



## Spring 2025


### Blockchain News Updates in Maryland






**BLOCKCHAIN  
LEGAL INSTITUTE**  
www.bli.tools

### 2025 Summit








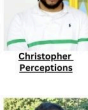

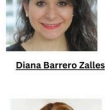
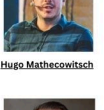




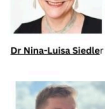
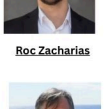














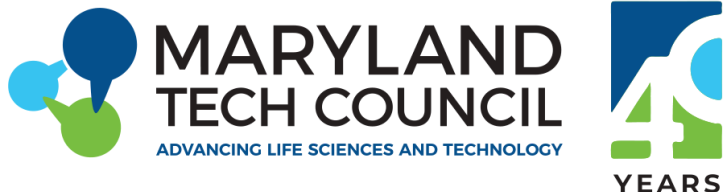










#### New Partnership Announcement:

MDBA is now proud to announce a new partnership with the Maryland Tech Council. The Maryland Tech Council is a collaborative community actively engaged in building strong technology and life science industries. The Maryland Tech Council is the largest technology and life sciences trade association in the state of Maryland and provides value by giving members a forum to learn, share, and connect.

To support the development of blockchain businesses and to educate the community about the evolving technology developments, MDBA and MD Tech Council are hosting a series of Web3, Blockchain & Digital Asset seminars in support of this learning and practical application across all industries.

The first virtual event was hosted on June 5th and included such esteemed panelists:

- Kelly Schultz, CEO, Maryland Tech Council
- Jacqueline Cooper, JD, MA LDT, NBCT, CCI, BMM, Co-Founder, Maryland Blockchain Association, & Chief Executive Officer, Blockchain Legal Institute.
- W. Scott Stornetta, CEO, Suremark
- Matthew Rogers, Co-Founder, Chief Technology Officer, Blockchain Legal Institute & Digital Asset Regulatory Authority
- Chris Light, Chief Executive Office, E-Livestock Global
- Kyle Langham, Director of Data & Analytics, Dfinity & ICP
- Benjamin Diggles, Co-Founder, Constellation Network
- Ralph Benko, Co-Founder & General Counsel, F1R3FLY Industries, Inc.



A webinar on Web2 to Web3: The Crossroad Applications of Blockchain 101 and learn about the next generation of technologies at the crossroads of blockchain, crypto, and AI.

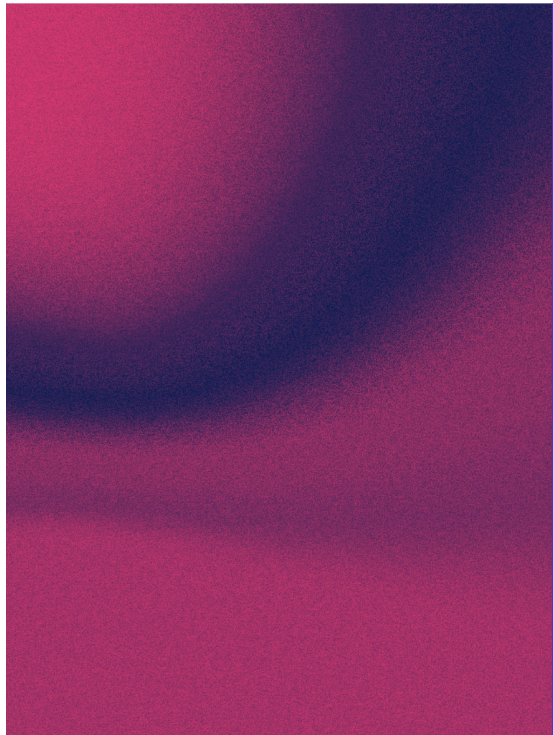
#### Key Takeaways:

- **Understanding the Shift:** Learn the fundamentals about Web3, including the move from centralized control and data storage to decentralized, user-owned systems powered by blockchain.
- **Blockchain & Smart Contracts 101:** Grasp the basics of blockchain technology, smart contracts, and how they enable decentralized applications and new forms of digital trust.
- **Real-World Applications:** Explore areas such as blockchain analytics, and cross-chain interoperability.
- **Regulatory & Ethical Considerations:** Understand the evolving regulatory landscape and ethical considerations.
- **Future Outlook:** Gain perspective on the ongoing evolution of Web3.

Watch on socials for the announcement of the official SureMark Digital ID signing.

We will be releasing the MDBA & MD Tech Council Lunch & Learn after our signing for viewing!

### Sponsor News



## Strategic Partners

2025

RYO Digital

As part of the strategic partnership, RYO Digital and MDBA are committed to providing education to support Maryland businesses in their growth and development of integrating innovative technology. The most recent Talk Show features David Thompson, RYO's Director of Business Development, sharing RYO's origin story, its connection with Bitcoin and the vision of the life wallet and ecosystem.

### MDBA On The Move



The MDBA Team traveled to Toronto to attend the Blockchain Futurist and Consensus. The Team met many of the Association's members as well as reconnecting with those supporting the MDBA vision to include Vanessa Samuels (Deloitte) & others from Bermuda. (Above)

In celebration of the Association's first anniversary, the MDBA co-hosted its first in person Meet-up at The Hideaway. Those attending the event received a birthday gift of The Bitcoin Cinderella & The 7 Dwarves to learn more about Bitcoin and its history, written by Jacqueline Cooper. (Below)



# Maryland Strong!



## GBBC Blockchain Central DC 2025



**Jacqueline Cooper (MDBA) meets U.S. Senator Alsbrooks (MD) & State Senator Watson (MD) at Washington D.C. conference.**

The Association celebrated its first anniversary in style with Stand With Crypto. Association Board member, Brant Padmore, enjoyed networking with those in attendance. Another special visitor and Association member included the founder of DeCharge (bringing decentralized energy to MD). Special thanks to Gilberto Nazario (Web3MD).

## Feature Member News



The Maryland Blockchain Association would like to announce and welcome as a Strategic Honorary Advisor to the Maryland Blockchain Association, Ralph Benko.

Ralph has consulted in the areas of: Emerging Tech, AI, hyperdimensional computing, strategic communications, law, finance, public and government relations. He is also an author and Hacker Noon Contributing Writer, Newsmax weekly columnist and Co Founder, Director & General Counsel of F1R3FLY Industries Inc. Seattle, Metro DC, London & NYC.



Tate Hilmo recently was featured on the MDBA [Member Byte Talk Show](#). Tate joined the Association to support our innovative technology community. Tate is a seasoned business and technology attorney known for guiding startups and established companies through the complexities of innovation, particularly in blockchain, information technology, and emerging sectors. As Co-Founder of Hilmo Bertier LLP and Chief Legal Officer at Proto Hologram, Tate's practice spans the full lifecycle of business—from formation and funding (including asset and utility tokens) to corporate governance, equity incentives, strategic partnerships, and regulatory advocacy. His expertise extends to technology transactions in the blockchain and Web3 ecosystem, covering areas such as tokenized assets, smart contracts, SaaS, privacy, and compliance.

## Volunteer News



Tanner Hodger joins the MDBA volunteer legal cohort and is supporting research for the Hackathon, blockchain business development and compliance regulations. Tanner is a 3rd year law student at the University of Baltimore School of Law. He is a Law Clerk for a local Maryland law firm. He first got into digital assets through mining Ethereum in college. Ever since he has been a blockchain enthusiast, investor, and learner.



Emily Rehn also is joining the MDBA volunteer cohort as she recently traveled to the DMV area. Emily is currently studying at the University of California, Davis and her studies focus on receiving a Bachelor of Science in Community and Regional Development. She is actively supporting the MDBA research and analysis of various blockchain protocols and digital asset ecosystems, helping the team identify strategic opportunities for growth and partnership.

## News Around Maryland



**New resource page added to the Maryland Blockchain Association's website. Interested in policy and legislation updates, visit [here](#) for news on our Maryland General Assembly & legislation.**



Learning about blockchain protocols is foundational for MDBA members interested in digital innovation. Protocols are the underlying rules and algorithms that govern how blockchain networks operate,





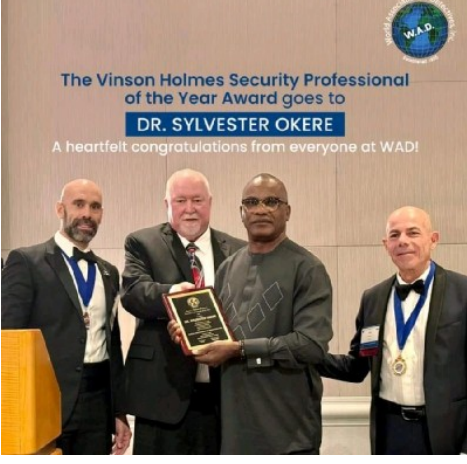
ensuring that every transaction is processed identically by each participating node. This uniformity is what makes blockchains decentralized and secure—if a node doesn’t follow the protocol, it becomes incompatible with the rest of the network. Understanding these protocols helps MDBA members grasp how data is validated, stored, and transmitted across distributed ledgers, and why blockchain is considered a trustworthy and tamper-resistant technology for a wide range of business applications.

Two places to visit to support your learning:

- MDBA [resource](#) page on protocols/grants
- [BLI Legal Tech Hackathon](#) (Constellation Network, ICP & Story)



Special Thanks to Brian Doyle of the Flow Foundation for speaking at MDBA Virtual Meet-up about blockchain technology.



Special Thanks to, Sylvester Okere, for his support of security within our community. Dr. Okere, CIPM II, FIIM. is the CEO of the Strategic Groups USA LLC and Champion Investigation & Security Consulting Services LLC, W.A.D. Ambassador - NIGERIA, Director: Maryland Investigators & Security Association (MISA) MEMBER: W.A.D., ABI, ASIS, MISA, ACFE, OSAC, ISF, NCISS, CPIRC, UNOPS [www.championinvestigations.com](http://www.championinvestigations.com)

Partnership Announcement:

MDBA Is Now the Maryland Chapter of



Join Us For MDBA’s Monthly Virtual Meet-Up! Enjoy Networking & Our Global Speakers!



Groundbreaking Decentralized Energy Alliance Between MDBA & DeCharge!

Do you own an electric vehicle? Do you have empty space in your driveway? We are excited to announce DeCharge is now a strategic partner!

[DeCharge](#) is revolutionizing electric vehicle (EV) charging by building a decentralized, blockchain-powered network that empowers communities to own and operate EV charging stations. Founded in 2024 by Mohan Kuldeep Ponnada (Founder & CEO), Dr. Prakash Kamaraj (Co-Founder & Head of Blockchain), and Rama Krishna (Co-Founder), DeCharge leverages the Solana blockchain and IoT technology to create a seamless, permissionless platform that enables anyone to become a charging host and earn passive income. With over 3,000 chargers already deployed across the U.S., India, and beyond, DeCharge is accelerating the transition to sustainable transportation by providing accessible, transparent, and scalable charging infrastructure. This innovative approach to tokenizing charging assets and fostering decentralized capital mobilization aligns perfectly with MDBA’s mission to advance blockchain innovation and adoption in Maryland. We look forward to collaborating with DeCharge to explore new opportunities at the intersection of blockchain, clean energy, and mobility, and to support their vision of powering the future of transportation through decentralized technology.

For info about DeCharge, message MDBA. To receive 10% discount on your charging station mention MDBA.

Lets Work Together...

Are you curious about, or working within any of these areas:  
Artificial intelligence? Bitcoin Mining? Application Development?  
Cryptocurrency? Real World Assets? Non-Fungible Tokens?

Visit [www.marylandblockchainassociation.org](http://www.marylandblockchainassociation.org) and reach out to us.

Maryland Around the Globe



### Empowering the Future of Law & Blockchain

Your trusted hub for legal innovation, education, and community in digital assets and blockchain technology

[Join the Community](#)[Get the Newsletter](#)[Upcoming Events](#)

#### About Us

Blockchain Legal Institute (BLI) is dedicated to advancing the understanding and application of law in the realm of digital assets and blockchain technology. Our mission is to provide legal professionals with the tools and knowledge they need to navigate this rapidly evolving field.

#### What We Do

**Events & Summits**  
Organizing industry-leading conferences and workshops

**Education & Resources**  
Providing comprehensive legal training and materials

**Community: Networking**  
Connecting legal experts through forums and meetups

**Publishing & Thought Leadership**  
Offering insights through articles and research

#### Get Involved

**Membership**  
Become a part of BLI and access exclusive benefits.

**Hackathon**  
Participate in our upcoming blockchain-law challenge.

**Member Birectory**  
Join our network of legal professionals in the >>

Blockchain Legal Institute

Want to network with Legal Experts in Blockchain? BLI serves as a comprehensive library of decentralized resources, accessible to anyone interested in exploring

## PROTECT Week

June 16-20, 2025

Protecting older Americans and vulnerable adults from financial exploitation. Visit [aarp.org/md/protectweek](http://aarp.org/md/protectweek) today.

AARP Magazine & MD AARP Fireside Chat with Jacqueline Cooper on *Tips To Know!*



Protect Week Aims To Stem Fraud. Friday, June 20, 2025 1:00 p.m. on [AARP Facebook](#) and [YouTube](#)

Partnership News: MDBA is now partnering with University of Maryland Blockchain Accelerator (Smith School) and the UMD Blockchain Club in support of the BLI Legal Tech Hackathon.

Grant Updates

If you are looking to start something new, important, and attention-worthy, message us to learn about public and private resources. - this info is free to members!

[Resources](#)

Maryland Blockchain Association Meet-ups

## DeCharge

### Member Byte Talk Show

FED Legislative Updates

Our research team is monitoring trends in compliance, regulations and court cases across the U.S.A. If you are doing business in Maryland or elsewhere, we can research your questions. Contact us.

Networking Opportunities

If you are interested in learning about our community, join our virtual Maryland Blockchain Association Meet-up as well as others around Maryland:

- Baltimore Bitcoin Group
- AI Innovators Network - Tysons - DC, Nova, MD
- Baltimore Tech Meetup Group
- Bitcoin Annapolis
- Rainwater Growth LLC - DMV Tech Upskilling
- DMV Bitcoiners
- Hyperledger Foundation Hyperledger Maryland
- Cryptocurrency Meetup Group



innovative technologies. Whether you're a consumer or an entrepreneur, you can find valuable research and insights at [www.bli.tools](http://www.bli.tools).

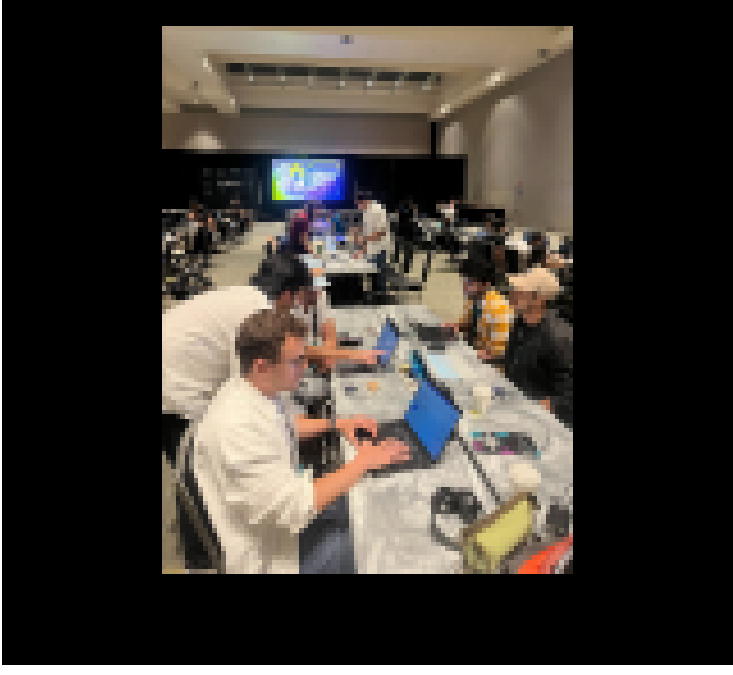


## Hackathon News

Are you passionate about legal innovation, blockchain, or building the next wave of decentralized solutions?

No need to be at a conference to be part of a Hackathon! Join our virtual Hackathon and collaborate with developers, legal experts, and Web3 enthusiasts to build on Story, ICP and Constellation Network!

New to discord? Mentors will support you as you learn where to go and how to create a team! Project deadline for submissions is October 31st! Start building now...



Special Thanks to Patrina Pelton-Smith of the Business of Charity as well as Cameron Browne of Darien Advisors for their support of the Maryland Blockchain Association.



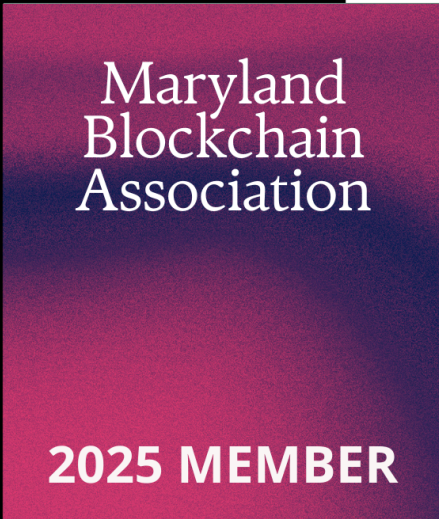
Feel free to connect with the Team @ [info@marylandblockchainassociation.org](mailto:info@marylandblockchainassociation.org)

Join As A Member

Visit the MDBA website to see updates featuring different Maryland State Departments, local County or City offices working on topics related to our decentralized technology community.

Visit the MDBA member directory to support their services & products.

Know someone in Maryland who likes blockchain tech? Forward them this email.



### ASSOCIATION BENEFITS INCLUDE YOUR ACCESS TO:

- THE AMERICAN BLOCKCHAIN CENTER
- CONTINUING EDUCATION CLASSES
- IN PERSON EVENTS
- DISCOUNT CONFERENCE TICKETS
- PUBLISHING OPPORTUNITIES
- NETWORKING WITH MD POLITICIANS
- HACKATHONS

# Maryland Blockchain Association



Your Membership Impacts The World.

# Maryland Blockchain Association

# Contact Us To Join!

[www.marylandblockchainassociation.org](http://www.marylandblockchainassociation.org)

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
you can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).



Our mailing address is Box 1652, Beltsville, Maryland 20705