

# Webcast: IPO and Public Company Readiness: Advance Planning for 2025 and 2026 IPOs – Navigating Executive Compensation and Employee Benefits

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As companies prepare to transition from private ownership to the public markets, the legal landscape surrounding executive compensation and employee benefits becomes increasingly complex. Join us for a 60-minute webcast briefing, where we will delve into the critical securities, governance, disclosure and executive compensation and employee benefits-focused legal issues that companies must plan for in advance to ensure compliance and mitigate risks during the IPO process and as a newly public entity. This session is essential for C-suite executives, HR professionals, and in-house legal teams who are responsible for advance planning and steering their companies through the IPO process and beyond. Attendees will leave with actionable insights and practical tools to ensure their organizations are well-prepared for the challenges and opportunities of becoming a successful public company.

## Related People

[Sean C. Feller](#)

[Ekaterina \(Kate\) Napalkova](#)

[Stewart McDowell](#)

[Gina Hancock](#)

**PANELISTS:** Sean Feller is a partner in Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher's Century City office. He serves as Co-Chair of the firm's Executive Compensation and Employee Benefits Practice Group. His practice focuses on all aspects executive compensation and employee benefits. His practice encompasses tax, ERISA, accounting, corporate, and securities law aspects of equity and other incentive compensation plans; qualified and nonqualified retirement and deferred compensation plans and executive employment and severance arrangements. Mr. Feller has been recognized by his peers as one of *The Best Lawyers in America* in the area of Employee Benefits (ERISA) Law. In 2020 and 2022, he was ranked by *Chambers USA* as a Leading Lawyer in Los Angeles in the area of Employee Benefits and Executive Compensation. Ekaterina (Kate) Napalkova is a partner in the New York office of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher and a member of the Employee Benefits and Executive Compensation Practice Group. Kate advises public and private companies, private investment funds, boards of directors and management teams on a broad range of compensation and employee benefits matters. Her advice focuses on the compensation and employee benefits aspects of mergers and acquisitions, restructurings, public offerings, spin-offs and other corporate transactions. She is experienced in the negotiation and implementation of benefit and compensation plans, as well as compensation-related securities reporting and corporate governance matters. Stewart L. McDowell is a partner in the San Francisco office of Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher. She is a Co-Chair of the firm's Capital Markets Practice Group and a member of the firm's Corporate Department. Ms. McDowell represents companies, investors and underwriters in a variety of complex capital markets transactions, including IPOs, convertible and non-convertible debt and preferred equity offerings, PIPEs and liability management transactions. She also represents companies in connection with U.S. and cross-border M&A and strategic investments, SEC reporting, corporate governance and general corporate matters. Gina Hancock is an associate in the Dallas office. She practices in the firm's Executive Compensation and Employee Benefits Department. Gina has significant experience with executive compensation, complex domestic and international transactional matters, initial public offerings, health and welfare benefit plan, retirement plan, and related matters. Her

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practice focuses on all aspects of equity compensation; employee stock purchase plans; 401(k), pension and nonqualified deferred compensation plans; executive employment, severance, retention, change in control and restrictive covenant agreements; incentive compensation; and cafeteria and other welfare benefit plans. She also provides advice with respect to general corporate governance and disclosure matters.

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