

CHAPMAN

On-Chain Spotlight

March 26, 2026

On-Chain in the News

Regulatory Happenings

- **March 18:** The SEC approved Nasdaq to support trading and settlement of tokenized shares in a pilot program operated by DTCC, with tokenized equities sharing the same order book, execution priority, and shareholder rights as traditional shares – read more [here](#).
- **March 17:** The SEC, in coordination with the CFTC, issued an interpretation clarifying the application of federal securities laws to crypto assets, establishing a taxonomy that distinguishes digital commodities, collectibles, tools, stablecoins, and digital securities. The interpretation confirms that most crypto assets are not securities but provides guidance on how a non-security crypto asset may or may not become subject to securities regulation as an investment contract under the Howey test. It also clarifies that protocol mining, staking, wrapping, and certain airdrops generally do not constitute securities offerings – read our client alert [here](#) and read the interpretive release [here](#).
- **March 17:** Phantom, a self-custodial crypto wallet developer, received a no-action letter from the CFTC confirming that it is allowed to offer users access to regulated derivatives markets without registering as a broker, provided it meets certain conditions – see the press release [here](#).
- **March 17:** TD Cowen believes the window to pass the crypto market structure bill extends to the August Congressional recess, noting that bipartisan negotiations are ongoing but passage during an election year remains challenging and could be postponed until 2027 if political control shifts – see more [here](#).
- **March 16:** Utah's Legislature passed S.B. 275, which, pending the governor's signature, would establish a voluntary digital identity program allowing adult residents to hold state-issued digital credentials via mobile devices, sharing only transaction-relevant information. The program is optional for both individuals and businesses – read the bill [here](#).
- **March 16:** The SEC proposed amendments to Exchange Act Rule 15c2-11 to clarify that its information gathering and review requirements for broker-dealers in the OTC market apply only to equity securities, with a 60-day comment period following publication in the Federal Register – see the press release [here](#).
- **March 12:** The SEC's Investor Advisory Committee recommended the agency pursue a tokenized-securities policy with narrow exemptions, mandatory disclosures, and supervision, aiming to streamline stock trading by reducing intermediaries while maintaining investor protections and acknowledging potential risks and costs – see more [here](#).

Market Happenings

- **March 19:** Flow Traders launched a 24/7 OTC liquidity service for tokenized assets, enabling institutional clients to manage risk and access liquidity in digital stocks, commodities, and money market funds outside traditional market hours – read the announcement [here](#).
- **March 18:** S&P Dow Jones Indices has licensed the S&P 500 index for the launch of a perpetual futures contract on the crypto exchange Hyperliquid, enabling 24/7 trading with up to 50x leverage – read more [here](#).
- **March 18:** Polymarket acquired DeFi infrastructure firm Brahma, integrating its team and blockchain settlement technology to scale Polymarket's prediction markets platform – read more [here](#).

- **March 17:** Moody's launched its Token Integration Engine (TIE), enabling the agency to deliver credit analysis directly within blockchain-based workflows, marking the first on-chain integration by a major ratings firm. Moody's is operating a node on the Canton Network and has also finalized its methodology for rating stablecoins, focusing on reserve asset quality, transparency, and operational risks – read the announcement [here](#).
- **March 17:** Mastercard has agreed to acquire stablecoin infrastructure firm BVNK to expand its digital assets arm and enable interoperability between fiat and blockchain payment systems – read the announcement [here](#).
- **March 17:** The Solana Foundation launched "Tokens on Solana," a token search and liquidity aggregator that consolidates multiple variants of non-native on-chain assets onto a single page. The platform enables users to search for tokens, view real-time prices, trading volume, liquidity depth, and 24-hour price changes – read more [here](#).
- **March 17:** Cari Network announced its launch of a bank-governed tokenized deposit network on Matter Labs' Prividium. This will allow US banks to issue and manage tokenized deposits as FDIC-insured liabilities on a permissioned blockchain, with endorsement from the Mid-Size Bank Coalition of America – read the announcement [here](#).
- **March 17:** PayPal expanded access to its US dollar-backed stablecoin, PayPal USD (PYUSD), making it available in 70 markets worldwide through PayPal accounts – read the announcement [here](#).
- **March 16:** Abra, a crypto wealth management platform, plans to go public via a merger with New Providence Acquisition Corp III – see more [here](#).
- **March 16:** Visa and Fiserv announced a partnership to provide a unified, cloud-based acceptance infrastructure for payment processing, designed to simplify integration for acquirers and support digital asset-related payment innovations. The platform will offer enhanced data, fraud prevention, and compliance tools through a single API integration – read the announcement [here](#).
- **March 14:** Amalgam, a DeFi protocol that combines lending, borrowing, and market-making into a single on-chain platform, is expected to launch its mainnet, with features like managed Vaults for passive investment strategies and unified liquidity pools designed to optimize efficiency across multiple DeFi functions – see more [here](#).
- **March 13:** KRAKacquisition Corp., a SPAC sponsored by an affiliate of Kraken, is seeking an acquisition target valued between \$2–10 billion, in sectors like stablecoins, DeFi, and payments, while Kraken itself is considering a public offering this year – see more [here](#).

Litigation, Enforcement, and Examinations

- **March 16:** US, UK, and Canadian law enforcement agencies, alongside private partners, are launching Operation Atlantic, a coordinated effort to combat approval-phishing scams that drained millions from cryptocurrency users in 2025, focusing on identifying victims, recovering funds, and disrupting increasingly industrialized scam networks – see the press release [here](#).
- **March 15:** BlockFills filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy after suspending client withdrawals and facing legal challenges, reporting up to \$100 million in assets and \$500 million in liabilities, and seeking court-supervised restructuring to stabilize its business and protect client interests – see more [here](#).
- **March 13:** A federal appeals court rejected Custodia Bank's final challenge to the Federal Reserve's authority over granting master accounts and this occurs as the Fed is opening new, limited account options for crypto firms, with Kraken recently receiving such an account – see more [here](#).
- **March 12:** The SEC ended its civil enforcement action against BitClout founder Nader Al-Naji and related defendants, closing the case and preventing refiling after allegations of securities violations and misuse of investor funds – read more [here](#) and the joint stipulation [here](#).

Sharing Our Insights

Chapman attorneys have been focused on the cryptocurrency, digital asset, and blockchain ecosystem for many years, and we have assisted clients in shaping industry understanding and strategy through substantive thought leadership. Our attorneys regularly share their insights at prominent industry forums, translating complex regulatory and market developments into actionable guidance for stakeholders navigating this dynamic space.

We Are Here to Help

We are available at any time to answer questions, discuss scenarios, and provide guidance. Reach out to any member of our Cryptocurrency, Digital Assets, and Blockchain team or the Chapman attorney with whom you work.



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