

Cahill Gordon Recruits Fried Frank Digital Assets Co-Leader

By Tracey Read

Law360 (May 13, 2025, 7:01 AM EDT) -- Cahill Gordon & Reindel LLP has added the former co-head of Fried Frank Harris Shriver & Jacobson LLP's digital assets and blockchain practice as a partner in Washington, D.C., the firm announced Tuesday.

Crypto tax lawyer Jason Schwartz is the latest member of the CahillNXT practice, the firm's global digital assets and emerging technology practice. Schwartz is an authority on tax issues relating to digital assets, financial products, securitizations, funds and cross-border lending.



Jason Schwartz

"I am just extremely excited to join Cahill and really offer something that I think very few, if any, U.S. BigLaw firms are offering, which is a true white-glove, full-service, digital assets native experience," Schwartz told Law360 Pulse in a Monday interview. "All of the folks who are part of CahillNXT have been playing in the space for many years, probably more years than most people have even known what crypto was, and that really goes a long way."

He added that the firm is building the country's premier digital assets legal practice in a world of increasing distrust across borders that is also increasingly online.

"It's becoming very clear that the future is on chain," Schwartz said. "I think that digital assets in the current environment remains sort of a niche area where a lot of practitioners don't understand how the technology works yet. There's a lot of value to add for practitioners who understand the technology but also understand the needs of institutional clients."

Schwartz spent over three years at Fried Frank. Before that, he was a tax partner at Cadwalader Wickersham & Taft LLP, where he began his legal career after graduating magna cum laude graduate from American University, Washington College of Law. He has a Master of Laws and bachelor's degree from New York University, the firm said.

Schwartz said he fell into tax law by accident, graduating around the time of the last great financial crisis.

"At the time, I was just happy to find a job, honestly," he said. "I had no idea what the practice of tax law entailed. However, I found that it really did sort of suit my particular interest set, because I love solving problems and I love seeing how the entire sausage is made, and really understanding how a deal works."

Schwartz authored the seminal article on the taxation of decentralized finance, and is a sought-after speaker on tax and digital assets matters, Cahill Gordon said.

"Jason is the best crypto tax lawyer in the market, and his experience perfectly complements our existing strengths and further establishes CahillNXT as the foremost digital assets advisor," Samson A. Enzer, founder and co-chair of CahillNXT, said in a statement.

Schwartz said he is also deeply committed to pro bono work, overseeing the 501Foundry program, which provides comprehensive legal assistance to help nonprofit organizations incorporate and secure tax-exempt status. Through the initiative, he has helped hundreds of charitable organizations establish solid legal foundations, the firm said.

"It's been very rewarding, and it actually often dovetails nicely with the digital assets work that we do," Schwartz said of the pro bono incubator. "Increasingly, there have been a number of digital assets related projects that have formed 501(c)s either as sort of ancillary entities that are intended to educate the public about the importance of self sovereignty, being your own bank and being able to really control your own data."

"Or sometimes, even paying clients form 501(c)s that are effectively software protocol stewards," he added.

Schwartz follows London-based Jonathan Galea, who arrived at the CahillNXT practice in March from BCAS, a regulatory consultancy based in Malta targeting the crypto-asset industry.

Herb Washer, chair of Cahill Gordon's executive committee, said in the announcement that he's pleased with the continued expansion of CahillNXT.

"Jason is yet another important piece in this puzzle as we strive to cement Cahill's place as the premier destination for traditional financial institutions and emerging crypto native and fintech companies in this dynamic sector," Washer said. "With his invaluable experience dealing with the U.S. Department of the Treasury, Jason lends depth and breadth to our emerging presence in D.C. as well."

--Additional reporting by Tom Fish. Editing by Jay Jackson Jr.