

### **Speaking Engagement Abstract**

**Title:** “Hey Buddy, Can You Spare A Bitcoin?”

**Description:**

The deal went down better than expected. The money exchange went smoothly. Satisfied with the bargain, both sides departed peacefully.

This sounds like a modern-day drug deal played out daily across the land. But it wasn’t. What this describes is a real estate transaction four centuries ago between the Dutch and the native Lenape people for the purchase of an entire island then called “Manahatta.”

The payment was in the form of beads and other trinkets then valued at 60 guilders or \$24 (today \$1,000). The Dutch negotiator and his Native American counterpart placed a value on the property and agreed upon the above-referenced items as the medium of exchange—what we call money.

That’s what I am going to discuss today. Money.

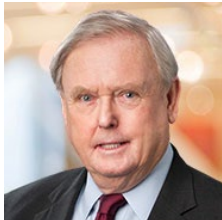
After a brief history of money, we will go to 2009 and the birth of Bitcoin and the dawn of cryptocurrency. This is the latest form of currency—digital money. The descendant of beads if you will.

We will experience the roller coaster ride of the birth and evolution of controversial Bitcoin and thousands of other crypto imitators. The recent decade of mind-boggling run up and collapse of prices. And the spectacular implosions of crypto exchanges and the collateral consequences.

Then we will go behind the scenes of two of my lawsuits involving the internet heist of \$38 million and \$24 million of crypto. You will meet the victims, perpetrators, facilitating phone companies, and the legal team that tracked down the culprits—one of whom was a 15-year-old high school freshman! His nickname is “Baby Al Capone.”

We will examine the state and federal laws that were broken, their inadequacy for protecting crypto owners, and the need for global law reform.

Finally, we will hazard some predictions about the future of Bitcoin and its cousins. Are they a momentary flash in the pan, a quaint experiment that failed to gain wide acceptance? Or is crypto the wave of the present that has secured a strong enough foothold guaranteeing that it will become a widely-embraced form of money?



*Pierce O'Donnell, Of Counsel at Greenberg Glusker in Los Angeles, is one of the premier trial lawyers in the nation who represents victims of cryptocurrency thefts. Read more about Pierce: <https://www.greenbergglusker.com/pierce-odonnell/>*