### FT PARTNERS FINTECH INDUSTRY RESEARCH

**January 6, 2022** 

### FINTECH CEO INTERVIEW



with Founder & CEO Kingsley Advani

**Private Equity Platform** 



The Only Investment Bank Focused Exclusively on FinTech

San Francisco • New York • London

#### **Allocations Overview**

### ..... allocations

#### **Company Overview**



Headquarters: Miami, FL
Founded: 2019

- Allocations Inc is a US FinTech company, and developer of the world's fastest private equity platform (starting with SPVs, & Funds)
- The Company has powered nearly:
  - 1,000 private funds since inception
  - \$500 million in volume
  - ~10,000 active users
- Allocation's mission is to create more economic freedom; the Company has democratized private equity by making the tools needed to raise capital readily accessible to any type of investor

Date	Amount (\$ mm)	Selected Investors
08/05/21	\$7	200 investors: Vitalize Venture Capital, Irish Angels, Browder Capital, Allocations Angels, T-Bird Capital, Andav Capital, Bluewatch Ventures, Helios Capital, Russell Galbut, Bruce Menin, Zachary Hargreaves
08/31/20	1	Family and friends

#### Solutions Overview

#### **Special Purpose Vehicles**



- Instant SPV set-up, fully automating the private equity capital raising process on a deal-by-deal basis for \$8,000 one-time fee
- End-to-end service including entity formation, bank account set-up, legal documents, accounting & tax, investor onboarding, regulatory filings and distributions

#### Funds



- Instant Fund set-up, fully automating the private equity capital raising process
- End-to-end service including entity formation, bank account set-up, legal documents, accounting & tax, investor onboarding, regulatory filings and distributions
- Unlike SPVs, includes no minimum size and unlimited closings
- Priced at \$15k p.a.

#### **Services**



- Instant bank accounts
- Instant formation
- Instant accounting & tax
- Migrations
- Instant crypto payments

#### **Coming Soon**



- Regulation Crowdfunding
- Acquisitions
- SPACs
- More private equity offerings

#### **Selected Management Team**



Kingsley Advani Founder & CEO



Kendra Kinnison Chief Operating Officer



Nicholas Bird Chief Financial Officer



Kurt Nuñez Chief Compliance Officer

#### Interview with Allocations

...: allocations

# **Kingsley Advani**Founder & CFO



Kingsley Advani is the Founder and CEO of Allocations. Prior to founding Allocations, Kingsley ran a \$1 billion crypto fund, having angel invested in 300+ companies and 20 funds. Additionally, he founded an angel investor group in 2017, which scaled to 1,000 investors around the world. Kingsley founded Allocations to address the issues he experienced as an investor and to create an inclusive platform.

"In 2019, Allocations was founded to create more economic freedom in the world. The Company has launched the world's fastest private equity platform with instant SPV setup, fixed costs and superfast closing."

#### What is your background and what was the catalyst behind founding Allocations?

Prior to Allocations, I ran a \$1 billion crypto fund - I have angel invested in 300+ companies and 20 funds.

In 2017, I founded an angel investor group which scaled to 1,000 investors around the world. Our investors needed: instant SPV (special purpose vehicle) setup, fixed costs and superfast closing - there were no private equity platforms that could meet our needs.

In 2019, Allocations was founded to create more economic freedom in the world. The Company has launched the world's fastest private equity platform with instant SPV setup, fixed costs and superfast closing.

Can you walk us through the steps needed to create an SPV and how you are automating the process? What are biggest stumbling blocks to real-time SPV creation?

Currently, there are around 100 steps to start an SPV. To date this process has been very manual with slow workflows and a long timeframe (weeks and months) to setup SPVs.

Allocations' private equity platform makes SPV setup instant and frictionless - recently hitting a world record for the fastest SPV setup (under 3 hours).

### FinTech CEO Interview: Allocations

#### Interview with Allocations (cont.)

### ..... allocations

### allocations CEO Interview - Kingsley Advani

"We will see a large volume of private equity transactions move onto the blockchain which will enable transparency for investors, interoperability with 3rd party services and new auditing tools."

# What are the different use cases for SPVs? What are the additional complexities involved in creating a fund vs. an SPV?

SPVs are group investment vehicles and can be used to invest in any private asset. They are the holy grail of private equity. Examples: Startups, Funds, Art, Real Estate, Oil & Gas.

SPVs are mostly used to invest in single assets, and Funds are used to invest in multiple assets.

# Given your background in crypto, how do you see crypto / blockchain playing a role in your business?

Private equity is moving to the blockchain.

- Crypto payments: We have huge demand for our stablecoin settlement for private equity. Investors are choosing to use stablecoins to make private investments due to the instant settlement and low fees.
- Tokenized Secondaries: Private equity ownership is continuing to be fractionalized and we will see a continuation of this with investors selling fractional shares of their private assets for liquidity.
- Ledger: We will see a large volume of private equity transactions move onto the blockchain which will enable transparency for investors, interoperability with 3rd party services and new auditing tools.

### Interview with Allocations (cont.)

### allocations CEO Interview - Kingsley Advani

Who is your primary target audience – individuals, hobbyists, and first-time professional investors – or are you targeting seasoned professional investors?

Our clients range from first time fund managers to \$1 billion+ funds.

"As investors, we prefer fixed, transactional costs for SPVs over annual fees / commission. We believe the transactional model is more efficient and transparent."

Please talk to us about your pricing strategy and why you don't charge annual fees.

As investors, we prefer fixed, transactional costs for SPVs over annual fees / commission. We believe the transactional model is more efficient and transparent.

We are shifting the private equity industry to a fixed cost per transaction (e.g. SPVs on Allocations start from \$8k for the lifetime of the vehicle).

You are up to 112 employees – what is the breakdown of your employees by function and geography? What keys area will you be adding to in the near-term?

60%+ of the Company are in product and engineering roles.

We will continue to expand across all areas, especially product and engineering.

The Company is all-in-remote, with employees in 68 locations in over 9 countries.

### Interview with Allocations (cont.)

### allocations CEO Interview - Kingsley Advani

The business is off to a very fast start -- can you provide us with any KPI's or financials to-date?

- \$7 million run rate revenue
- 25% monthly revenue growth
- ~\$500 million in volume transacted on the platform
- Approaching 1,000 private funds on the platform

As a fast-growing FinTech company finding clear product-market fit, what are the biggest challenges you face on a day-to-day basis? How do you think about your competition in this space?

**Biggest challenges:** Keeping up with demand has forced us to scale our team from 12 (Jan 21) to 112 (Dec 21). We have purposefully built out systems and people operations to handle this team scaling.

Competition: We welcome competition in the space. Still, most private equity transactions are done manually without private equity platforms. We are fortunate to be the world's fastest private equity platform with a heavy engineering focus.

Clearly you have an opportunity to provide several additional services to your customers in a low-cost, automated way. What does the product roadmap look like? What about geographical expansion?

\$2.9 trillion dollars p.a. is raised in USA private equity offerings - Allocations is disrupting this market, starting with SPVs and Funds. The Company continues to launch new products and features.

"We are fortunate to be the world's fastest private equity platform with a heavy engineering focus."

#### Selected FT Partners Research - Click to View



Abra's \$55 million Financing



Say's \$140 million Sale to Robinhood



Trumid's \$200 million Financing



Forge's \$2 billion SPAC Merger



**Stronghold Completes its IPO** 



Republic Raises \$150 million in Series B Financing



Celsius Network Raises \$400 million in Financing



DriveWealth Raises \$450 million in Series D Financing

**VIEW MORE FT PARTNERS RESEARCH** 

### Selected FT Partners Capital Markets / WealthTech Transactions

#### **M&A Transactions**

















































FT Partners has advised on some of the most prominent and groundbreaking transactions in the Securities / Capital Markets / Wealth Technology sectors

### FT Partners Advises Forge on its Merger with Motive Capital Corp.

#### **Overview of Transaction**

- On September 13, 2021, Forge announced its merger with Motive Capital Corp.
- Upon completion of the transaction, the combined company is expected to have a pro forma fully diluted equity value of approximately \$2.0 billion (1)
  - Expected gross proceeds are \$532.5 million, prior to the payment of transaction expenses and up to \$100 million of cash consideration
  - The combination is further supported by a \$50 million commitment under Motive Partners' Forward Purchase Agreement and a \$68.5 million PIPE anchored by ION Group's \$50 million commitment and contributions from Temasek and Adit Ventures
- Forge's digital platform streamlines liquidity for hundreds of unicorn issuers and thousands of institutional and retail investors from around the world
  - Leveraging its robust technology, operations and trust infrastructure,
     Forge delivers a suite of services that includes trading, custody, data and company solutions
- Since inception, Forge has completed more than \$10 billion in transactions in more than 400 private companies

#### **Significance of Transaction**

- The confidence demonstrated by Motive Capital Corp, and other investors is a testament to Forge's business model, management and market opportunity
- Motive Partners intends to be a long-term strategic partner to Forge, accelerating growth and innovation in a market with substantial tailwinds

#### FT Partners' Role

- FT Partners served as strategic and financial advisor to Forge
- FT Partners previously advised Forge on its \$150 million financing in May 2021, its merger with SharesPost in May 2020, its acquisition of IRA Services in October 2019, and its \$70 million Series B financing in July 2018
- This transaction highlights FT Partners' deep domain expertise within Capital Markets Tech, as well as its successful track record generating highly favorable outcomes for high-growth FinTech companies globally

#### Financial Technology Partners LP FTP Securities LLC

is pleased to announce its role as strategic and financial advisor to



on its merger with



**MOTIVE CAPITAL CORP** 

(NYSE: MOTV)

for total consideration of

\$2,000,000,000



### FT Partners Advises Revolut on its \$800 million Series E Financing

#### Overview of Transaction

- On July 15, 2021, Revolut announced that it has raised \$800 million in financing from Softbank and Tiger Global, valuing the business at ~\$33 billion
- SoftBank and Tiger Global join existing investors including Balderton Capital, DST, Ribbit Capital, TCV and TSG Consumer Partners
- Revolut is building the world's first truly global financial superapp to help people get more from their money
  - In 2015, Revolut launched in the UK offering money transfer and exchange; Today, more than 16 million customers around the world use dozens of Revolut's innovative products to make more than 150 million transactions a month

#### Significance of Transaction

- The investment will enable the Company to further its growth plans, in particular
  its ongoing product innovation aimed at meeting customers' everyday financial
  needs and aspirations, from quick and easy global transfers, to managing
  everything from savings to insurance to democratizing wealth and trading
- It will also support the expansion of Revolut's offering to US customers and its entry to India and other international markets
- Revolut is now the most valuable financial superapp and the 4<sup>th</sup> most valuable private FinTech company globally

#### FT Partners' Role

- FT Partners served as exclusive financial and strategic advisor to Revolut
- This transaction underscores FT Partners' deep expertise in the Consumer FinTech and Banking Tech space, as well as our successful track record generating highly favorable outcomes for high-growth, unicorn FinTech companies globally

# Financial Technology Partners LP FTP Securities LLC

is pleased to announce its role as exclusive strategic and financial advisor to

# Revolut

on its Series E financing led by



for a total amount of

\$800,000,000

at a valuation of

~\$33,000,000,000



### FT Partners Advises AlphaSense on its \$180 million Series C Financing

#### Overview of Transaction

- On September 30, 2021, AlphaSense announced it has raised \$180 million in a Series C financing round led by Viking Global Investors and Goldman Sachs Asset Management (GSAM) Growth Equity
  - Viking Global Investors is a global investment firm founded in 1999 that manages ~\$58bn of capital for investors
  - GSAM Growth Equity ("Goldman Sachs") has invested over \$13bn in companies led by visionary founders and CEOs
  - Alliance Bernstein, Bank of America, Barclays, Citi, Cowen, Morgan
     Stanley, Wells Fargo and other investors also participated in the round
- AlphaSense is a leading market intelligence and search platform with operations in the United States, Europe, and India
  - AlphaSense leverages AI and NLP to extract insights from an extensive universe of public and private content, enabling professionals to make critical decisions with confidence and speed
  - AlphaSense is trusted by a majority of S&P 500 companies including 70% of top asset management firms and 76% of top consultancies

#### Significance of Transaction

- The capital infusion will be used to further invest in product development, content expansion and customer support, and to drive organic growth as well as acquisitions
- Through international expansion, AlphaSense plans to continue investing in global and foreign-language content and expanding its customer service and engineering teams worldwide

#### FT Partners' Role

- FT Partners served as exclusive strategic and financial advisor to AlphaSense
- FT Partners previously advised AlphaSense on its \$50 million Series B financing round in 2019 and its \$33 million growth financing round in 2016
- This transaction highlights FT Partners' industry-leading expertise within the Information Technology / Capital Markets space and its successful track record

# Financial Technology Partners LP FTP Securities LLC

is pleased to announce its role as exclusive strategic and financial advisor to



on its Series C financing led by



Goldman Sachs

with participation from









Morgan Stanley COWEN

for a total amount of

\$180,000,000



### FT Partners Advises Say Technologies on its \$140 million Sale to Robinhood

#### **Overview of Transaction**

- On August 10, 2021, Robinhood (NASDAQ:HOOD) announced it had agreed to acquire Say Technologies for approximately \$140 million
- Say is a mission-driven company that has built an innovative communication platform making it easier for investors to exercise their ownership rights
  - Say's proxy processing technology helps broker-dealers give their customers seamless access to their vote, and its Q&A platform lets everyday shareholders participate in events like earnings by asking and upvoting questions
- Robinhood is an online broker that offers commission-free investing in US securities and cryptocurrencies, fractional trading, and cash management
  - Robinhood's mission is to democratize finance and make investing accessible with education and information, fractional shares, IPO access, and more

#### Significance of Transaction

- As part of Robinhood, Say will be able to further its goal of creating a new ecosystem of ownership and engagement to benefit all investors and companies
- Together the companies will find new ways to expand what it means to be an investor through new products and experiences that democratize shareholder access

#### FT Partners' Role

- FT Partners served as exclusive financial and strategic advisor to Say Technologies
- This transaction underscores FT Partners' deep Wealth & Capital Markets
  Tech domain expertise and successful track record of generating favorable
  outcomes for leading companies globally

# FTP Securities LLC.

is pleased to announce its role as exclusive strategic and financial advisor to



on its sale to



for approximately

\$140,000,000



### FT Partners Advises Abra on its Series C Financing

#### Overview of Transaction

- On September 15, 2021, Abra announced it has raised \$55 million in Series C financing led by IGNIA and Blockchain Capital with participation from new investors Kingsway Capital and Tiga Investments
- Additional participation in the round came from existing investors including Amex Ventures, Arbor Ventures, Lerer Hippeau, and Kenetic Advisors
- Founded by Bill Barhydt in 2014, Abra is the leading wealth management platform in the crypto space, allowing hundreds of thousands of users to earn yield on crypto assets, trade over 100 virtual currencies, and borrow against crypto holdings
  - Abra has processed over \$1 billion in crypto-backed loans and paid millions of dollars in interest to retail and institutional clients
  - Abra Earn offers users to earn competitive interest rates on crypto assets, including up to 8% interest on stablecoins, compounded daily
  - Abra's cross-border lending platform matches developed market investors with developing market borrowers to capitalize on a massive yield arbitrage opportunity

#### Significance of Transaction

- The investment will fuel Abra's rapid user base growth and support its continued commitment to expanding the product suite and capabilities
- Abra's Series C financing will allow the company's world-class development team to further expand its product suite for wealth management, trading, and payments, with a focus on offerings for high-net-worth clients and institutions

#### FT Partners' Role

- FT Partners served as exclusive financial and strategic advisor to Abra
- This transaction highlights FT Partners' industry-leading expertise within the burgeoning crypto space, as well as its successful track record of generating highly favorable outcomes for high-growth FinTech companies globally

#### Financial Technology Partners LP FTP Securities LLC.

is pleased to announce its role as exclusive strategic and financial advisor to



on its Series C financing led by





for a total consideration of

\$55,000,000



### FT Partners Advises Nutmeg on its £45 million Series E Financing

#### Overview of Transaction

- On January 22, 2019, Nutmeg announced it has raised £45 million in its Series E financing round led by Goldman Sachs and Convoy
  - Goldman Sachs' Principal Strategic Investments Group is a new investor in the Nutmeg platform, while Convoy, a Hong Kong-based financial advisory firm, is investing for a second time
  - Convoy first invested in Nutmeg in November 2016
- Headquartered in London, Nutmeg is a digital wealth manager operating in the U.K. and Asia (Hong Kong / Taiwan)
  - Nutmeg provides bespoke automated advice and discretionary portfolio management with exposure to multiple asset classes, through its diversified ETF-based portfolios
  - Nutmeg serves more than 60,000 active investors and manages approximately £1.5 billion in assets under management

#### Significance of Transaction

- Nutmeg's Series E financing is the largest funding round by a European digital wealth manager to-date
- Demonstrates Goldman Sachs' continued focus on consumer facing FinTech following the launch of Marcus, its online savings account in the UK

#### FT Partners' Role

- FT Partners served as exclusive strategic and financial advisor to Nutmeg
- This transaction underscores FT Partners' strong domain expertise and successful track record in the WealthTech space

#### Financial Technology Partners LP FTP Securities LLC

is pleased to announce its role as exclusive strategic and financial advisor to



in its Series E Financing from





for total consideration of

£45,000,000



### FT Partners Advises Forge on its Merger with SharesPost

#### Overview of Transaction

- On May 12, 2020, Forge announced its merger with SharesPost
- SharesPost is a private market alternative trading system focused on enabling retail and institutional investors and company employees to access liquidity
  - Founded in 2009, SharesPost built the first private equity marketplace, which strove to connect buyers and sellers of private securities through its proprietary trading platform
- Forge's digital platform streamlines liquidity for hundreds of unicorn issuers and thousands of institutional and retail investors from around the world
  - Leveraging its robust technology, operations and trust infrastructure,
     Forge delivers a suite of services that includes trading, custody, data and company solutions

#### Significance of Transaction

- Together, the two companies will create one of the largest global private securities marketplaces, bringing liquidity and transparency at scale to pre-IPO companies and investors
- Combined, the two will have facilitated thousands of transactions with more than \$6 billion in private market transaction volume, for hundreds of unique issuers and over 1 million customers
- The deal will provide Forge with deeper insight on private company trends, as well as bid, offer, and pricing data that provides transparency to clients and partners to better understand and engage in the private markets

#### FT Partners' Role

- FT Partners served as exclusive strategic and financial advisor to Forge
- FT Partners previously advised Forge on its \$70 million Series B financing
- This transaction underscores FT Partners' deep alternative marketplace domain expertise and its continued success in providing buy-side advisory to top-tier FinTech companies

# FTP Securities LLC

is pleased to announce its exclusive role as strategic and financial advisor to



on its merger with





### FT Partners' Recent Awards and Recognition

### **Bloomberg**

#### **Bloomberg**

- o FT Partners' Steve McLaughlin was featured on Bloomberg / Bloomberg TV
- o View the full article and watch the live TV interview



#### **M&A Advisor Awards**

- Technology Deal of the Year (2019)
- Cross Border Deal of the Year and Corporate / Strategic Deal of the Year (2018)
- Investment Banker of the Year (2017) Steve McLaughlin, CEO & Managing Partner of FT Partners
- Investment Banking Firm of the Year (2016) FT Partners



### **LendIt FinTech Industry Awards 2018:**

o FT Partners wins Top Investment Bank in FinTech

## Institutional Investor





#### The FinTech Finance 40:

o Steve McLaughlin ranked #1 in 2017 and 2018





### The Information's "Silicon Valley's Most Popular Dealmakers"

- o Ranked as the #2 top Technology Investment Banker by The Information subscribers (2016)
- o Only FinTech focused investment banking firm and banker on the list

### The Largest FinTech Advisory Practice in the World

