

SPEAKER BIOS (IN ORDER OF SEGMENT)

TRAGEDY TO TRIUMPH: I CAN & I WILL

Ali Truwit, 2x Silver Medalist at the 2024 Paris Paralympics & Founder of Stronger Than You Think, Inc.



Ali Truwit is a 2023 graduate of Yale University, where she was a member of the varsity women's swim team. Just two days after graduation, Ali was attacked by a shark while snorkeling and lost her foot and part of her leg in the attack. Remarkably in just over a year following the attack and amputation, she worked to recover, learn life with a prosthetic and make Team USA for the 2024 Paralympics in swimming. Ali became a two-time Silver Medalist & two-time American Record holder in the 400-meter freestyle and the 100-meter backstroke at the Paris Paralympic Games. Following the Paralympics, Ali returned to her full-time work as a management consultant in the healthcare sector. She will also continue her work to champion disability awareness and opportunity through her foundation, strongerthanyouthink.org, public speaking, and content projects, including a documentary set to be released this summer, and

representation as the 2nd Paralympian ever in Sports Illustrated Swimsuit edition coming this May. You can follow Ali's work to turn trauma and hardship into hope @alitruiwit and @strongertyt on Instagram.

THE POWER OF B2B BRANDS

Stephen Carter, Group Chief Executive | Informa



Stephen Carter is the Group Chief Executive of Informa PLC, a leading Business Intelligence, Academic Publishing, Knowledge and B2B Events Group. He joined Informa in 2010 as a Non-Executive Director before becoming Group Chief Executive in 2013. Over the last nine years, the Group has expanded significantly in reach and scale, geographically (particularly in America and Asia) and in the deployment of technology and digital services. The Group's ambition is to champion specialists in B2B markets by building a range of dedicated products and service capabilities, often built out from large established B2B brands, research information brands or original research and advanced learning.

In the private sector Stephen is a career senior executive, having held managing director and chief executive positions in a range of Media and Technology businesses before becoming Informa's Group CEO. Stephen also served as founding CEO of Ofcom, the UK's communications competition regulator, Chief of Strategy to the UK Prime Minister, The Right Hon. Gordon Brown and was the first Minister for the Media and Telecommunications industry, where he wrote and published the Digital Britain Report.

Stephen is a Non-Executive Director of Vodafone PLC, and is Informa's representative on the Board of PA Media Group Limited, Bologna Fiere and Norstella and Chair of Informa's joint venture with the Principality of Monaco.

HOW SEMAFOR CAN BE THE GLOBAL DIGITAL NEWS WINNER

Colin Morrison, Founder | Flashes & Flames



Colin Morrison is a former journalist who has been CEO of media companies in the UK, Continental Europe and Asia Pacific, including for: Axel Springer, Australian Consolidated Press, Future, Hearst, EMAP and Reed Elsevier.

He publishes the award-winning Flashes & Flames weekly newsletter (www.flashesandflames.com) read by CEOs and senior executives of media, information and event companies, primarily in the UK and US. It has also launched the 'Monetising B2B' conference in London on 20 May.

He is a member of the JEGI CLARITY Advisory Board and has been an advisor to successive UK governments on education. He was awarded the CBE (Commander of Order of the British Empire) by the late Queen Elizabeth and King Charles.

Justin Smith, Co-Founder & CEO | Semafor



Justin B. Smith is the Co-Founder & CEO of Semafor. Prior to starting Semafor, Justin was the CEO of Bloomberg Media. He was previously President of Atlantic Media, where he co-founded Quartz, served as President of the Week magazine, and led corporate strategy at The Economist Group. He received his B.S. from Georgetown University School of Foreign Service and is a lifetime member of the Council on Foreign Relations. In 2022, The Hollywood Reporter named Justin one of "Most Powerful People in New York Media" alongside Semafor Editor-in-Chief, Ben Smith.

RECENT LEGAL DEVELOPMENTS AND TRENDS IN M&A

Robert Dickey, Partner | Morgan Lewis



Robert W. Dickey advises US and non-US based companies with respect to their most important mergers, acquisitions, divestitures, and other strategic transactions. He also counsels executives, in-house counsel, and boards of directors on a wide range of critical corporate matters, including fiduciary duties, corporate governance, and securities law compliance.

Rob has represented a large number of companies in the media and technology industries, most recently The Financial Times in its investments in Endpoints News and Wilshire Indexes, Bullish in its acquisition of CoinDesk, Sandvik in its sale of DWFritz Automation and Bruker Corporation in its acquisition of NanoString Technologies.

Rob oversees the firm's M&A Academy, a series of tailored webinars designed to provide a comprehensive M&A overview for M&A professionals and others who deal with M&A issues. He speaks frequently on trends in the M&A legal arena and the media and technology industries.

INNOVATIONS FOR A NEW GENERATION: LOCAL NEWS REINVENTED

Jeff Goldstein, Americas Leader of Technology, Media & Telecommunications, Partner & Managing Director | AlixPartners



Jeff Goldstein is Co-Head of the Americas Media & Entertainment Practice at AlixPartners. Leveraging over two decades of management consulting expertise, Jeff is at the forefront of driving holistic operating income improvement programs, with a specific focus on business transformation for global media and technology clients.

Jeff is renowned for driving structural changes that eliminate complexity and help publishers, content creators and distributors, and marketing, advertising, and creative agencies adapt to market disruption. His approach involves quickly understanding client organizations, defining actionable strategies, and executing tactical, structural, and transformational measures, delivering substantial return on investment.

Jeff has been a trailblazer in his field throughout his career. He founded and co-authors AlixPartners' Annual Media & Entertainment Predictions Report, which has been covered on CNBC, NPR, Wall Street Journal, and Variety. Jeff also co-invented AlixPartners' proprietary Radial Total Labor Analyzer—an innovative platform that provides groundbreaking organizational visualization for numerous clients worldwide. Jeff's strategic vision, combined with his innovative tools and data-rich solutions, consistently delivers tangible results, establishing him as a trusted advisor in the ever-evolving landscape of digital transformation.

Paul Bascobert, President, Chief Executive | Reuters



Paul Bascobert joined Thomson Reuters as President of Reuters News in September 2022. In this role, he leads all aspects of the company's business, technical and editorial functions. Founded in 1851, Reuters is one of the largest global newsgathering operations and is a leading provider of business, financial and world news for billions of people and organizations.

Previously, Paul was CEO of Gannett Co., Inc – a local news company with more than 700 daily and weekly publications in the U.S. and UK. He led the organization through the acquisition by New Media Investment Group. Prior to this, he was President of SaaS marketing and technology companies XO Group and Yodle, President of Bloomberg Businessweek and COO for the newly created Bloomberg Media Group, as well as

Senior Vice President of Operations and then Chief Marketing Officer at Dow Jones.

Earlier in his career, Bascobert co-founded Vertex Partners, a strategy and technology services company that later merged and went public as Braun Consulting, before selling to Fair Isaac Corporation.

Paul has a degree in electrical engineering from Kettering University and an M.B.A. in Finance from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. He is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Chris Ripley, President & CEO | Sinclair



Chris Ripley has served as President and Chief Executive Officer since January 2017. From April 2014 to January 2017, he served as Chief Financial Officer.

Prior to Sinclair, Chris was Managing Director at UBS Investment Bank's Global Media Group and served as head of the Los Angeles office where he managed, advised and structured various financings and merger acquisition transactions in the broadcast and entertainment sectors. Prior to UBS, Chris was a principal in Prime Ventures and an analyst at Donaldson Lufkin & Jenrette. Chris graduated from the University of Western Ontario, Richard Ivey School of Business, with a Bachelor of Arts in Honors Business Administration.

Andrey Vakhovskiy, Managing Director | H.I.G. Capital



Andrey is a Managing Director based in H.I.G. Capital's Boston office where he is responsible for all aspects of the investment process including deal origination, structuring, execution, financing and post-close operational improvements and growth strategies.

Andrey has over ten years of public and private market investing experience across a variety of sectors including healthcare, IT services and business services. Prior to joining H.I.G., Andrey worked at Charlesbank Capital Partners and the Boston Consulting Group.

Andrey earned a B.A. in Economics from Dartmouth College and an M.B.A. from The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.

THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF PODCASTS IN MEDIA

Sheila Spence, Vice President, Corporate Development | Spotify



Sheila Spence is the Vice President of Corporate Development at Spotify. She joined Spotify in 2017 to establish and lead the Global Corporate Development Group, responsible for acquisitions and other strategic corporate transactions. She led Spotify's M&A efforts for the foundational acquisitions of Spotify's entry into podcasts and audiobooks. She has been named on Variety's Dealmakers Impact Report and The Hollywood Reporter's Top 20 Dealmaker list. Spotify is the world's most popular audio streaming subscription service with over 640 million users, including over 250 million subscribers in 184 markets globally.

Sheila joined Spotify from WPP Group where she was Senior Vice President, and Co-head of Corporate Development for North America. She led well over 50 acquisitions / investments for WPP across a wide range of marketing services, data and digital media businesses.

Prior to WPP, Sheila was the Senior Vice President, and head of Corporate Development, for PRIMEDIA Inc., a publicly-traded portfolio company of KKR. Early in her career, Sheila worked at Salomon Brothers (now Citigroup) in Investment Banking. She has an MBA from Harvard Business School and an HBA from The University of Western Ontario.

Ray Chao, SVP & General Manager of Audio & Video | Vox Media



Ray Chao is Vox Media's SVP & General Manager of Audio and Video, overseeing a top 10 podcast network and leading portfolio of talent franchises. He led Vox Media's talent deals with Brené Brown, Esther Perel, Marques Brownlee, Kara Swisher, Scott Galloway, and Megan Rapinoe and Sue Bird, among others; led M&A transactions of Criminal Productions and Preet Bharara's Cafe Studios; and spearheaded podcast franchise expansions into video and subscriptions. He was named to The Hollywood Reporter's 2022, 2023, and 2024 lists of podcast power players, and to Adweek's 2024 "Adweek 50" honoring changemakers who are driving growth in business. He serves on the board of directors of Science Friday and previously held roles at New York Public Radio and Oliver Wyman.

BEYOND THE FORECAST: HOW THE WEATHER COMPANY IS TRANSFORMING BUSINESS THROUGH AI AND WEATHER INTELLIGENCE

Heather Holst-Knudsen, Founder & CEO | H2K Labs



As Founder and CEO of H2K Labs, Heather Holst-Knudsen leads a pioneering platform that empowers CEOs and C-Suite executives to drive revenue growth and profitability through data-driven strategies. Her expertise stems from a rich legacy in information services, beginning at Thomas Publishing Company and expanding through leadership roles at Miller Freeman and IDG. As President of Manufacturing Enterprise Communications, a Thomas Publishing division, she steered the company to a successful acquisition by Frost & Sullivan in 2012.

Following the acquisition, Heather established herself as a trusted advisor in the SaaS and event technology space, partnering with innovative companies including Feathr, Gleanin, Edflex, Expoplatform, and Brella. A recognized authority in the data economy, she combines decades of operational leadership with deep expertise in leveraging data and analytics for value creation. Her unique background spans media, events, digital transformation, and emerging technologies, positioning her as a vital resource for organizations navigating the intersection of data strategy and business growth.

Rohit Agarwal, Chief Executive Officer | The Weather Company



Rohit Agarwal is the CEO of The Weather Company, the world's most accurate forecaster. In this role, Rohit is responsible for setting the strategic vision that spans the company's digital consumer properties, including The Weather Channel app and weather.com, as well as its enterprise business across media, advertising, aviation, defense, and a variety of other industries. He stands behind the belief that high-performing teams are critical to innovation, growth, and impact, and diverse backgrounds and thinking benefit the end customer.

Prior to joining The Weather Company, Rohit was the Chief Product and Revenue Officer at SoundCloud, the world's largest online community of artists, bands, DJs, and audio creators, where he led the vision, strategic execution, and revenue. This included overseeing business and product strategy, delivery and operations, design, product marketing, and growth. Through Rohit's leadership, SoundCloud refactored the product, doubled its subscriber base, and meaningfully improved its ads business, leading the company to its first profitable year in its 16-year history.

Rohit previously served as Chief Product and Growth Officer at CNN. Throughout his career, he has driven 2-3x user and revenue growth across leading companies in industries including music (Last.fm, CBS), media (CNN/WarnerMedia, The Economist, Bild), banking (HSBC), B2B SaaS (Trustpilot, Akamai), and consumer internet (AOL).

Rohit is a frequent speaker at leading conferences (Google I/O, SXSW, CES, RISE, WebSummit, Product Summit), an active advisor and investor in startups, and launched his own startup in the past. He is also a committed supporter of diverse and inclusive education initiatives - both as a board member of the Smithsonian's Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage and as a board member of Leap Year, a unique program based in metro Atlanta dedicated to improving college access and early adolescent reading skills to under-represented youth.

Rohit lives in Atlanta with his wife and two daughters. An avid sports fan, he also enjoys playing soccer and tennis, painting, and cooking, and he acknowledges that his creative endeavors make him a better leader.

M&A SNAPSHOT: KEY TRENDS FROM THE FRONTLINES

Taylor Dixon, Senior Vice President, Advisory Sales | Datasite



Taylor Dixon is the Senior Vice President of Advisory Sales at Datasite where he has been with the company since 2016, based in New York City.

In his role, Taylor leads the New York Advisory sales team of over 35 individuals, while developing and executing go-to-market strategies for Datasite's M&A software. Taylor and his team primarily serve the Investment Banking community in New York.

Prior to joining Datasite, Taylor was an Analyst in Credit Suisse's Sales and Trading unit, focusing on Equities and Prime Brokerage products.

Taylor received a Bachelor of Business Administration from East Carolina University – College of Business in Greenville, North Carolina.

Patrick Donoghue, National Managing Principal, Transaction Advisory Services & Private Equity Industry Leader | BDO



Patrick Donoghue has more than 30 years of experience as an advisor to Private Equity Funds, S&P 500 and Middle Market Companies, and leading Financial Institutions. He has extensive experience in providing investment and financing transaction support that is critical to a client's investment decision. By understanding a client's investment thesis, Patrick provides the hands-on, value-added advice they need with growth, distressed, and special situation investment opportunities. He has demonstrated the ability to achieve positive outcomes for complex business decisions by assembling, managing, and integrating the skills of various professionals into creative value-added solutions.

Patrick has diverse industry experience including banking and capital markets, consumer and industrial products, technology, media and entertainment, retail, specialty finance, and transportation and logistics. He has a unique portfolio of functional service skills including investment due diligence, capital structuring advice, business plan reviews, market assessments, valuation, financial reporting support, merger integration, performance improvement, and restructuring support.

Prior to joining BDO, Patrick successfully developed and led the Metro NY Transaction Advisory and Valuation Services Practice at FTI Consulting, and he was a Partner in Arthur Andersen's NY practice. In addition, he obtained his credit risk management experience with ING Capital, auditing experience with Price Waterhouse, and corporate financial reporting experience with W.R. Grace.

Nathan Janick, Vice President | Shamrock Capital



Nathan is a Vice President at Shamrock Capital. Nathan performs extensive investment analyses on new opportunities and monitors portfolio companies including DE-YAN, Carnegie, Highwire, Excel Sports Management, and Adweek. He currently serves on the board of DE-YAN, Carnegie and Adweek. Previously, Nathan worked on FanDuel, Branded Cities and Mobilitie. Prior to joining Shamrock in 2019, Nathan was an investment banking analyst in Guggenheim Partners' Tech, Media & Telecom group in New York.

Nathan graduated from Emory University with highest distinction.

Mark Solovy, Managing Director – Co-Head, Technology Finance; Head, Venture Debt | Monroe Capital



Mr. Solovy is a Managing Director of Monroe Capital. He is responsible for co-leading relationship sourcing and the origination of new business opportunities within the software, technology and tech-enabled services industries. He also served as Co-President of MCAP Acquisition Corporation (NASDAQ: MACQU), a special purpose acquisition corporation, which closed a business combination with AdTheorent, a leading programmatic digital advertising company. Mr. Solovy has 25 years of private equity, venture capital, and investment banking experience. Prior to Monroe, Mr. Solovy was a Managing Director at Hercules Capital. During his career as an investor and entrepreneur, Mr. Solovy has been privileged to invest in some of the leading tech companies in the world alongside other highly regarded investors. Mr. Solovy earned his J.D. from the University of Pennsylvania Law School and his B.S in Business

Administration (summa cum laude) from Washington University's Olin Business School in St. Louis. Mr. Solovy volunteers as a Board Member and Co-President of the Wharton PE & VC Alumni Association.

RESILIENCE THROUGH 137 YEARS OF TRANSFORMATIVE ACQUISITIONS AND CREATION OF NEW PRODUCTS

Steve Swartz, President & CEO | Hearst



Steven R. Swartz became President and Chief Executive Officer of Hearst, one of the nation's largest global, diversified information, services and media companies, on June 1, 2013, having worked for the company for more than 20 years and served as its Chief Operating Officer since 2011.

Hearst's major interests include global financial services leader Fitch Group; Hearst Health, a group of medical information and services businesses; Hearst Transportation, which includes CAMP Systems International, a major provider of software-as-a-service solutions for managing maintenance of jets and helicopters; ownership in cable television networks such as A&E, HISTORY, Lifetime and ESPN; 35 television stations; 24 daily and 52 weekly newspapers; digital services businesses; and

more than 200 magazines around the world.

Swartz, 62, is a member of the Hearst board of directors, a trustee of the Hearst Family Trust and a director of the Hearst Foundations. He was President of Hearst Newspapers from 2009 to 2011 and Executive Vice President from 2001 to 2008. From 1995 to 2000, Swartz was President and Chief Executive of *SmartMoney*, a magazine venture launched by Hearst and *The Wall Street Journal* in 1991 with Swartz as founding editor. Under his leadership, *SmartMoney* magazine won two National Magazine Awards and was *Advertising Age's* Magazine of the Year.

Swartz began his career in 1984 as a reporter with *The Wall Street Journal* after graduating from Harvard. He served as an editor on the *Journal's* Page One staff from 1989 to 1991.

Swartz is chair of the board of directors of Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. He has also served as Lincoln Center Corporate Fund chair for 10 years and as a Lincoln Center board member for 11 years. He is a vice chairman of New York-Presbyterian Hospital, where he also chairs the budget and finance committee. He is also a trustee of The Paley Center for Media. Swartz completed in January of 2023 a three-year term as co-chairman of the Partnership for New York City, where he continues to serve on the executive committee of the board. He served a five-year term as chairman of the Associated Press from 2017 to 2022. He is a member of the board of directors of ESPN and is a member of the Business Roundtable.