



Regional Series Rundown

by Kevin Duff, NAFER President Elect

Rachlis Duff Adler Peel & Kaplan, LLC

In a new chapter for NAFER's Regional Education Series and under the guidance of NAFER President Greg Hays and incoming President Kevin Duff, NAFER and two of its key partners recently sponsored and presented educational programs in Chicago, Miami, and Washington, D.C. on current hot topics in the cryptocurrency and blockchain spaces. These presentations, which were free of charge for NAFER members thanks to sponsors BMS and East West Bank, featured panels comprised of leading accountants, attorneys, and regulators providing insight into current and future trends in those areas.

The Chicago program took place on March 15, 2018 and was titled "Cryptocurrency Fraud, Blockchain-Based Assets, and the Federal Equity Receiver." The well-attended event was sponsored by BMS and took place at the Chicago Renaissance Downtown Hotel. NAFER President-Elect Kevin Duff (Rachlis Duff Adler Peel and Kaplan) moderated the Panel comprised of panelists Rick Rein (Horwood Marcus & Berk), Kris Swanson (CRA International, Inc.), and Marcelo Halpern (Perkins & Coie). Showcasing NAFER's hallmark audience interaction, the presentation educated attendees seeking to get up to speed on digital currencies and blockchain. The panel also addressed key knowledge, essential tools, and challenges for the federal equity receiver in the context of cryptocurrency fraud and blockchain based assets.

The next program took place in Miami on May 8, 2018 at the Four Seasons hotel again thanks to a BMS sponsorship. Focusing more on the perspective of regulators and receivers, the event was moderated by Jordan D. Maglich (Wiand Guerra King) and featured panelists NAFER President Greg Hays, Mark Rasmussen (Jones Day), David Silver (Silver Miller), and Scott Masel (Securities and Exchange Commission). Mr. Rasmussen provided an update regarding his current appointment as Receiver in the SEC's *AriseBank* enforcement action while Messrs. Silver and Hays discussed current pending litigation involving cryptocurrencies and key notes for Receivers. Finally, Mr. Masel provided important perspective on the cryptocurrency and blockchain space from the SEC's point of view.

The Washington program was held on May 22, 2018 at the City Club of Washington and was sponsored by East West Bank. That Panel, moderated by NAFER Board Secretary Charlene Koonce (Scheef & Stone), focused on regulatory issues and perspectives in the blockchain and cryptocurrency space. The discussion addressed the nature of cryptocurrencies and various issues and challenges in regulation, enforcement, and receiverships. The panelists included Richard Foelber (Commodity Futures Trading Commission), Marsha Massey (Securities and Exchange Commission), Mark Matulich (Federal Bureau of Investigation), George Pullen (Commodity Futures Trading Commission), and Nicholas Surmacz (Department of Justice). Consistent with other NAFER events, each of these programs included active interest and participation from attendees.

NAFER again extends its thanks to sponsors BMS and East West Bank for sponsoring these programs and for their continuing support of NAFER. NAFER will continue to offer programs through its Regional Education Series as opportunities for current and prospective members to both network and learn about current issues facing receivers and their professionals.