critical Third Parties

SOURCE | [FCA.ORG](https://www.fca.org)

The FCA, BoE and PRA have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the European Supervisory Authorities to enhance cooperation and oversight of critical third parties (CTPs) that fall under the UK’s CTP regime. The MoU establishes a framework for coordinating and sharing information on the oversight of CTPs under the UK regime and critical third party providers (CTPPs) under the EU’s Digital Operational Resilience Act (DORA), including during incidents such as power outages or cyber-attacks. Read more [here](#).

Crypto Corner

SEC and CFTC to Hold Joint Event on Harmonization, U.S. Financial Leadership in the Crypto Era

SOURCE | [SEC.GOV](https://www.sec.gov)

On January 22, 2026, the SEC and the CFTC said they are coming together to discuss their efforts to implement President Donald Trump's crypto agenda. The agencies said that SEC chair Paul Atkins and freshly-installed CFTC chair Michael Selig will hold an event on to discuss the "harmonization between the two agencies." "For too long, market participants have been forced to navigate regulatory boundaries that are unclear in application and misaligned in design, based solely on legacy jurisdictional silos," Atkins and Selig said in a statement. Read more [here](#).

FCA Seeks Feedback on Further Rules for Cryptoasset Firms

SOURCE | [FCA.ORG](https://www.fca.org)

The FCA are seeking views on further rules for cryptoasset firms as the final step in their consultations on our crypto rules. The FCA have set out our proposals on how the Consumer Duty, conduct standards, redress and safeguarding will apply to cryptoasset firms. Consultation responses are open until March 12, 2026. Read more [here](#).

South Korea Approves Tokenized Securities Framework in Key Hearing

SOURCE | [FSC](https://www.fsc.or.kr)

On January 15, 2026, South Korea had advanced a bill establishing a legal framework for Security Token Offerings (STOs), creating a regulated path for blockchain-based issuance and trading of tokenized securities. The National Assembly passed amendments to both the Capital Markets Act and the Electronic Securities Act during its plenary session. Together, these changes formally recognize tokenized securities issued and distributed via distributed-ledger technology. Under the amended Electronic Securities Act, qualified issuers can offer tokenized securities, while updates to the Capital Markets Act allow these products to be traded as investment contract securities through brokerages and other intermediaries. Read more [here](#).

Why Coinbase Withdrew Support for Senate Crypto Legislation

SOURCE | [THEBLOCK.CO](https://www.theblock.co)

On January 14, 2026, a combination of timing pressures and unresolved policy concerns led Coinbase to withdraw its support for sweeping cryptocurrency legislation under consideration in the Senate. Coinbase CEO Brian Armstrong said the massive crypto exchange could not support the bill. His concerns stemmed from four main areas — the treatment of tokenized equities, DeFi issues, provisions that he said would "kill rewards on stablecoins," and the role of the SEC. Read more [here](#).

Enforcement Actions

Singapore MAS Issues Prohibition Order against Mr. Sun Weiyeh

SOURCE | [MAS.GOV.SG](https://www.mas.gov.sg)

On January 14, 2026, MAS issued a seven-year prohibition order against Mr. Sun Weiyeh, a former fund manager and director of One Asia Investment Partners. Mr Sun intentionally sold two OTC bonds at lower prices from a fund managed by OAIP (Fund A), which was majority held by external investors, to another OAIP-managed fund, of which he was the majority shareholder. He did this while knowing that there were higher prices quoted for the bonds, causing a loss of US\$342,500 to investors in Fund A. Subsequently, Mr Sun resold the two bonds to the market at a profit. Read more [here](#).

Leadership & Development

You're Not Managing Complexity. You're Just Pretending It's Simple

VIBHAS RATANJEE | SOURCE: [forbes.com](https://www.forbes.com)

Most executives I work with know the world doesn't cooperate anymore. They see it. Climate disruption colliding with supply chain fragility. AI breakthroughs arriving alongside trust collapse. Geopolitical instability meeting economic pressure meeting social division meeting regulatory uncertainty, none of it waiting its turn. To read the full article, [Click here](#).

USEFUL LINKS:



SEC Division of Examinations - [here](#).



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