



CRA Insights: Blockchain & Cryptocurrency

CRA Charles River
Associates

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Blockchain and cryptocurrency are disrupting established industries as well as creating new ones. CRA's experts bring rigor to applications in the blockchain ecosystem, whether in support of litigation, business processes, or investigations.

In this CRA Insights, we summarize CRA commentary and expertise with respect to blockchain and cryptocurrency. To subscribe to our Blockchain & Cryptocurrency mailing list, [click here](#).

Recent Developments

Charles River Associates welcomes Joshua Gans

CRA recently welcomed Senior Consultant **Joshua Gans** to the Antitrust & Competition Practice in May. Professor Gans has wide expertise covering innovation competition, intellectual property, licensing, utility regulation, vertical mergers, digital economics, and the economics of artificial intelligence and cryptocurrency. Professor Gans is a prolific author with an extensive publication record on the most topical technology and competition issues currently being debated in policy circles. He heads up the Creative Destruction Lab blockchain/cryptocurrency startup program at the University of Toronto and has advised hundreds of firms. In recent years he has testified in several cryptocurrency matters on topics such as market design, cryptocurrency valuation, and trading strategies. For more information, please contact CRA's Antitrust & Competition Economics Practice Leader, **Margaret Sanderson**.

Insights

Cryptocurrency as Digital Quicksilver: Capturing the value, preserving the estate, managing the risks

Like cash, digital currencies are corporate assets that are considered among the most prone to theft (by either insiders or third parties), and therefore pose risks around custody and control. Unlike cash, the corresponding tax ramifications can be complex and material, and the digital currencies themselves can be highly volatile in value and relatively illiquid when it comes time to engage in a trade. In this article, **Patricia Peláez** identifies key recommendations for locating, accessing, securing, and monetizing these assets, including tax considerations which will likely impact the monetization strategies. For more information, please contact Forensic Services Vice President and Practice Leader, **Bill Hardin**.

Crypto assets, financial crime & forensic accounting

In an article for *Expert Witness Journal*, Senior Consultant to CRA [Paul Doxey](#) explains how cryptocurrencies are used to launder illicit funds and how this affects the asset tracing work done by forensic accountants. The article provides background on cryptocurrencies and the financial crime risks associated with them, in particular the degree of anonymity offered by the technology, which allows illicit online activity to take place undetected. Mr. Doxey explains the specific techniques forensic accountants can use to investigate cryptocurrency transactions, arguing that cryptocurrencies can be an asset, not an obstacle, for the forensic accountant, as every transaction is recorded in the blockchain for all to observe and analyze. Once cryptocurrency technology is understood, the forensic accountant can use a range of traditional and new tools to crack open transaction secrets. For more information, please contact Forensic Services Vice President and Practice Leader, [Bill Hardin](#).

Select Industry Expertise

Investigations

CRA has deep expertise in conducting complex, multi-disciplinary investigations and can assist clients in tracing and recovering funds denominated in various virtual currencies and protect cryptocurrency exchanges from abuse by threat actors. Please contact [Brad Dragoon](#) and [Jason Vigeant](#) for more information.

Transfer Pricing

CRA's transfer pricing experts combine their experience in all aspects of cross-border, intragroup transactions with industry knowledge in the blockchain and cryptocurrency space. The team partners with emerging and established companies to analyze options for structuring cross-border operations and to implement and defend those structures in an ever-changing regulatory environment. CRA's advisory approach, based on the rigor of litigation experience, allows us to bridge the gap between regulatory ambiguity and business needs. For more information, please contact [Anna Soubbotina](#).

Life Sciences

Blockchain can improve the security and transparency of pharmaceutical supply chains, which frequently have diverse stakeholders. With multiple stages of manufacturing and distribution, there are intriguing possibilities for end-to-end monitoring, authenticating the supply chain, and preventing counterfeiting. Blockchain has the potential to change how products are monitored by regulators, how manufacturers approach recalls and corrective actions, and how disputes among participants in the supply chain are handled. Please contact [Justin Ho](#) for more information.

About CRA

Charles River Associates (CRA) is a leading global consulting firm that offers economic, financial, and strategic expertise to major law firms, corporations, accounting firms, and governments around the world. Our experts bring a unique combination of cutting-edge research, state-of-the-art methods, and proven experience to bear on our clients' most complex challenges.

CRA specializes in management consulting and economic litigation. Our senior-led teams include leading academic experts and business leaders with experience across industries. Because of our proven skills in complex cases and exceptional strength in analytics, clients depend on our objective, fact-based advice for their high-profile, high stakes matters.

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